

Constitution of the Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association

Approved 2006, Amended 2012 (Section V), Amended 2017

Article I. Name and Purpose

The Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association (MAWCA) is a public charitable institution. The purpose of MAWCA is to further the theoretical, practical, and political concerns of writing centers professionals, including fostering communication among college and secondary school writing centers and learning centers and providing a forum for professional exchange.

MAWCA is a regional organization affiliated with the International Writing Centers Association.

Article II. Membership

Membership in MAWCA is open to individuals who pay dues. The organization was developed to attract membership among directors and staffs of college and secondary school writing centers and all others interested in the teaching of writing from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.

Dues structure will be detailed in the Bylaws. Funds from dues will be used as needed for communications, for the support of the annual conference, and for support of other, executive board-approved professional activities for members.

Article III. Governance: Executive Board

From the membership, MAWCA members will elect an executive board of voting representatives and ex-officio representatives to serve staggered two-year terms. Voting representatives will be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Graduate Student Representative, Undergraduate Student Representative, five At-Large Representatives, and the Website Coordinator. Ex officio board members will include the Current Conference Chair and Immediate Past Conference Chair.

Duties of each board member are detailed in the Bylaws.

Members of the Executive Board will be directors, staff members of writing centers, or those involved with writing centers.

Officers will be elected as stipulated in the Bylaws.

Term of service on the board shall commence at the annual MAWCA conference, unless the term fills a vacancy.

Article IV. Elections and Voting

All MAWCA members are entitled to vote for Executive Board Representatives. A simple majority of legal votes cast will constitute a decision. Election and voting procedures will be detailed in the Bylaws.

Article V. Meetings and Events

Under the leadership of the Conference Chair and with support from the Executive Board, MAWCA will sponsor an annual conference. At that conference, the Executive Board will hold a meeting open to all MAWCA members.

In addition to the annual conference, MAWCA encourages members to organize other opportunities for MAWCA members to engage in professional development. These opportunities may include (but are not limited to) mini-regional conferences, workshops, directors' meetings, or tutors' meetings. Annually, the Executive Board will set a budget for financial sponsorship of these opportunities. Interested members may propose an event and request MAWCA funding by contacting the Executive Board in writing.

Article VI. Finances and Financial Relationships

MAWCA's main revenue sources include membership dues and revenues from MAWCA-sponsored conferences and other events.

All Executive Board Members are authorized to sign financial contracts on behalf of MAWCA according to conditions set in the Bylaws.

Should the organization dissolve, the President and Treasurer will oversee the distribution of assets in compliance with IRS regulations.

Article VII. Compliance with IRS Regulations

MAWCA will comply with the requirements to be exempt as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code:

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

No part of 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. of this constitution.

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, intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

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.

Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning 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 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 VIII. Constitution and Bylaws

MAWCA will adopt and maintain a Constitution outlining the organization's principles, and a set of Bylaws outlining implementation procedures.