



## **INTERNATIONAL ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

(This constitution was ratified by a General Meeting at the International Oral History Conference, Goteborg, Sweden, 1996)

### **I. The International Oral History Association is a professional association established to:**

- A. Provide a forum for oral historians around the world, and a means for cooperation among those concerned with the documentation of human experience.
- B. Stimulate and publish the results of research in the techniques of oral history.
- C. Promote the development of standards and principles for individuals, institutions and agencies (both public and private) who have the responsibility for the collection and preservation of historical information gathered through the techniques of oral histories, in all forms.
- D. Encourage and organize international conferences and meetings.
- E. Foster a better understanding of the nature and value of oral history.
- F. Participate in international projects, or devise such projects, and to work with those organizing such projects.
- G. Support and develop national oral history organisations.

### **II. Membership**

- A. Membership is open to any individual or institution supporting the goals and objectives of the association.
- B. Honorary members may be appointed as determined by the Council of the Association.
- C. A member shall be enrolled upon payment of dues.

### **III. Officers and Governance**

- A. The general governance of the Association is vested in the Council, except as provided elsewhere in this Constitution. The Council shall be composed of the

Executive Officers, who are the President, the two Vice Presidents, the past President, and nine members of the Association from at least six different geographical regions. The Executive Secretary shall be a non voting member of the Council. Only members with current dues paid shall be eligible to become members of the Council. Five members should determine a quorum for a meeting of the Council.

1. The Council shall appoint committees as determined by the Council.
2. The Council may call Council meetings as it determines.
3. The members of the Council shall be elected by the membership present at the General Meeting and shall serve until the next General Meeting. Council members shall be eligible to serve a limit of two consecutive terms in the same office and four terms of office in total.

(Section A of Article III amended by membership at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference General Membership Meeting in Sydney, Australia, July 15, 2006).

- B. The Executive Officers of the Association shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, the immediate past President, and the Executive Secretary (ex-officio). The President and two Vice Presidents shall be elected at the General Meeting of the Association by a majority of the members present, and shall hold office for a period until the next General Meeting. Should the President retire or die in office, the Council shall select one of the two Vice Presidents to perform the duties of President until the next general meeting. (Amendments to Section B of Article III amended by membership at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference General Membership Meeting in Sydney, Australia, July 15, 2006).
- C. The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Council for a period determined by the Council. The Executive Secretary shall exercise the functions of Secretary and Treasurer of the Association, and shall keep all records and monies of the Association.
- D. The Council is authorized and directed to prepare, adopt, or amend such By-Laws as may be desirable to regulate the administrative practices of the association. An up-to-date copy of these by-laws shall be available to any member upon request to the secretary. Any part of the By-Laws shall be subject to review by the membership at any general business meeting of the association and may be changed by a majority vote of those attending the business meeting. (Section D of Article III ratified by membership at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference General Membership Meeting in Rome, Italy, June 26, 2004).

#### **IV. Publications**

- A. The association shall publish materials as it chooses, including journals, newsletters and occasional papers.

#### **V. Finances**

- A. The Council shall establish dues for the Association with the approval of the majority of members present at a General Meeting.

- B. The Council shall be responsible for the investment and care of the funds of the Association. There shall be periodic audits as determined by the laws of the Association's location.

## **VI. General Meetings**

- A. The Association shall hold General Meetings at international conferences as determined by the Council. There shall be a General Meeting at least every three years at a place determined by the Council. All members whose current dues are paid are eligible to vote at all General Meetings.
- B. The General Meeting shall be at the International Oral History Conference. Notice of a General Meeting shall be posted to all members at least three months in advance of the date set for the meeting. The Council shall appoint the Chairperson or persons of the General Meeting and will support national and international applications for funds for the Conference. The General Meeting shall review the general conduct of the Association including future meeting sites.

## **VII. Amendments**

- A. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Council or the membership. Amendments proposed by the Council shall be sent in writing to the members three months prior to a General Meeting. Amendments proposed by the members shall require the signature of twenty members whose dues are paid, and must be received in writing by the Executive Secretary six months prior to the General Meeting.
- B. All amendments must be voted upon at a General Meeting and approved by the majority of the members in attendance.

## **VIII. Dissolution**

- A. The Association can be dissolved by members at a General Meeting. In such case the Council in office at the time shall decide the allocation of any assets of the Association.