

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning (AEPL)

National Council of Teachers of English
(Revised 11/96, 11/98, 3/06, 11/8/2011)

Article I—NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning of the National Council of Teachers of English, hereafter referred to as the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning, the Assembly, or AEPL.

Article II—PURPOSE

The purposes of this assembly are to explore expanded perspectives on learning and their implications for and applications to English and arts education; to encourage the development of research and classroom that focus on expanded conceptions of learning; to encourage articles, publications, and other communications on the subject; to present programs and special projects on this subject; to provide an open forum for theorists, researchers, and practitioners to exchange ideas on the subject; and to integrate the efforts of those in various disciplines who have a common interest in the subject.

Article III—MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Article IV—AFFILIATION

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

Article V—MEETINGS

The Assembly holds its annual business meeting at the annual summer conference. In advance of this meeting, the AEPL Executive Committee will provide notice to the membership of the meeting time 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.

Article VI—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section A. Composition. The Executive Committee of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning shall be a Chair, an Associate Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, the

Advisory Board Chair, the journal editor, the newsletter editor, and up to three additional appointed members as noted in VI.8 below. Up to two members may serve in any position except for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. There shall be no more than two chairs or associate chairs. 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 and Advisory Board shall reflect representativeness in terms of people of color, gender, various interests within the assembly, geographic areas, and various teaching levels.

Section B. Duties. The duties of the AEPL Executive Committee shall be as follows:

1. The Executive Committee shall have primary responsibility for conducting the business of the Assembly, including determining policies, delegating responsibilities, developing agenda items for its meetings and membership meetings, appointing the chairs of all committees, and appropriating funds. The Chair(s), Treasurer, and Conference Registration Chair shall be the signers on the Assembly's bank account(s).

2. The Chair of AEPL shall call, arrange for, and preside at all meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Committee, and 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.

3. Associate Chair shall assist the Chair in the duties outlined above; substitute for the Chair if necessary; and serve as program chair. Should the Chair be unable to complete the term of office, the Associate Chair shall assume that office for the remainder of the term. The Associate Chair shall represent the Assembly to the Board of Directors of NCTE when Assembly membership warrants a second Director.

4. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Assembly and of the Executive Committee, distribute copies of such minutes to the Executive Committee within 30 days of such meetings, conduct correspondence for Assembly, serve as Parliamentarian, and send or arrange for notices to be sent to members

5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial transactions of the Assembly and of committees created by the Executive Committee; keep an up-to-date membership list; send dues notices; and serve on the Membership Committee. The Treasurer shall send monthly copies of bank statements including deposits and records of check amounts and recipients to members of the Executive Committee.

6. The editors of the journal and the newsletter shall coordinate information received from other

Executive Committee 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 to Assembly members. The editors shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

7. 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.

8. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to appoint up to three additional members to serve as ex-officio, voting members for reasons it deems important to the work of the Assembly.

Section C. Terms of Office. Except for the Chair and Co-Chair, all elected members of the EC shall serve for a single term of 3 years in any one position. The Chair shall serve an additional year as a voting member with the title of Immediate Past President. The newsletter editor, the journal editor, and Advisory Board Chair shall serve 3-year terms. The additional, appointed ex-officio members shall serve terms of up to 3 years as specified by the EC. The journal editor is renewable for 2 terms.

Article VII—LIFE MEMBERSHIP AND ADVISORY BOARD

Section A. Composition.-To become a life member, a person will have attended three or more AEPL conferences. This member will have demonstrated a long commitment to the ideals of AEPL, both within the organization and in 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.

Responsibilities

A life member will make a commitment to continued support of AEPL events. This support may include promoting and attending conferences, referencing AEPL activities and publications, recommending and recruiting speakers, reviewing and writing articles for the Journal, and bringing new audiences. Life members also serve the Executive Committee as its Advisory Board.

Benefits

Life members will be named on the AEPL website. They are

entitled to all membership discounts and privileges. Dues are waived.

Process

1. Invitations to nominate people for life memberships are sent out twice each year, in the fall and spring.

2. Any member may nominate another member. The nomination must be in writing, with detailed information about the eligibility of this candidate.

3. Nominees are invited to make a personal statement in writing about their commitment and contributions to AEPL.

4. A list of nominees is made available to members at least one month in advance of the election meeting, with an invitation to provide more information about the candidacy of each nominee.

5. The collected information on each candidate is sent out to the Executive Committee in advance of an election meeting held in May.

6. The Executive Committee approves each candidate by a simple majority vote. Committee members may submit their votes in absentia.

7. New life members are announced at the closing ceremony of the annual Perspectives conference.

8. Insofar as possible, the makeup of the Advisory Board shall reflect representativeness in terms of people of color, gender, various interests within the Assembly, geographic areas, and various teaching levels.

Section B. Duties. The Executive Committee shall 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, when appropriate; and to report on its deliberations, through the Advisory Board Chair, to the Executive Committee.

Article VIII—NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section A. Procedures. The Chair, Associate Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be nominated by any member of AEPL. Self-nomination is also permitted. Nominations will close on September 1 of the election year.

Section B. Balloting. The Secretary shall assure that a copy of the ballot is mailed to each voting member on or before October 1 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 15.

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 December 1 of the election year.

Article IX--QUORUM

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

Article X--COMMITTEES

Section A. Standing Committees. Standing committees of the Assembly shall be Nomination, Membership, and Publicity. Chairs shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for two-year renewable terms.

Section B. Special Committees. Special committees may be appointed by the Executive Committee for specific purposes.

Article XI—IF ORGANIZATION CEASES TO EXIST

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

Article XII—AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members attending the Annual Business Meeting or of those participating in a mail ballot submitted to the voting members of the Assembly. (Constitution adopted by the membership, Louisville, KY business meeting, November 21, 1992)

Article XIII—TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

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

Section 1. 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 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 2. 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 I.1 of this constitution.

Section 3. 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 4. 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.

Section 5. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. (Article XIII--TAX-EXEMPT STATUS, Adopted by the membership, Orlando, FL business meeting, November 19, 1994)

Article XIV-BONDING OF OFFICERS

AEPL officers shall be bonded annually for \$25,000.

(Three amendments adopted by the membership, Nashville, TN business meeting, November 21, 1998: Article VI—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Section B. Duties, Treasurer; Article VIII—NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Section A. Procedures; and Article XIV—BONDING OF OFFICERS)