

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **Article I – Name**

The name of this organization shall be the North Carolina Waterworks Operators Association.

### **Article II – Purpose**

The purpose of this Association shall be to encourage and elevate the status of all waterworks professionals connected to North Carolina:

To increase the efficiency of its members by developing higher ethical, moral, and professional standards;

Encourage the use of the most modern methods and ideas in the waterworks profession;

Cooperate fully with other organizations and agencies of a similar or allied in developing these aims, according to the particular needs of the Association;

Promote and sponsor educational projects elevating the profession through merit rather than by politics.

The Association will support, to the fullest extent courses of study in waterworks management, treatment, and service which are offered by any qualified educational institutions throughout the State thereby designed to improve water service and the water treatment-professional's status.

### **Article III – Membership**

Section 1 – There shall be three grades of membership, namely: active members, honorary members, and life members.

Section 2 – Active members. All water treatment operators, employees or persons actively engaged or associated with the collecting, pumping, or treatment of domestic or industrial water supplies are eligible to apply for membership and if qualified will hold membership in this group.

Section 3 – Honorary Members. Any person who has distinguished oneself by praiseworthy service to the waterworks profession may be elected by two-thirds majority of the members present and voting to honorary membership in the Association. Honorary membership shall be exempt from payment of fees of any kind and shall have no vote or be eligible to hold any office, but shall be entitled to attend all meetings and enjoy all other privileges of the Association.

Section 4 – Life Member. Any active member who has maintained uninterrupted membership in the Association for a period of 25 years and who is in good standing in the Association may be elected by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. Life membership shall be exempt from payment of fees of any kinds, but shall retain the right to vote and to hold office, and shall be entitled to attend all meetings and enjoy all other privileges of the Association.

### **Article IV – Duration of Membership**

Section 1 – Period of Membership:

- (a) Active memberships shall endure for life unless terminated as hereinafter provided.
- (b) Honorary membership shall be subject to confirmation annually by the Executive Committee of the Association.

Section 2 – Termination of Memberships:

- (a) Any member who refuses or neglects to pay indebtedness due the Association within six months after demand by the Association shall forfeit their membership.
- (b) The membership of any member shall be terminated by a two-third majority of the Executive Committee if the stated member has been found guilty of misconduct in the pursuit of the profession. Said member shall have the right to a hearing, represented by counsel, before the Executive Committee.
- (c) Resignation, when presented in writing to the Association's Administrative office, shall become effective immediately.

### **Article V – Meetings**

Section 1 – Meetings shall be held annually or more often as determined by the Executive Committee provided, notice is made at least six weeks prior to any meeting.

Section 2 – The place of the meeting shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 3 – A simple majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Association.

### **Article VI – Fees and Dues**

Section 1 – Each active member shall pay annual dues..

Section 2 – Any member expelled under the provisions of Section 2 of Article IV, who wishes to re-establish membership in the Association, shall pay a reinstatement fee equal to the amount of the current years dues. This reinstatement fee will only include credit for the current year's dues.

Section 3 – Any part of this article may be amended at any future time by a vote of two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee.

### **Article VII – Officers and Management**

Section 1 – The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Secretary-Treasurer, and a Public Relations Officer. The Secretary-Treasurer position may be held by one person or separated into two positions at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 2 – The Executive Committee shall include the officers, the last living Past President, the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, the Chairperson of the Board of Examiners, a Distribution Operator and the President of each section of the Association.

Section 3 – The governing body of the Association shall be the Executive Committee whose decisions shall be final subject only to the will of the Association.

Section 4 - The Association shall not nominate and elect, to any office, an individual who is a paid staff member of another waterworks professional training association.

#### **Article VIII – Election of Officers**

Section 1 – The Chairperson of the nominating committee shall be elected after nomination from the floor by simple majority at the Annual Meeting. It shall be his/her duty, with two or more members appointed by the President, to prepare a slate of nominees for the various offices for the next Annual Meeting.

Section 2 - All officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for any office may be made from the floor in addition to the slate prepared by the nominating committee.

#### **Article IX – Duties of Officers**

Section 1 – The President shall appoint all committee chairpersons, preside at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee and shall perform such duties as ordinarily pertain to such office. The President shall be an ex-official member of all standing committees. The term of office of President can be a maximum of two one year consecutive terms at any one time.

Section 2 – It shall be the duty of the First Vice-President to preside at all meetings in the absence of the President, serve as the Executive Committee director to the Professional Development Committees, and perform such other duties as pertaining to his office. The term of office of First Vice-President can be a maximum of two one-year consecutive terms at any one time.

Section 3 – It shall be the duty of the Second Vice-President to preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and First Vice President, serve as the Executive Committee director to the Membership/Leadership Committees, and perform such other duties as pertaining to his/her office. The term of office of Second Vice-President can be a maximum of two one-year consecutive terms at any one time.

Section 4 - It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the records of membership attendance to meetings and committees, send out notices, of meetings, record and preserve the minutes of such meetings, and report to the President and Executive Committee at least once a year and as requested. Upon retirement from office, the Secretary shall submit to the successor or the President all books, records, letters, and other property belonging to the Association in his/her possession. The term of office shall be a minimum of but not limited to a two-year term.

Section 5 - It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and have custody of all funds, accounting for the same to the Association at its Annual Meeting and at any other time upon demand of the President or the Executive Committee. Upon retirement from office the Treasurer shall submit to the successor or to the President all funds, books, records, letters, and other property belonging to the Association which may be in his/her possession. The term of office shall be a minimum of but not limited to a two-year term.

Section 6 - It shall be the duty of the Public Relations Officer to serve as the Executive Committee director for the Public Relations Committee and Awards Committee and shall perform such duties pertaining to the preparation, acceptance, and publication of all papers pertinent to the affairs of the Association. The term of office of Public Relations Officer shall be a minimum of but not limited to a two-year term.

Section 7 – It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to appoint a successor to any officer, whose office is vacated for any reason, for the remainder of such officer's term of office only.

#### **Article X – Politics**

The Association shall not be used in any way for personal or political gain.

#### **Article XI – Authority for By-Laws**

The Association may adopt By-laws consistent with the Constitution and embodying additional provisions for the Government of the Association, which adoption shall be by simple majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting of the Association.

#### **Article XII – Amendments to the Constitution**

Amendments to this Constitution shall be made only at the Annual Meeting of the Association by a majority vote of the members present and voting, provided however, that such amendments are submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting and a copy of the same is sent by the Secretary-Treasurer to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting. As an alternative, the Constitution may be amended by the majority of the respondents to a direct mail canvass initiated by the Executive Committee. At least thirty (30) days shall be allowed for voting response from the membership.