

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR EXPANDED PERSPECTIVES ON LEARNING

Article I. NAME

Assembly For Expanded Perspectives on Learning of the National Council of Teachers of English

Article II. AFFILIATION

This assembly is affiliated with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and follows the rules for assemblies described in the NCTE constitution.

Article III. PURPOSE

The Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning (AEPL), an assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English as well as a recognized standing group of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, is open to all those interested in exploring the boundaries of teaching and learning beyond traditional disciplines and methodologies, particularly in English and language arts education.

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: aesthetic, emotional, and moral intelligence; archetypes; body wisdom; care in education; creativity; felt sense theory; healing; holistic learning; humanistic and transpersonal psychology; imaging; intuition; kinesthetic knowledge; meditation; narration as knowledge; reflective teaching; silence; spirituality; visualization; language and vernaculars; ways of seeing as related to different communities; alternative ways of learning; and environmentalism and social justice.

AEPL invites participation in its many events, including AEPL's annual summer conference; *The Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning (JAEPL)*; the AEPL Newsletter; and national conference workshops, panels, and special interest groups at the College Composition and Communication Conference and the conference of the National Council of Teachers of English.

Purpose

- to explore research on expanded perspectives on learning and its implications for and applications to English and language arts education;
- to encourage research and classroom practices that focus on new conceptions of learning, ways of knowing and understanding, with particular attention to the ways that race, gender identity, and class issues affect what we do in our classrooms and in our research;
- to encourage publications and presentations on these subjects;
- to present programs and special projects on relevant topics;
- to provide an open forum for theorists, researchers, and practitioners to exchange ideas on these and related subjects;
- to integrate the efforts of those in various disciplines who have a common interest in effective teaching and learning.

Article IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership is open to any individual or institution professionally or personally interested in expanded perspectives on learning. The membership year shall correspond to the fiscal year July 1 to June 30.

Section B. Dues shall be determined by the AEPL Executive Committee. Payment of dues entitles an individual to be a voting member and qualifies the member to hold office in the assembly.

Article V. AFFILIATION

The Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning shall be affiliated with the National Council of Teachers of English, in accordance with the NCTE Constitution. In assuming the responsibilities of such an affiliation, AEPL shall pay the annual dues required for affiliation. Its members must be dues-paying members of NCTE and AEPL and shall be represented by a liaison officer from the assembly to NCTE, as specified in the Constitution.

Article VI. MEETINGS

The Assembly will hold its annual business meeting at an annual conference, either one specifically planned by AEPL or at the national NCTE Annual Convention or at a zoom meeting announced in advance. Before this meeting, the AEPL Executive Committee will provide notice to the membership of the meeting time and place and of major items of business on the agenda. Provided that ample notice is given, additional meetings may also be called, if necessary, by the AEPL Executive Committee.

The AEPL Executive Committee will meet periodically to attend to the general business and future planning of AEPL. The Committee shall report major business to the membership at the annual meeting and, when necessary, through other channels of communication.

Article VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION A. Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of a Chair, an Associate Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Journal Editor, a Website Manager, and not more than three members at large as determined by the Executive Committee, ordinarily including the CCCC and NCTE liaisons. At-large members, plus the journal editor, the website manager, and the CCCC and NCTE liaisons shall be elected by the Executive Committee.

Acceptance of a position on the Executive Committee will be with the understanding that the person will make every effort to attend all meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Committee.

Insofar as possible, the makeup of the Executive Committee shall reflect membership representation in terms of various teaching levels and areas of interest. There shall be a group policy on diversity that shall reflect NCTE's current policies and that shall attune itself to the teachings, scholarship, and wisdom of communities of color.

Election of Officers: The chair, the associate chair, the secretary, and the treasurer shall be elected by the membership. Elections shall be held in November. Votes will be made by e-mail ballot. New terms shall begin on January 1 of the year following the elections.

Terms of Office. All officers shall be limited to serving for two consecutive terms of three years on the Executive Committee except that the Chair shall serve an additional year as a voting member with the title of Immediate Past Chair. In the event that a new journal editor, website manager, or CCCC liaison is not found when the current officeholders' terms expire, the current officeholders may stay in place with the permission of the Executive Committee until new officeholders are elected. A person who served as an officer for two consecutive terms may serve again on the Executive Committee after a period of three years.

A person who served as an officer in one position may be allowed to run for office in another position when the person's term has been completed.

Nominations for all executive committee members may be made by any member of AEPL. An **Election Committee** of at least three members elected by the Executive Committee shall oversee the nominations and election of all committee members. At least one member of the Executive Committee shall be on the Election Committee.

SECTION B. Duties

Duties of the Chair: The chair of the AEPL Executive Committee shall call, arrange for, and preside at all meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Committee, and shall have charge of conducting the business of the Assembly. Should a vacancy occur on the Executive Committee, the Chair shall appoint an individual to fill the unexpired term. The Chair or the chair's designee shall serve as a Liaison Officer to NCTE and shall represent the Assembly to the Board of Directors of NCTE. The Chair has final decision-making power on all AEPL-related issues that are not voted on by the Executive Committee.

Duties of the Associate Chair. The Associate Chair shall assist the Chair in the duties outlined above, substitute for the Chair if necessary, and complete the term should the Chair be unable to do so. The Associate Chair shall serve as Parliamentarian or bear responsibility for appointing one.

Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Committee, distribute copies of such minutes to the Executive Committee within 30 days of such meetings, and store such minutes in a drive that shall be available to the Executive Committee. Reports on Executive Committee meetings will be made available to the members by request. The secretary shall also conduct correspondence for the Assembly and send or arrange for notices to be sent to members. The Secretary shall ensure that all official documentation related to the Assembly, such as By-Laws and promotional materials for

conferences and other meetings, is stored in a secure and accessible place along with the minutes.

Minutes of larger meetings, at conferences, etc. The Secretary or an individual designated by the chair will record minutes and submit them to those who were present at the meeting for review and approval. The minutes shall be available to all interested members.

Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial transactions of the Assembly; keep an up-to-date membership list; send dues notices to members; and serve as chair of the Membership Committee. The Treasurer shall send copies of bank statements including deposits and records of check amounts and recipients to members of the Executive Committee once every six months. The treasurer and the chair shall be the only Executive Committee members with access to the AEPL bank account. Upon relinquishing the Chair or Treasurer role, the Chair or Treasurer shall transfer the bank account records and access to the incoming Chair or Treasurer; the transfer would ideally take place in conjunction with the last date of service and in no circumstance should exceed 30 days after transferring the role.

If the Treasurer should become unable to oversee the AEPL bank account, the Chair shall fulfill the Treasurer's function for the period of the Treasurer's un-availability or until a new Treasurer is elected.

The Treasurer shall also be the chair of the **Membership Committee**. The Membership Committee shall keep a record and mailing list of all members; send renewal notices to members whose membership is about to expire; and make sure that members are apprised of all the events of the organization by way of e-mail and a newsletter. The Newsletter Editor shall also be a member of the Membership Committee.

The Editors of the journal and the newsletter shall coordinate information received from other Executive Board members, the Advisory Board, Assembly members, and other sources; publish a newsletter and a journal on a schedule set by the Executive Committee; and mail the journal and newsletter to Assembly members. The editors shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Article VIII. Annual Report

The Executive Committee shall write the required annual reports to NCTE and CCCC that summarize the activities of the organization over the past year. The Annual Report shall be published by December 31 of the year in question.

Article IX. Expenditures: Procedures for appropriate spending of AEPL money and receiving reimbursement

1. There will be one AEPL bank account. The treasurer and the chair will be the authorized signatories on the account. Contracts requiring expenses over \$1,500 will require both signatures and the approval of the majority of the executive committee.

2. Conference organizers will work closely with the chair and the treasurer to report and assess expenses during the planning and implementation of the annual conference and any other activities that AEPL may sponsor. As plans are approved by the chair in consultation with the board, funds may be disbursed by the treasurer to secure deposits on facilities and to pay outstanding balances.
3. Any board member wishing to use AEPL funding must apply ahead of time in writing to the chair and the treasurer, explaining how the money is to be spent and how those expenditures relate to their AEPL duties.
4. When the board member has spent money as part of the duties of AEPL, that member will secure a receipt and submit it to the treasurer within 30 days of the expenditure for reimbursement. The Chair and Treasurer have final say on whether expenditures are approved or not. There is no appeal process if expenditures are rejected.
5. In the case of publication of the journal or the newsletter, the printer/publisher will submit a bill to the Treasurer for payment, and the Treasurer will make the payment to the publisher directly.
6. Contracts need to be approved by the Executive Committee and executed by the Chair.

ARTICLE X. Conflict Resolution Policy

Step One: It is understood that service roles include the responsibility of collaboration and effective communication with colleagues. When a conflict among Executive Committee members arises, the Chair will hear the complaint from all involved parties and attempt to provide a satisfactory remedy. A record of any meetings or relevant correspondences will be kept by the Secretary or their designee (who will necessarily attend any meetings), and the record will be signed by both the Chair and the Complainant to indicate that the record accurately reflects the substance of all contacts.

Step Two: Formation of a committee. If step one does not produce a resolution, the Chair will appoint an independent committee of three people that will include one member of the Executive Committee to meet with the complainant. The committee will review the report prepared by the Chair and involved parties in accordance with step one above in order to make recommendations to the Executive Committee for the resolution of the conflict.

The members of the Executive Committee reserve the right to impose appropriate disciplinary action for any conduct they consider to be disruptive, inappropriate, or in violation of the Constitution and its By-Laws. The circumstances of each situation may differ, and the level of disciplinary action may vary, depending on factors such as the nature of the offense, whether it is repeated, the member's past record, and the impact of the conduct on the organization.

Removal from the Committee: The whole Executive Committee shall vote on the question of whether a member of the Committee shall be removed. A majority vote shall be necessary for

removal. Reasons for removal may involve a violation of any of the rules of the organization laid out in this Constitution or in its By-Laws.

Should someone be removed from the organization and/or Committee for cause, the committee reserves the right to bar that person from any future involvement in AEPL's activities.

Article XI. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members attending the Annual Business Meeting or of those participating in an e-mail ballot submitted to the voting members of the Assembly.

Article XII. Nominations and Elections

Section A. Procedures. The Chair, Associate Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be nominated to the **Election Committee** by any member of AEPL. Self-nomination is also permitted. Nominations will close on September 30 of the election year. Notice will be sent out to members to solicit nominations by September 1st of the election year. In cases where more than one person is nominated for a position, the **Election Committee** will select for the ballot at least 2 candidates who have been nominated and wish to serve.

Section B. Balloting. The Secretary shall assure that a copy of the ballot is e-mailed from a secure list to each voting member on or before October 15 of an election year. In order to be tallied, a ballot must be received by the Secretary or other official designee named by the Executive Committee not later than November 10. The Secretary or designee shall notify all candidates, and members of the Executive Committee, of the results of an election as soon as possible after the ballots are counted, but not later than November 20.

Section C. Number Required to Elect to Office. A majority, or a plurality, of members voting is required to elect a candidate to office.

Section D. Assumption of Duties. New officers and Executive Committee members shall assume their terms of office on January 1 of the following year.

Article XIII. Quorum

A quorum shall be those members present at any duly announced business meeting of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning.

Article XIV. Special Committees

Special committees shall be formed as needed by the Chair of the Executive Committee.

Article XV. Life Membership

Section A. Composition. To become a life member, a person will have demonstrated a long commitment to the ideals of AEPL, both within the organization and in their professional life.

This member will also have performed extraordinary service to the assembly in one or more of the following ways:

- service on the Executive Committee
- organization of an annual conference
- volunteer facilitation of dialogues and workshops; leadership at SIG events
- service as a JAEPL editor
- other comparable activities

Life memberships are considered an uncommon recognition and are reserved for those individuals who have made truly outstanding efforts on AEPL's behalf.

Life members will be named on the AEPL website. They are entitled to all membership discounts and privileges. Dues are waived.

A life member will make a commitment to continued support of AEPL events. This support may include promoting and attending conferences, recommending and recruiting speakers, reviewing and writing articles for the Journal, and bringing new audiences.

Section B. The Executive Committee may honor members of the assembly from time to time by designating them life members.

Article XVI. Advisory Board

Responsibilities. The Executive Committee may call upon the Advisory Board to advise the Executive Committee concerning directions that AEPL might take in achieving its purposes. Its main (though not exclusive) functions will be: to suggest topics and leaders for AEPL programs; to critique the journal and newsletter, noting areas in need of attention and suggesting potential authors; to assist occasionally in acquiring speakers and authors; to identify and encourage promising teachers and writers; to suggest possible strategies for enhancing the visibility of AEPL in scholarly and teaching communities; to participate directly in the work of the assembly as presenters and writers; to advise the Executive Committee in cases of conflict or problems in governance; and to report on its deliberations, through the Advisory Board Chair, to the Executive Committee.

The AEPL Advisory Board Chair shall maintain contact with Advisory Board members and report on their deliberations and activities to the Executive Committee. The Advisory Board Chair shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve for a term of three years.

Article XVII. Tax-Exempt Status

Requirements to be exempt as an Organization described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code:

Section A. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, or scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations

that qualify under section 503 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

AEPL is an organization with affiliation to NCTE within the affordances and limitations of the NCTE Constitution. AEPL must abide by NCTE's regulations, including but not limited to the regulations and guidelines imposed by the Internal Revenue Service.

Section B. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in section 1 hereof and in article XI of this constitution.

Section C. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Section D. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article XVIII. IF THE ORGANIZATION CEASES TO EXIST

If the organization becomes inactive, all remaining monies shall be transferred to the National Council of Teachers of English.