

## **BY -LAWS**

### **Nebraska Chapter The Society for Marketing Professional Services**

#### **ARTICLE I -NAME**

**1.1. Name.** The name of this not-for-profit corporation is the NEBRASKA CHAPTER of the SOCIETY FOR MARKETING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. It is hereinafter referred to in these By-Laws as the Chapter. The national society is hereinafter referred to as the Society.

#### **ARTICLE II -PURPOSE**

**2.1. Purpose.** The purpose of the Chapter is to promote the professional and educational advancement of persons engaged in marketing professional services to the built and natural environment.

#### **ARTICLE III -MEMBERSHIP**

**3.1. Eligibility.** Membership in the Society shall be available to all persons having an interest in marketing professional services in the built and natural environment and who recognize and comply with the Society's Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and Standards and Ethics. Membership in the Society is required for Chapter membership, and Chapter membership is automatic upon obtaining membership in the Society.

**3.2. Categories.** Membership categories are regular, student and distinguished life, as defined in the Society's By-Laws.

**3.2.1. Regular membership** in the Society is available to any individual who is engaged in marketing and business development for a firm that provides professional services involving the design, evaluation, legal, financial, and/or management processes required for creating and/or changing the built or natural environment; or any individual who provides services to such firms.

**3.2.2. Student membership** in the Society is available to individuals enrolled in a full-time study program (12 credit hours or more) at an accredited post-secondary institution.

**3.2.3. Distinguished Life membership** in the Society is automatically awarded to each President of the (National) Society upon completion of his or her term of office. In addition, the Society Board of Directors may award Distinguished Life membership to other individuals who have made extraordinary contributions towards enabling the Society to accomplish its purposes and goals. Distinguished Life members shall be exempt from payment of membership dues.

**3.3. Applications.** Any individual desiring to become a member of the Society (and the chapter) must apply on forms approved and supplied by the Society. Dues must accompany applications and the membership origination fee required for the first year of membership. Applications for membership shall be approved or denied by the Executive Vice President or his or her designee.

#### **3.4. Voting**

**3.4.1 Each Regular** and Distinguished Life member of the Chapter shall have one vote in all matters to be voted on by the members. Student members shall have no voting rights.

**3.4.2 Any Regular member** who has failed to pay the applicable dues at the time of any Chapter meeting shall not be entitled to vote. Unless applicable law requires otherwise, any action approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members entitled to vote at a meeting at which a quorum of 30 percent are present shall be the act of the members. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

**3.4.3 All matters, other than the election** of directors and officers, to be submitted to members for a vote at a meeting of members may be acted upon by written ballot sent by mail, sent by fax, in person at such meeting, or by written ballot sent by mail and in person, as determined by the Chapter Board of Directors.

### **3.5. Dues.**

**3.5.1 Each Regular and Student member** shall be obligated to annually pay dues in an amount as determined by the Society Board of Directors from time to time. Any member who has failed to pay the applicable dues by the date the membership expires shall be suspended and may not vote. Any member who has failed to pay the applicable dues for a period of sixty ( 60) days after the date of expiration of their membership term shall be terminated from membership and may not participate in Chapter meetings or activities at the member fee.

**3.5.2 Distinguished Life** members shall be exempt from annual membership dues.

### **3.6. Meetings.**

**3.6.1 Annual Meeting.** There shall be an annual meeting of the Chapter, to be held at a time and place to be determined by the Chapter Board of Directors, to hear reports concerning the conduct of the Chapter's activities and to conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

**3.6.2 Special Meetings.** A special meeting of the Chapter may be called by a majority of the members of the Chapter Board of Directors or by written request of at least 30 percent of the members. Meetings of members may be held at any place within or outside the State of Nebraska, and the call for the meeting shall state its purpose or purposes.

**3.7. Notice.** Written notice of the time and place of the Annual Chapter Meeting or Special Meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting.

**3.8. Quorum.** Thirty percent of members entitled to vote that are present, in person or by written ballot, at any Chapter meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of members, unless a greater proportion is required by applicable law, by the Articles of Incorporation or by these By-Laws.

**3.9. Membership list.** The officer or agent having charge of membership records of the Chapter shall have available such records at the time and place of a membership meeting for the purpose of inspection by any member during the whole time of the meeting. Failure to comply with the requirements of this paragraph shall not affect the validity of any action taken at such meeting.

**3.10. Termination of Membership.** Any member who fails to comply with the Society's By-Laws or with its Standards and Ethics, in effect at the time, may be removed from membership as provided in the Policies and Procedures adopted by the Society Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE IV -BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **4.1 Number. Qualifications. Powers**

**4.1.1 The property, affairs, and business** of the Chapter shall be managed and controlled by its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may by general resolution delegate to officers of the Chapter such powers as are provided for in these By-Laws.

**4.1.2 The Board of Directors** (sometimes referred to as the "board" and individual members thereof referred to as "director" or "directors") shall consist THE FIRST TERM of the individuals currently serving as the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer, Programming Director, Membership Director, Communication Director and two Directors-at-Large. For ALL TERMS therein, the Immediate Past President will serve on the Board of Directors and ONE Director- at-Large to keep an odd number of officers.

**4.1.3 To be eligible for election** as a director, an individual must be a Regular or Distinguished Life member. No individual may hold more than one Directorship at any time.

**4.2. Election and Term.** Incoming directors shall be elected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in May and commence their terms of office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of September. Outgoing directors' terms will end on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of September.

This overlap in terms is provided in order to allow transition of duties from outgoing directors to their incoming counterparts.

**4.2.1 The President-Elect** shall be elected at large, shall serve in that office for one (1) year, and shall automatically assume the office of President in the subsequent year. At the end of his/her term as President, the individual shall automatically remain on the Board of Directors for a one-year term as Immediate Past President.

**4.2.2 The Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Director** shall be elected at large for a two-year term and shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The first term for these positions shall be ONE year only, but thereafter the term will be a two-year term rotating on an odd-numbered year.

**4.2.3 The Membership Director, Programming Director and Director-at-Large** shall be elected at large for a two-year term and shall be elected in even-numbered years. Note: One director-at-large term included in the 2001 slate of officers shall end after one year of service on an odd-numbered year (2001). This position is being removed from the Board after the first term due to the inclusion of the "Past-President" position and to maintain an odd number of board seats.

**4.2.4 Nominations.** No later than the 2nd Tuesday in March of each year the Nominations and Elections Committee shall issue a call for nominations for available positions on the board. Nominations may be made by individuals (self-nominations are allowed) or by petition and must be received by the Nominations and Elections Committee by March 31 (note: an exception to this rule was made for the 2001 elections which will be announced in April, not March, due to a change in the bylaws). All nominations must include the nominee's personal data, verification of eligibility, and a statement outlining the candidate's views on current Chapter issues and special areas of interest.

**4.2.4.1** Individual nominations shall be screened and evaluated by the committee according to parameters and procedures established by the Chapter Board of Directors, and a slate of candidates selected that the committee believes represents the best balance for the board.

**4.2.4.2** Petition nominations shall automatically appear on the ballot (along with the slated candidates) if the candidate meets all requirements of the board position being sought. Petitions must be signed by a minimum of 30 percent of the chapter membership as of the 2nd Tuesday in April (one month prior to the May elections).

**4.2.5. Balloting.** A ballot with the slate of candidates determined by the Nominations and Elections Committee and any petition nominations shall be submitted to the members at the program meeting held the 2nd Tuesday in May. If members cannot attend this meeting, at their request a ballot will be sent to them prior to the meeting. This ballot must be submitted to the President-elect by e-mail, fax or 1st class mail prior to the meeting held on the 2nd Tuesday in May.

**4.3. Vacancies.** Subject to the qualifications in 4.1, all vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled by appointment by the President subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

**4.4. Removal.** A director may be removed from office for cause shown by a vote of the Chapter membership at a special meeting. A majority of directors currently in office may remove any director who fails to attend two meetings in a row.

**4.5. Ineligibility.** A director who is no longer a Regular member shall be deemed to have resigned, effective upon the termination or expiration of the membership.

**4.6. Resignation.** A director may resign from the Board of Directors by written notice to each board member. Unless another time is specified in the notice, a director's resignation shall be effective upon receipt by the board, and a resignation as a director shall be deemed to also constitute resignation from office.

**4.7. Meetings.** The President shall set the time and place of the regular meetings of the board, which shall occur at least eight times a year. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by either the President or upon the written request of one-half of the members of the Board of Directors. The President, or directors who call the meeting, shall fix the time and place of any special meeting. -Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at any location within or outside the State of Nebraska. Any director may participate in any meeting of the board by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this provision shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

**4.8. Notice.** Notice of time and place of each meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least seven (7) days prior to the date of a regular meeting and at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of a special meeting. Notice of special meetings shall be in writing and delivered personally, by mail, by facsimile transmission or by e-mail. If mailed or faxed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the designated director at such director's most recent address, or faxed to the number as shown on the records of the Chapter. If by e-mail, sender should set e-mail to notify sender when message is read. Receipt of such notice shall serve as receipt. The business to be transacted at any special meeting of the Board of Directors must be specified in the notice of such meeting.

**4.9. Quorum.** The presence of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board, unless a greater proportion is required by applicable law or by these By-Laws.

**4.10 Voting.** The act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or by these By-Laws. Any action that may be taken at a meeting of the directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent or consents to such action shall be signed by all the directors then in office and filed with the Secretary of the Chapter.

**4.11. Conflict of Interest.** Any conflict of interest on the part of a director shall be disclosed to the Board of Directors and made a matter of record. Any director having any possible conflict of interest on a matter shall not vote on such matter. Such director may, however, be counted in determining a quorum for the meeting at which the matter is voted upon and may state a position on such matter and provide information that may be of value to the board in its deliberations.

**4.12. Limitation of Liability.** A director of the Chapter shall not be personally liable, as such, for monetary damages (including, without limitation, any judgment, amount paid in settlement, penalty, punitive damages or expense of any nature including, without limitation, attorney's fees and disbursements) for any action taken, or any failure to take any action, unless:

**4.12.1.** The director has breached or failed to perform the duties of his or her office under the Articles of Incorporation; or By-Laws of the Chapter or the Society, or under relevant Missouri statutes (the Society's state of incorporation) or applicable state statutes; and

**4.12.2.** The breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness.

**4.12.3.** These provisions shall not apply to the responsibility or liability of a director pursuant to any criminal statute, or the liability of a director for the payment of taxes pursuant to local, state or federal law.

## ARTICLE V -OFFICERS

**5.1. Officers Generally: Election.** The officers of the Chapter shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Only Regular members or Distinguished Life members may serve as officers of the Chapter. The

President and President-Elect shall each hold office for a term of one year or until their successors are elected and have taken office, provided that the President-Elect shall automatically become President on 2nd Tuesday in May. The Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Director shall be elected at large for a two-year term and shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Membership Director, Programming Director and Director-at-Large shall be elected at large for a two-year term and shall be elected in even-numbered years. The same individual may hold no more than one office at one time.

**5.2. President.** The President shall be the principal officer of the Chapter and shall, consistent with policies established by the Board of Directors, exercise general oversight of its affairs and officers. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Chapter, at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and at all meetings of the Executive Committee; shall be the principal spokesperson for the Chapter; shall appoint (with the approval of the Board of Directors) the chairpersons of all Chapter committees (except the Finance and Nominations and Elections Committees); and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. The President may sign, with the Secretary or any other officer of the Chapter authorized by the Board of Directors, any deed, mortgage, bond, contract, or other instrument that the Board of Directors has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these By-Laws to another.

**5.3. President-Elect.** In the absence of the President, the President-Elect shall preside at meetings of the Chapter, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee. When acting as President, the President-Elect shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The President-Elect shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or Board of Directors.

**5.4. Secretary.** The Secretary shall ensure that the minutes of meetings of the membership, the board, and Executive Committee are recorded and maintained in the permanent record of the Chapter, and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

**5.5. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall coordinate the development of the annual budget and oversee the financial integrity of the Chapter. The Treasurer shall assure the production of regular financial reports and an annual audit, shall handle banking tasks, serve as chairperson of the Finance Committee, and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

**5.6. Membership Director.** Maintain/update membership and potential membership list; take care of all mailings including monthly event fliers (including running labels and taking mailing to post office); actively recruit new members; keep track of when membership renewals are coming up and contact members to insure timely renewal of membership; and arrange and plan a membership recruitment event each year.

**5.7. Programming Director.** Identify speakers; arrange meeting times/locations/menus; prepare flier/announcement of events and deliver to membership director two weeks prior to each event; make sure all other parties have information they need on speakers (such as the person who updates web site, etc.); and prepare/distribute organizational calendar-of-events.

**5.8. Communication Director.** Promote organizational meetings/speakers/events through the press and other related organizations; and handle all aspects of the web- site.

**5.9 Director-at-Large.** The Director-at-Large is assigned special projects.

## ARTICLE VI -COMMITTEES

### **6.1 Committees in General**

**6.1.1. Standing Committees.** The board may, by resolution, establish such standing committees as the board deems necessary or desirable ("standing committees"), including, without limitation, the Executive Committee, the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Finance Committee, each as described

below. All standing committees shall include at least one director. The board may delegate such authority to a standing committee as it deems appropriate and is not prohibited by applicable law.

**6.1.2 Special Committees.** The board may, by resolution, establish one or more special committees ("special committees") to advise the board or the President in the performance of their duties. No special committee may have or exercise any authority of the board to manage the business and affairs of the Chapter. The chairperson of a special committee shall be appointed by the President subject to board approval and members of the committee shall be appointed by the committee chairperson. All special committees and their members shall serve at the discretion of the board.

**6.1.3 Term.** Each member of a committee shall continue as such until the next annual Chapter meeting or until a Successor is appointed, unless the committee shall be sooner terminated, or unless such member be removed from such committee, or unless such member shall cease to qualify as a member thereof. Any member of a committee may be removed for any or no cause by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**6.1.4 Quorum.** Unless otherwise provided in the resolution of the Board of Directors designating a committee, a majority of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee. Meetings of any committee may be called by the chair or by any three members. Each committee may adopt rules for its own governance not inconsistent with these By-Laws or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors.

**6.1.5 Vacancies.** Vacancies in the membership of any committee may be filled by appointments made in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointments.

**6.2. Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, with the President serving as chairperson. The Executive Committee may, subject to the provisions of Section 6.2.1, exercise the powers of the Board of Directors when the board is not in session, reporting any action taken to the board at the board's succeeding meeting.

**6.2.1** The Executive Committee shall not have the authority of the Board of Directors with respect to the following matters:

**6.2.1.1.** Amending, altering or repealing these By-Laws;

**6.2.1.2.** Electing, appointing, or removing any member of the Executive Committee or any director or officer of the Chapter;

**6.2.1.3.** Amending the Articles of Incorporation of the Chapter;

**6.2.1.4.** Adopting a plan of conversion, division or merger or adopting a plan of consolidation with another corporation;

**6.2.1.5.** Authorizing the sale, lease, exchange or mortgage of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Chapter;

**6.2.1.6.** Authorizing the voluntary dissolution of the Chapter or revoking proceedings therefore;

**6.2.1.7.** Adopting a plan for the distribution of the assets of the Chapter; and

**6.2.1.8.** Authorizing expenditures in excess of amounts set forth in the annual budget of the Chapter as approved by the Board of Directors.

**6.2.2. Meetings of the Executive Committee** may be called at any time by the chair of the committee or by any two members of the committee. Written notice of meetings of the Executive Committee shall be given at least seven (7) days before such meeting. Minutes of all Executive Committee meetings shall be prepared and presented to the Board of Directors within one month of the meeting, and reported at the next meeting of the board.

### **6.3. Nominations and Elections Committee**

**6.3.1** The Nominations and Elections Committee shall consist of at least five individuals, who represent the diverse membership of the Chapter. The chair of the committee shall be the President-Elect of the Chapter, who shall appoint the other members, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

**6.3.2** The committee shall actively seek candidates for the Board of Directors, evaluate the eligibility of any nominee or candidate, and conduct all elections for office according to procedures established by the Board of Directors.

**6.4. Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee shall consist of the President, the President-Elect, and the Treasurer, with the Treasurer as chairperson. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for the general supervision of the Chapter's finances. It shall prepare and recommend the annual budget, provide for regular financial reports and the annual Chapter audit, and alert the board to financial ramifications of the board's decisions.

**6.5 Programming Committee.** A Programming Committee shall be led by the Programming Director and include the President-Elect in addition to a number of members to be determined by the Programming Director. This committee should assist the Programming Director and President-Elect with developing programming including the identification and scheduling speakers, arranging for meeting space and food/beverages, and/or preparing meeting fliers and notices.

## **ARTICLE VII -ADMINISTRATOR OR STAFF**

**7.1. Administrator.** The Board of Directors may employ an individual to serve as an administrator for the Chapter, and shall fix the terms and conditions of such employment or contract.

## **ARTICLE VIII- DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

**8.1.** The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or agent of the Chapter, in addition to the officers so authorized by these By-Laws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Chapter, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. No member or chapter board may obligate the Society or act as its agent in any matter, and the Society is not responsible for any obligations incurred by any member or chapter, except as and to the extent so authorized.

## **ARTICLE IX -INDEMNIFICATION**

**9.1. Indemnification.** The Chapter shall indemnify any person, and may purchase insurance, for any purpose and to the greatest extent authorized by law. However, no indemnification shall be paid except after consultation with legal counsel to assure that ~ the applicable statutory requirements have been satisfied.

## **ARTICLE X -MISCELLANEOUS**

**10.1. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the Chapter and Society shall begin on the first day of September and end on the last day of August.

**10.2. Waiver of Notice.** Whenever any notice is required to be given to any member or director under the provisions of these By-Laws, the Articles of Incorporation, or the General Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the state of Nebraska, a waiver thereof, whether given before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

**10.3. Use of Assets.** The Chapter's funds and other assets shall be used only to accomplish its purposes, and no part of those funds or assets shall inure to the benefit or, be distributed to, any members or employees of the Chapter, or any other person having a personal or private interest in its activities.

**10.4. Dissolution.** Upon dissolution of the Chapter, any funds or other assets remaining after payment of all obligations of the Chapter shall be distributed to the national Society for Marketing Professional Services.

**10.5. Use of Logo.** Use of the Society's and Chapter's logos is authorized only by those members and employees of the Society or Chapter conducting official business of the Society or Chapter and must conform to appropriate use of logo as outlined in the Society's Policies and Procedures.

#### **ARTICLE XI –AMENDMENTS**

**11.1. Amendments.** Upon the recommendation of a majority vote of the entire Chapter Board of Directors currently in office, a majority of the members of the Chapter present and entitled to vote at any meeting of members may amend, alter, repeal or adopt new By-Laws, provided that notice of any proposed amendment or a summary thereof shall have been given to each member not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting, and such proposed amendment has received the prior approval of the National Society Board of Directors.