

By Laws: East Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers

Section 1. **Name**

The name of this organization shall be the East Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers

Section 2. **Authority**

The Division is organized in accordance with the Article VI of the Constitution of the Association of American Geographers. Nothing in the Division's Bylaws shall be construed to contradict that constitution; and, in case of conflict, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Council of the Association of American Geographers shall be the final; authorities.

Section 3. **Membership**

a) Eligibility: Membership in the Division shall be extended to all members of the Association of American Geographers without payment of additional dues, providing they reside within the boundaries of the Division, as established by the Council of the Association. Individuals who reside beyond these boundaries for brief periods shall retain their membership providing their legal address remains within the Division and for so long as the Association regards them as members of this division.

b) Non Discrimination: In executing its purposes, the Division shall not discriminate on grounds unrelated to professional competence, such as age, national origin, handicap, race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, and shall promote policies of affirmative action among its members and the institutions with which they are affiliated.

c) Rights: Members in good standing shall have the rights to nominate candidates for the Division's offices, vote in elections, and hold office, if duly elected.

d) Fees: Any operating costs of the Division in excess of funds received from the Central Office of the Association shall be met from registration fees charged members and guests attending the Annual Meeting of the Division.

Section 4. **Officer and Terms of Office**

a) Elected Officers: The elected officers of the Division shall be a Chairperson and a Secretary-Treasurer, each elected at large for a three year term of office. As mandated by the Association of American Geographers, the Divisions will also elect a Regional Councilor.

b) Terms of Office: The terms of office for Chairperson, Secretary-Treasurer and Regional Councilor shall be concurrent. Elections for these positions shall be held in three year cycles and the term of office shall begin at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Division that follows the election. The Chairperson and Regional Councilor shall not be eligible for immediate reelection to the same office. The Secretary-Treasurer may be re-elected one time.

c) Eligibility for Office: All individuals who are duly recognized as members of the Division are eligible to stand for office.

d) An officer who ceases to meet the requirements for membership in the Division shall be expected to resign from office.

e) In the temporary absence of the Chairperson, the Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as the Chairperson of the Division. If the Chairperson becomes unable to perform the duties of the Chair, the Executive Committee of the division shall decide under what circumstances the Secretary-Treasurer shall be empowered to serve as Chairperson and under what circumstances it may be necessary and desirable to elect a new Chairperson.

Section 5. **Elections**

a) Nominations: At the Annual Business Meeting of the East Lakes Division one year in advance of the election of the officer concerned, the Secretary-Treasurer shall ask the membership to submit names of candidates. The Executive Committee of the Division shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three persons which shall be chaired by the Division's Regional Councilor, with due regard to geographical distribution and to representatives of the membership. The Nominating Committee shall receive from the Secretary-Treasurer the names submitted by the membership and, in addition, may consider other individuals before selecting a slate of at least two candidates for the office concerned.

b) Conduct of Elections: The Secretary-Treasurer shall provide a paper or an electronic ballot to each member of the Division at least one month prior to the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in the spring and shall be responsible for counting the ballots and reporting the results. The Secretary-Treasurer shall appoint a Ballot Committee of at least two people to observe and certify the results of the election. The results of the election shall be announced at the AAG Annual spring Meeting.

c) Members of the Nominating Committee and Ballot Committee cannot also be candidates for any ELDAAG office. If nominated for such an office, a member of either committee must resign and the vacancy filled in accordance with Section 6c.

Section 6. **Committees**

a) Standing Committees: In addition to the Nominating Committee and a Ballot Committee, the Division shall have an Executive Committee.

b) Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, Secretary-Treasurer, and the East Lakes Division's Regional Councilor to the Association of American Geographers. In addition, the Executive Committee may invite other members to participate in discussion of matters within their special competence. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once per year.

c) Vacancies: Vacancies in any of the positions of standing committees shall be filled at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Any member of a standing committee who ceases to meet the requirements for membership in the Division shall be expected to resign the position.

Section 7. **Annual Meetings**

a) The Division shall meet at least once each year. However, the Annual Meeting may be waived if the national meeting of the Association interferes, or if a meeting is shared with an adjacent regional division.

b) Place: The place of the meeting shall be determined by the Executive Committee, who shall solicit and accept invitations. Whenever possible, the place of meetings shall be selected and announced two years in advance of the Annual Meeting.

c) Notice: Notices of the time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to all members of the Association who reside within the boundaries of the Division and to those members of the Association who live in areas officially outside the boundaries of the division but in reasonable proximity to the place where the meeting will be held.

d) Program: The format and program of the Annual Meeting shall be determined by the individual(s) appointed to chair the Program Committee and by the members of the host institution(s) in consultation with the Chairperson and Executive Committee of the Division. The format of the Annual Meeting shall be reviewed annually at the Annual Business Meeting.

e) Business Meeting: The Annual Business Meeting shall be scheduled at the Annual Meeting of the Division. The Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute the minutes of the previous meeting to the membership of the Division in attendance and to all national officers of the Association of American Geographers.

f) Quorum: Twenty qualified members of the East Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers attending any Annual Business Meeting shall constitute the quorum.

Section 8. **Research and Publications**

a) Sponsored Projects: The Division may sponsor research projects and/or various publications with approval from the membership at the Annual Business Meeting and from the council of the Association of American Geographers.

b) Editor: The Editor(s) of sponsored publications shall be appointed by the Executive committee and subject to approval by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

c) Funding Projects: Normally, the funding of projects and publications shall be covered by supplementary charges to members and/or by subscriptions fees as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the members of the Division at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 9. **Amendments**

The amendment of these Bylaws requires a vote of the full membership, with a two-thirds vote of the members voting via mailed or electronic ballot required for passage.

Section 10. **Adoption**

These bylaws shall be considered to have been adopted when they have been approved by a two-thirds vote of the members voting via mailed or electronic ballot and approved by the Council of the Association of American Geographers.