

PRAIRIE PLAYERS CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be PRAIRIE PLAYERS.

2. OBJECT

The object of Prairie Players shall be to encourage members to enjoy and develop their interest and talent in amateur theatre through participation in the preparation and presentation of productions to the public, and to use these skills to aid others in selected areas of dramatic production. Prairie Players shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to the organization shall be used in promoting its objectives.

3. MEMBERSHIP

a) GENERAL

Membership in Prairie Players shall be open to: (a) any adult no longer attending public school; (b) those classified as mature students, all of whom must be in agreement with the object set out in the constitution.

b) HONOURARY MEMBERS

The Executive shall be empowered to elect up to four Honourary Members of Prairie Players. These Honourary Members shall carry the title of Honourary Vice-Presidents and shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting each year. These positions need not be filled. Honourary Members hold no voting rights nor can they propose others for office.

c) ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

An Associate Member is one who is affiliated with the group for a particular project. Associate Members shall not exceed twenty percent of the total membership. Associate Members may attend meetings and take an active part in group activities, but may not hold voting rights, nor can they stand for office or propose others for office.

d) LIFE MEMBERS

The Executive shall be empowered to elect up to five Life Members of the group. Life Members shall have all the rights and privileges of general members.

4. OFFICERS

The affairs of Prairie Players shall be managed by the Executive which shall consist of not more than six members and not less than five, and shall include the following officers: President; Vice-President; Past President; who will serve a one year term commencing at the termination of the Annual General Meeting; Secretary; Treasurer; who will serve a two year term commencing at the termination of the Annual General Meeting; and may include one member-at-large.

The President shall be the Vice-President of the preceding term.

The Vice-President shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting.

The Past President shall be the President of the preceding term.

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The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected every second year at the Annual General Meeting, each office being open for election in alternate years: the Secretary being elected in even years, and the Treasurer being elected in odd years. Member-at-large to the Executive to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, for a term of one year.

An Executive Member who has to resign during the term of office shall be replaced by the Executive and such person shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

5. FEES

- a) General members shall pay a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per member per fiscal year (there is no pro rata). There will be a thirty day grace period after which a member's name will be removed from the list.
- b) Honourary, Associate and Life members pay no fee.

6. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

If, in the opinion of the Executive, the conduct of any member shall be prejudicial to the interest of Prairie Players, then the Executive shall have the power to request such a member to resign. If the member does not resign within one month, he or she shall be liable to expulsion by the Executive.

7. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall be held the second Tuesday in February at such time and place as shall be decided by the Executive. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:

- a) Receive and approve reports on the activities of the past year from the president,
- b) Receive and pass the annual financial statement of the group,
- c) Elect the Officers of the group,
- d) Transact any other business on the agenda.

Members will be notified in writing at least four weeks before the meeting, and will be supplied with the agenda. A Quorum is necessary to transact business. One third of the paid membership to the highest whole number shall constitute a Quorum.

8. GENERAL MEETING

General meetings will be held as required, but not less than every second month at such time and place as shall be decided by the Executive. The business of the General Meeting shall be to make those decisions necessary for the production of a play or to carry out a specific project, and to choose those persons required to complete the task and any other such business as may arise. Members shall be notified at least four days prior to the meeting, and are to be informed of the general purpose of the meeting. A Quorum is necessary to transact business. One third of the paid membership to the highest whole number shall constitute a Quorum.

9. NOMINATIONS

Nominations for Officers shall be proposed and seconded by a nomination committee or by any two members with the consent of the nominee.

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10. VOTING

Officers shall be chosen by secret ballot.

11. ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

No amendment or alteration of the Constitution shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting by two thirds majority of all members present. The Executive is empowered to make emergency by-laws which must be submitted to the next General Meeting.

12. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Executive shall have the power to call an Extraordinary General Meeting, and shall be bound to do so within fifteen days on receiving notice in writing signed by not less than seven members. The business to be transacted must appear on the agenda, and no other business discussed.

13. EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The Executive shall meet at least six times a year, and on other occasions as shall be deemed necessary. One half of the Executive plus one to the highest whole number shall constitute a Quorum.

14. COMMITTEES

The Executive shall have the power to appoint: (a) Standing Committees, (b) Ad Hoc Committees.

15. FINANCIAL YEAR

The Prairie Players financial year shall end on December 31. A Balance Sheet and Accounts for the preceding financial year shall be submitted by the Treasurer at each Annual General Meeting.

16. FUNDS

All money belonging to Prairie Players shall be banked by the Treasurer into a separate account in the name of Prairie Players at an accredited financial institution. All cheques shall be signed by two members of the Executive.

17. WINDING UP

If, at an Extraordinary General Meeting, a special resolution to wind up the affairs of Prairie Players has been duly proposed and passed, so much of the assets of the group as shall be realized, and any remaining liquid assets, shall be turned over to Portage and District Arts Council Inc. along with such equipment and properties as may be useful. Remaining material assets are to be sold by auction within the group, with proceeds to be added to the liquid assets.

No such special resolution shall be passed until carried by seventy-five percent of the members present.

Revised March 16, 2009