

ATLANTIC ESTUARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY, INC.
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
CONSTITUTION

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: The name of this organization shall be Atlantic Estuarine Research Society, Inc. (AERS).

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION: The Atlantic Estuarine Research Society is organized as a non-profit society and shall be operated exclusively for educational purposes and limited to those purposes. The objectives shall be the informal discussion and exchange of ideas upon estuarine and related research problems, from New Jersey to North Carolina, but not necessarily restricted to that area. Emphasis will be placed on the consideration of interdisciplinary studies which have not been previously published. Especially desirable are reports of work in progress including negative results. AERS shall be an affiliate society of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF).

MEMBERSHIP: Active membership shall be open to students, professionals and others with an interest in the scientific study of estuaries.

DIRECTORS: The directors of the Society shall consist of a President, Secretary, Treasurer and an Executive Committee consisting of the above elected directors, the President-Elect or the immediate Past-President and three at-large members appointed by the President. At-large members, the President-Elect or the immediate Past-President shall serve for one year, and the elected directors' terms shall be restricted to their terms in office. Any vacant office may be filled for the unexpired portion of its term by the Executive Committee. No elected director may serve consecutive terms.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION: Revision of the Constitution shall be circulated to all members by mail at least three weeks prior to a regular meeting. Adoption of revisions shall be by two-thirds of those voting by mail.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS: In the event of dissolution, any assets of AERS shall be distributed to a non-profit fund, foundation, or corporate organization operated exclusively for the purpose as specified in Section 501(C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The fund, foundation, or corporate organization to which AERS assets will be distributed shall be selected by the AERS Executive Committee at its last meeting.

BY-LAWS: The structure and function of AERS within the context of the constitution shall be described in By-Laws. Revision of the By-Laws shall be circulated to all members by mail at least three weeks prior to a regular meeting. Adoption of revisions shall be by a simple majority ballot at the business meeting.

(Updated 3/06/09 as per Spring 2008 (Ocean City, MD) meeting)

BY-LAWS

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS: Attendance at meetings shall be limited to members, honorary members and their guests with the approval of the Executive Committee or its designated representatives. The public and press shall attend only at the direct invitation of the Executive Committee except at meetings held under the auspices of CERF

ELECTION TO ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: A list of candidates for active membership shall be submitted with membership applications of the candidates to the Membership Committee. The committee will present the list for ratification at the business meeting. Those on the list will be considered "provisional members" until the vote is complete, at which time they will either be granted full membership or excluded from the organization. New members will be notified of their acceptance by mail.

PROGRAMS: The President shall appoint a Program Committee which will be responsible for developing programs commensurate with the purpose of the Society.

DUTIES OF THE DIRECTORS: The President shall preside at all meetings. All members of the standing committees and additional temporary committees shall be appointed by the President. The President or his designated representatives shall serve on the governing board of CERF, and the President shall direct Society activities of other members of the Executive Committee.

It shall be the duties of the Treasurer to collect, disburse, and account for all moneys, and to file income tax returns. The annual accounting period will on 31 December each year.

It shall be the duties of the Secretary to keep minutes of the meetings, to distribute notices, and other secretarial duties. The Secretary shall circulate to the membership a current membership list indicating new members at appropriate times as determined by the Executive Committee. It shall also be the responsibility of the Secretary to send copies of the minutes along with other pertinent data to Historian for placement in the official Repository of the Society.

NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS: Nominations for the President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer shall be made by the Nominating Committee in time to be mailed with the announcement for the Spring Meeting at which the election will occur. At least two nominations shall be made for each office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The President-Elect will serve a one-year term as President- Elect commencing at the Spring Meeting preceding the Biannual CERF Meeting and commence a two year term as President at the Spring Meeting following the Biannual CERF Meeting. The Past-President will commence a one-year term as Past-President at the Spring Meeting following the Biannual CERF meeting. The Treasurer shall serve a two-year term commencing at the Spring Meeting following an CERF Meeting. The Secretary shall serve a two-year term commencing at the Spring Meeting preceding an CERF Meeting.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: Elections shall be by secret ballot at the appropriate Spring Meeting of the Society. At least two members of the outgoing Executive Committee shall personally distribute, collect, count and destroy the ballots. There shall be no public tally. The President will cast the deciding vote in case of a tie. The President-Elect and the Secretary shall take office as the last order of business of the Spring Meeting preceding the Biannual CERF Meeting. The President-Elect shall take office as President, the President shall become Past-President, and the Treasurer shall take office as the last order of business of the Spring Meeting following the Biannual CERF Meeting.

DUES: The annual dues of the active members shall be set by the Executive Committee with the approval of the membership. The period for which dues apply is from January until December. Dues for the current calendar year are due and payable for new members.

STANDING COMMITTEES: The standing committees appointed by the President shall be Nominating, Membership, Program, Student Affairs, and Constitution. Each Committee shall consist of a chairperson and two additional members and serve at the discretion of the President.

DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES: The Nominating Committee shall submit a slate of nominees for the President-Elect and Secretary at the Spring Meeting preceding the Biannual CERF Meeting, and Treasurer, for the Spring Meeting immediately following the Biannual CERF meeting to the Secretary for inclusion in the Spring Meeting announcement.

The Membership Committee shall act on all applications for membership to the Society, revise membership rolls at least once per year, and promote membership to the Society.

The Program Committee, in conjunction with the Secretary and Treasurer shall be responsible for implementing Society policy with respect to meeting conduct and content. With the approval of the Executive Committee, it shall have the power to initiate new ideas in meeting format, topic selection, and any other area they believe would add to free information exchange in an informal atmosphere.

The Constitution Committee shall be responsible for a continuing update of the Constitution and By-Laws to enable the Society to better meet its broad objectives as stated in the Purpose section of the Constitution.

APPOINTEES: The President shall appoint a Parliamentarian and a Historian. The Historian shall keep and maintain the Society's records. The Parliamentarian shall provide advice as needed during meetings.

MEMBERSHIP: Dues will be payable by 1 January each year. Honorary members shall be recognized for outstanding work or interest in the field of estuarine research. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues. Honorary Members shall be extended the same rights and perquisites as Active Members