

East Mississippi Alpha Chapter Constitution and By-Laws

(revised January 2004)

ARTICLE I: NAME

This local chapter shall be known as the East Mississippi Alpha Chapter of the National Weather Association and American Meteorological Society, herein referred to as the "Chapter".

ARTICLE II: MISSION

The mission of the Chapter is to support and promote excellence in operational meteorology through research, forecasting, broadcasting and education. We will work to build relations between all who work with and study meteorology in Mississippi and the surrounding states.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in operational meteorology and who agrees to abide by the requirements of these By-laws. Membership of the East Mississippi Alpha Chapter of the National Weather Association can include the geographical areas of Mississippi, west Alabama, and south Tennessee. Membership in the national organization of the National Weather Association is strongly encouraged, but not required.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee. All officers must be full members (regular or student) of the National Weather Association. All Officers are elected for a term of one year, and may be re-elected.

The President shall:

1. Preside over all general meetings and Executive Committee meetings.
2. Report directly to the Executive Director, National Weather Association.
3. Enforce due observance of the By-laws.
4. Decide all questions of Order.
5. Sign all official documents (except checks) on behalf of the Chapter.
6. Perform all customary duties pertaining to the office of President.

The Vice-President shall:

1. Assume the duties of the President at any general meeting or Executive Committee meeting should the President be absent.
2. Assume the Office of President should that office become vacant.
3. Perform other such duties as agreed to by the Executive Committee.

The Secretary shall:

1. Keep a record of all proceedings of each general meeting and meetings of the Executive Committee.
2. Maintain all official records.
3. Keep a roll of members.
4. Publish any notices to members as required by these By-laws.

The Treasurer shall:

1. Receive and receipt all monies paid to the Chapter.
2. Keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended and shall pay no bills without authorization as defined in Article IX of these By-laws.

Any vacant office (except the President) shall be filled by action of the Executive Committee for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE V: OTHER COMMITTEES

The following standing Committees are required: Programs, Membership, and Publicity. The Chairpersons of these committees will consist of the Vice President (Programs), Secretary (Publicity), and Treasurer (Membership).

Any additional committees will be created and disbanded, and a Chairperson designated, at the discretion of the Executive Committee by majority vote.

Committee members shall consist of any active member of the Chapter appointed by the committee chairperson.

ARTICLE VI: DUES

Annual dues of twenty-five (25) dollars shall be paid to the Chapter, due at the second meeting of the calendar year.

All memberships will expire at the end of the second meeting of the following calendar year.

All members will be extended all membership privileges over a grace period 30 days after the second meeting of each calendar year.

Membership privileges will begin immediately after dues payment is made for the calendar year.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

The chapter will have no less than six general membership meetings each year. The Program Committee will decide meeting dates, locations, times and programs. If the program committee is not available for planning, the majority of the membership will make such decisions.

Special meetings may be called by majority vote of the executive committee.

All meeting minutes will be available on the chapter web site or in writing through the Secretary by request within fourteen (14) days of the meeting.

Meeting minutes will include details on the next chapter meeting. These details will include, but are not limited to: Date, time, location and purpose of the next meeting.

"Roberts Rules of Order, Revised Edition" shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-laws.
(<http://www.constitution.org/ror/ror--00.htm>)

ARTICLE VIII: VOTING PROCEDURES

All members in good standing of the local chapter are eligible to vote.

A quorum for a general meeting is defined as 20 members or one-fourth of the current membership whichever is less. A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee is defined as three committee members.

Unless otherwise specified in the By-laws, motions may be approved by a simple majority of the members in attendance, a quorum being present.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCES

Expenditures of the Chapter less than two-hundred (200) dollars may be authorized by a majority of the Executive Committee or members in attendance at a general meeting.

Expenditures of the Chapter in the amount of two-hundred (200) dollars or more shall require the majority approval by members in attendance at a general meeting.

The Chapter is organized and operated exclusively for non-profit purposes, and no part of its earnings shall inure to the benefit of any member.

ARTICLE X: ELECTIONS

Elections of Officers will be conducted during the last regularly scheduled meeting of the academic year (normally in April).

These nominations will be presented from members in good standing to the membership at least seven days before the scheduled elections. Further nominations for any of the officer positions will be taken from the floor before the vote. The nominee must be a member in good standing at the time of nomination.

The nominee receiving at least 51% of attending membership votes shall be elected. If no nominee receives 51% of the attending membership vote, the two nominees with the most votes will run against each other in a final vote. Votes must be cast in person. Only during extraordinary circumstances will an absentee ballot be accepted. Absentee ballots can only be used during the first round of voting.

Any vacant office (except the President) shall be filled by action of the Executive Committee for the remainder of the term (as described in Article IV).

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution or disbandment of this organization, all funds and properties in excess of liabilities and expenses of dissolution will be distributed as determined by a majority of the active members.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

Any member may propose amendments to these By-Laws. Amendments must be presented to the Executive Committee in writing. The proposed amendment will be considered for adoption during any regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present, provided all members have been notified of the proposed amendment at least 7 days in advance of the meeting date.

A two-thirds majority vote, either in person or by absentee ballot, is required for amendment of these By-Laws.