

XI. NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

(As amended January, 1986, July, 1994, April 1998, April 2002, October 2003, April 2004, October 2009, April 2011, November 2012, April 2014, March 2015, October 2016)

Article I--Purpose

Mu Alpha Theta, which is sponsored by professional mathematics organizations, including the Mathematical Association of America, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, is a non-secret organization whose purpose is the promotion of scholarship in, and enjoyment and understanding of, mathematics among high school and two-year college students.

Article II--Name

The name of the organization shall be Mu Alpha Theta, National High School and Two-Year College Mathematics Honor Society. Either of these names may be used as desired. The organization was established in 1957. Each chapter shall be designated by the name of the school, city, and state in which it is located.

Article III--National Organization

SECTION 1. Ultimate authority

The ultimate authority for the affairs of Mu Alpha Theta shall rest with the chapters, each having one vote. However, the chapters may delegate to the Governing Council (see Section 2), committees, and conventions of the organization the authority to deal with questions not specifically delegated to the chapters by this Constitution. Unless otherwise provided for by this Constitution, the following procedure shall be followed in submitting questions to the chapters: Questions may originate either in the Governing Council or in a General Convention. Or, a question may be proposed by any chapter of the organization by referring it to the Governing Council. The Council may then make a recommendation to be voted on by all chapters. Recommendations shall be deemed approved unless a majority of the chapters voting decide against it and inform the Treasurer of their disapproval within two months of the date of submission, not including summer months.

SECTION 2. The Governing Council

The **Governing Council** of Mu Alpha Theta shall exercise all those functions usually assigned to a board of directors and shall have the power to decide all questions concerning the organization as a whole, which are not otherwise addressed by this constitution or by vote of the chapters. The Council will meet at least twice a year. The Governing Council shall include: a President, a President-Elect or Past-President, a Treasurer, four Regional Governors, a representative from each of the sponsoring organizations, and an Executive Director.

Governors and officers shall serve without remuneration.

An Executive Committee composed of the President, President-Elect or Past-President, and the Treasurer shall be responsible for making senior staff personnel decisions. **Compensation packages must be approved by the Governing Council as a whole.**

SECTION 3. Election of Officers

The Regional Governors and the Treasurer shall each serve for a term of four years, with two Regional Governors elected every two years. A president-elect will be elected every two years and will serve one year as president-elect, two years as President, and one year as Past President. The term of each officer shall begin at the conclusion of the annual meeting of the year or September 1 of that year, whichever is earlier. A nominating committee, of at least two persons, shall be appointed by the President no later than October 1 of the year before elections are held. Each sponsoring organization shall be invited to appoint one Council member. If any organization should fail to appoint such a member, then the nominating committee will prepare a slate of nominees, which will include the names of at least two members of said organization. The nominating committee shall nominate at least two qualified candidates suitable for the office of the president-elect and for the offices of Regional Governor, and at least one for the office of Treasurer. Should the nominating committee be unable to find two willing candidates for any position, after contacting all chapters for qualified volunteers; a single candidate may stand for election. The Governing Council, a General Convention, or any chapter may make additional nominations at any time before the ballots are prepared. Nominations are subject to the following restrictions:

Nominations are subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) No one shall serve more than one term as President.
- (2) No limit shall be placed on the number of terms of the Treasurer.
- (3) No elected council member, other than the Treasurer, may serve more than eight consecutive years.
- (4) A sponsoring organization shall determine the term of its representative.
- (5) Two Council members shall not be elected from the same institution.

Region 1: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Canada, the Far East, the Pacific Islands, and Western Europe.

Region 2: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Mexico, Central America, South America, the Middle East, and South Asia.

Region 3: Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, and Eastern Europe.

Region 4: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia, the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, and Africa.

Only chapters in a region shall vote on the candidates for Regional Governor of that region. All chapters shall vote on the candidates for president-elect and treasurer. Ballots shall be submitted to chapters by March 15 and shall contain the nominees for Regional Governor of the appropriate region and also the nominees for president-elect and treasurer. Each chapter shall indicate only one choice on the ballot for each of the officers to be elected. Ballots to be counted must be postmarked by April 24. Decisions shall be based upon a plurality of chapter votes cast for each office. In case of a tie among two or more candidates for an office, the outgoing Governing Council shall choose between the candidates.

SECTION 4: **Duties of Officers and Regional Governors**

- (1) The **President** shall be the chief executive officer of the organization with the following responsibilities:
 - a) Promote national Mu Alpha Theta activities.
 - b) Approve all new chapters and sign the charters.
 - c) Conduct meetings of the Governing Council
 - d) Preside at the meeting for sponsors at the National Convention.
 - e) Consider ideas and suggestions of sponsors and students.
 - f) Meet with Student Delegate Assembly whenever possible and help to organize regional Student Delegate Assemblies.
 - g) Appoint a Nominating Committee for the bi-annual elections.
 - h) Serve with other members of the Governing Council as member of an appeal body in any case involving disciplinary action.
 - i) Participate in the activities of the national convention.
 - j) Represent Mu Alpha Theta at meetings and ceremonies of other organizations (e.g., United States Mathematical Olympiad Awards Ceremony).
 - k) Appoint representatives to boards and councils on which Mu Alpha Theta is represented.
 - l) Make appointments to fill all vacancies that occur among the Regional Governors or officers, with the approval of the Governing Council, for the balance of the term. However, should the President-Elect be unable to fulfill the term of office, the President shall nominate a candidate to fill the remainder of the term, with approval of the Governing Council. That candidate and the person who received the next most votes in the prior election for the post, should that person agree to run, shall be placed in a special election of the chapters to be concluded within one month of the resignation of the President-Elect. The term for the individual elected in the special election shall be the remainder of the term of the resigning officer. Chapters shall have the opportunity to approve a replacement, even if only one candidate stands for election.

- (2) The **Past President or President-Elect** shall perform the duties of the President in case of any temporary or permanent incapacity of the latter.
- (3) The **Treasurer** shall discharge the duties ordinarily pertaining to the office of treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the Governing Council; all decisions made by vote of the chapters, and shall have charge of the records and official correspondence of the organization. The Treasurer shall also have charge of all moneys or other valuable properties belonging to the organization and shall keep an accurate record of all financial transactions, said accounts to be audited as provided by the Council. The Treasurer shall make an accounting to the Governing Council at all meetings of the Governing Council. The Treasurer shall keep an official record of all members and issue membership certificates.
- (4) Each Regional Governor shall:
- a) Promote Mu Alpha Theta activity within his(her) region:
 - b) Vote throughout the year on approval of new chapters in his or her region.
 - c) Attend all meetings of the Governing Council and report annually, at the winter meeting, Mu Alpha Theta activities in their region during the past year.
 - d) Consider ideas and suggestions of sponsors and students.
 - e) Meet with the Student Delegate Assembly when able and help to organize the regional Student Delegate Assembly.
 - f) Serve on committees of the Governing Council.
 - g) Serve with other members of the Governing Council as member of an appeal body in any case involving disciplinary action.
 - h) Be a leader in suggesting ways in which Mu Alpha Theta can improve and expand.
- (5) Each representative of the sponsoring organizations shall
- a) Serve as a liaison between Mu Alpha Theta and their organization.
 - b) Attend all meetings of the Governing Council and report on these to their sponsoring organization.
 - c) Make an annual report to the Governing Council at the summer Council meeting, describing interactions during the prior year between Mu Alpha Theta and the sponsoring organization, if any.
 - d) Serve on committees of the Governing Council.
 - e) Be a leader in suggesting ways in which Mu Alpha Theta and the sponsoring

organization can best work together to further the mission of Mu Alpha Theta and better serve its chapters and their members.

(6) The Executive Director shall manage details of the day - to - day business of Mu Alpha Theta and shall serve as a non-voting, Ex-Officio member of the Governing Council.

SECTION 5: Conventions

Mu Alpha Theta may hold regional or national conventions at such times as it may choose to do so. Such conventions may propose legislation to be submitted to the chapters for final vote, in which case the procedure shall be the same as specified in Section 1 of this Article. At such conventions officers may also be nominated and proposals made to be referred to the Governing Council.

SECTION 6: Certificates of Membership

Certificates of Membership shall be issued by the Treasurer on certification from the faculty-sponsor of the chapter.

SECTION 7: Fees and Dues

There shall be **no** national annual dues. An initiation fee per member shall be paid to the Treasurer for each person initiated into membership, whereupon the Treasurer shall issue a membership certificate to that member and place his or her name on the official roll.

Article IV-- Chapters

SECTION 1: Qualifications for Chapters

Any high school or two-year college, with accreditation from a recognized accrediting agency and offering courses in mathematics, may petition to have a chapter, providing it meets the following minimum requirements.

(1) High schools must offer at least two years of algebra and one year of geometry, or their equivalent, and a minimum of one year of more advanced mathematics. These requirements cannot be fulfilled by courses in general mathematics, general business mathematics, or arithmetic. Two-year colleges must offer at least three courses beyond pre-calculus, which include calculus, differential equations, linear algebra, or statistics.

(2) The school must employ at least one teacher whose primary teaching field is mathematics and who has completed an undergraduate mathematics major or its equivalent at an accredited college or university. The equivalent of a mathematics major shall be understood to include a minimum of six college mathematics courses at the calculus level or above.

(3) The Principal, or other chief administrative officer of the institution, must approve the petition.

(4) An initial charter fee, along with the regular initiation fee for each member, shall be paid to the office of the Treasurer before a charter is granted. If a check accompanies the petition, it will be held until the institution is granted a charter, at which time it will be cashed. If the charter is denied, the check will be returned to the petitioning school with an explanation of why the charter was denied.

(5) High school chapters shall be admitted for membership on the approval of the President and the Governor of the appropriate region. Two-Year College chapters shall be admitted for membership on the approval of the President and the AMATYC Representative. Should either deny a petition for membership, the school may appeal the decision to the Governing Council for consideration. A two-thirds vote of the Governing Council shall be required to approve such a chapter for membership.

SECTION 2: Inactive Chapters and Forfeiture of Charter

(1) If a chapter makes no report of new members for for one year, at the end of that school year, the National Office shall inquire by letter if it is still an active chapter. If no members are added the following school year, for a total of two consecutive years without members, the chapter shall be considered inactive. The school will be notified that the chapter has been made inactive and asked to remove the name Mu Alpha Theta from its math club. A chapter may reactivate at any time, simply by sending the initiation fees for its members and paying a reactivation fee.

(2) If an inactive chapter, with members, continues to use the Mu Alpha Theta name; and three months after a warning letter is received, still does not register their members, their charter will be rescinded. If a charter is forfeited, the school must resubmit a petition and pay for a new charter, should they want to have a chapter at some time in the future. The chapter sponsor and the principal of the school will be notified by registered mail that they are in violation of this constitution and that their charter has been forfeited.

Article V--Membership

The following minimum requirements for Members and Associates shall be common to all chapters:

(1) Each chapter shall have a faculty-student committee, which will recommend possible members to the chapter.

(2) Members:

a) High school students in grades 9 through 12, at the school where their permanent record resides, who have completed the equivalent of two years of college preparatory mathematics and in addition have completed or are enrolled in a third year of college preparatory mathematics are eligible for membership, providing their mathematical work was done with distinction. On the 4-point grading scale, this shall mean at least a 3.0 grade point average.

b) Two-year college students who were members of Mu Alpha Theta in high school are eligible for membership in their college's chapter. Two-year students are also eligible if they have had at least one mathematics course at or above the College Algebra/Precalculus level and at least a 3.0 GPA overall in all Two-year college mathematics courses at or above the College Algebra/Precalculus level.

(3) Associates:

High School students in grades 9 through 12, at the school where their permanent record resides, who have completed one year of algebra, or its equivalent, with distinction and are currently enrolled in a higher math course are eligible to be Associates of Mu Alpha Theta. **Associates are not members of Mu Alpha Theta but are likely candidates for membership.** Associates do not pay the initiation fee but are eligible to be listed with the National Office, should they wish to participate in Mu Alpha Theta national math contests. While they are not entitled to vote nor hold office in their chapter, they are entitled to attend and be heard at meetings. A student may remain an Associate for only one year and then, if eligible, must be inducted as a Member of Mu Alpha Theta

(4) No student shall be recommended for consideration that does not meet the minimum qualifications. Individual chapters may impose additional requirements, however, no student will be denied membership on account of race, religion, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, sexual preference, and/or physical disability.

(5) No student may list membership in Mu Alpha Theta on a resume until their name has been submitted to the Treasurer for inclusion in our official records. Chapters are responsible to notify the Treasurer within one month of a student's initiation.

(6) A student may only compete in Mu Alpha Theta competitions with a team from the school where they are currently listed as a member and where their permanent records reside.

Article VI--Chapter Organization

Each chapter is free to set up its own organization, officers, and finances with the following restrictions:

(1) Each chapter must have a semi-permanent faculty sponsor and the national organization (Treasurer) must be kept informed of the current faculty sponsor's name and address.

(2) The minimum membership requirements set forth by the national organization must be met by all initiates.

(3) A complete and accurate list of all member initiates, accompanied by their initiation fees, must be received by the office of the Treasurer no longer than one month after new members have been initiated. Failure to register students can lead to forfeiture of the chapter's charter.

(4) Each chapter must hold regular meetings at periodic intervals and not merely consider itself an honor society for high grades. At a minimum, there should be one meeting every month.

(5) Meetings must be open to all interested persons.

Article VII – **State/Regional Affiliates**

- (1) Local chapters may organize state or regional affiliates in order to sponsor events for chapter members and schools at a state or regional level.
- (2) Any state or regional affiliate must receive permission to use the Mu Alpha Theta name and logo prior to doing so. A written application form must be submitted and approved by the Governing Council to obtain this permission. The application should include the affiliate's Constitution and/or by-laws.
- (3) No state or regional affiliate shall, in any way, supersede local chapter authority as delegated and defined in this Constitution.
- (4) Any state or regional affiliate shall prepare by-laws or a Constitution that conforms to all official documents prepared by the National Mu Alpha Theta.
- (5) Any state or regional affiliate which charges dues for student members is responsible for ensuring that they are current members of Mu Alpha Theta in a Mu Alpha Theta chapter that is active as defined by this Constitution.
- (6) Any state or regional affiliate that collects funds from members or others during the year must keep accurate financial records, available for review by the public. Where appropriate, the affiliate should have a government tax identification number, provide proper tax forms to anyone paid more than \$600 during the year, and file all appropriate tax forms with the IRS, including a yearly 990 tax form.
- (7) Affiliate funds should be used to support state or regional activities in line with the mission of Mu Alpha Theta, provide student or chapter scholarships or grants, and not be used to enrich any individual or specific school. Affiliates may have paid employees that serve the organization, however.
- (8) Mu Alpha Theta will not provide any financial oversight to any affiliate and will not be legally responsible for any activities or liabilities incurred.
- (9) Any state or regional affiliate shall provide a yearly report to the Governing Council to be presented at the July meeting, including any changes to their Constitution or by-laws. The report shall be submitted to the National Office or to their Regional Governor approximately two weeks prior to the July meeting.
- (10) Affiliates shall designate a person within their organization as a liaison with the National Office.
- (11) The Governing Council reserves the right to withdraw an affiliate's approval to use the Mu Alpha Theta name or logo should it violate any of these rules, or state or federal law.

Article VIII--The Constitution

A two-thirds majority of the chapters voting shall be required to change this constitution.

MAP OF REGIONS after October 2016:

