

# BY - LAWS of the NATIONAL DUCK STAMP COLLECTORS SOCIETY

---

## ARTICLE I - NAME, PURPOSE AND SOCIETY YEAR

Section 1. The name of this organization is "National Duck Stamp Collectors Society".

Section 2. The purpose of the Society is to promote and encourage the collecting and study of migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps, commonly known as Duck Stamps and to:

- A. Cultivate fraternal and collector relations.
- B. Encourage research and articles pertaining to Duck Stamps.
- C. Disburse educational information and knowledge through a quarterly Society Publication entitled "Duck Tracks"™ and by meetings, seminars, auctions and similar gatherings open to members and the general public.
- D. Advance interest and prestige of duck stamp collecting and promote educational meetings, lectures and exhibits.
- E. Encourage realistic valuations of Duck Stamps and related adjuncts such as Appreciation Certificates, Duck Stamps on license, etc.
- F. Work with Federal, State and worldwide governments and conservation agencies on Duck Stamp programs.
- G. Assist in the preservation of wetlands through Duck Stamps whenever possible.

Section 3. The fiscal year of the Society will be from July 1 to June 30 of the following year and annual membership dues will be paid at the time and in the manner prescribed by Article II, Section 9.

## ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. The Society will be composed of Charter-Life Members, Life Members, Charter Members, Regular Members, Associate Members, Junior Members and Honorary Members. The membership of the latter class is to be determined as provided in Article II, Section 10. All members will be of good moral character and reputation and have an interest in Duck Stamp collecting.

Section 2. Charter-Life Membership is available upon the payment of at least the respective Membership Level fee as prescribed in Article II, Section 9 by a qualified applicant over 18 years of age. This membership category will be limited to fifty (50) in number. Each Charter-Life Member will receive a special membership card bearing a number between 1 - 50 (determined by the order of receipt of a proper application) and a membership pin. Charter-Life Membership number one (1) is reserved for the Society's Founder, Bob Dumaine, in appreciation of his efforts in founding this Society.

Section 3. Life Membership is available upon the payment of at least the respective Membership Level fee as prescribed in Article II, Section 9 by a qualified applicant over 18 years of age who will receive a

membership number between 51 - 200 (determined by the order of receipt of a proper application).

Section 4. Charter Membership was originally available if a complete application for the same was filed before December 31, 1992, and required payment of at least the respective Regular Membership Level fee as prescribed in Article II, Section 9 by a qualified applicant over 18 years of age. Charter Members received a membership number from 201 upwards (determined by the timely order of receipt). Although this class of membership is closed, those originally enrolled as a Charter Member retain that title and assigned number upon timely payment of annual dues beginning July 1, 1993.

Section 5. Regular Membership is available upon the payment of the respective Membership Level fee as prescribed in Article II, Section 9 by a qualified applicant over 18 years of age who is not qualified or does not choose to qualify for membership under Section 2 or 3 above. Each Regular Member will receive an appropriate membership number.

Section 6. Associate Membership is available upon the payment of at least the respective Membership Level fee as prescribed in Article II, Section 9 by any non-profit stamp club, society, association or corporation, and any museum, public library or school, even though such applicant may not necessarily be interested in the hobby of Duck Stamp collecting. Such membership will receive an appropriate membership number.

Section 7. Junior Membership is available upon the payment of the respective Membership Level fee as prescribed in Article II, Section 9 by any qualified youth under the age of 18 years. Junior Members will receive an appropriate membership number.

Section 8. Applications for membership on approved Society forms must be sent with the prescribed membership fee to the Secretary or an Operating Board approved designee who will issue the requested membership card and take all other appropriate actions if the application is in prescribed form and there is no question with respect to the applicant's eligibility. If there is reason to question the admission of any applicant to membership, such admission will be submitted to the Operating Board for final decision.

Section 9. The date membership dues are due and payable depends upon the date a completed application for membership was or is filed as specified in Section 8 above and follows the following schedule:

Application Received	Commencement Date	Expiration Date
January	January 1	December 31
February March April	April 1	March 31
May June July	July 1	June 30
August September October	October 1	September 31
November December	January 1	December 31

Membership Level	Dues Amount	Dues Frequency
Charter-Life	\$500.00	One-time
Life	\$375.00	One-time
Regular (one year)	\$25.00	Yearly
Regular (two years)	\$45.00	Every two years
Regular (three years)	\$65.00	Every three years
Regular (five years)	\$110.00	Every five years
Associate	\$30.00	Yearly
Junior	\$10.00	Yearly

Section 10. Honorary Membership may be conferred by the Executive Board upon any person who has rendered exemplary service in the field of Duck Stamp collecting and who is considered deserving of this honorary title.

Section 11. Members more than 90 days in arrears may be dropped for non-payment of dues. Members dropped for non-payment of dues may be reinstated by the payment of the current year's dues. Should a reinstated member desire an original membership number, said members must also pay all dues in arrears plus a fine of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00).

Section 12. Any member violating these by-laws, committing any unfair or unethical act in their dealings with others, unjustly defaming the character of any other member of the Society, being convicted of criminal offense, or engaging in conduct unbecoming to a member can, by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board, be expelled from membership. Such action will not be taken by the Executive Board until the Secretary has mailed a written copy or summary of the complaint by certified mail directed to the accused member at the last address furnished by said member to the Secretary, and until the accused member has been allowed a period of thirty (30) days from the date of such mailing to present to the Executive Board a written defense to such complaint. All complaints are to be submitted to the Executive Board in writing and signed by the Complainant.

Section 13. Whenever the Executive Board is informed (through sources deemed by the Executive Board to be reliable) that a member has been indicted or otherwise prosecuted for the alleged commission of a criminal offense, the Executive Board can, by a two-thirds vote, suspend such member pending the final

determination of such proceedings. In the event that the Executive Board (through sources deemed by the Executive Board to be reliable) is informed that a member has pleaded guilty to the commission of a criminal offense, or has been judicially convicted of committing a criminal offense, the Executive Board can, by a majority vote, expel such member unless an appeal is pending from the conviction upon which the expulsion was based and the Executive Board has been informed of the appeal. A member may be suspended or expelled pursuant to this Section 13 whether or not a written complaint has been submitted to the Executive Board and without compliance with the requirements of Section 12 preceding.

Section 14. No debts will be contracted in the name of the Executive Board, without the approval of a majority of the Executive Board. However, without such approval, the President may incur debt for the benefit of the Society up to the aggregate amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per fiscal year. In the absence of the President or with the consent of the President, the Vice President may likewise incur debts for the benefit of the Society up to the same aggregate amount per fiscal year. The Secretary and the Treasurer may purchase and pay for necessary stationery, postage and supplies incident to their offices and obtain reimbursement for the same by submitting receipted proof to the Treasurer. Such expenditures will be accounted for in the report of the Treasurer to be rendered at the annual meeting of the Society.

Section 15. All members will receive the official Society Publication without cost beyond their annual dues. Non-member subscriptions will be available at rates determined by the Executive Board.

Section 16. All mail pertaining to Society business including membership and dues will be directed to one and only one Post Office Box held in the name of and paid for by the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society. Said Post Office Box will be located at the local Post Office nearest the home or business address of the Secretary. Access to said Post Office Box will be limited to the Secretary, the President and the Treasurer. Each of the latter two Officers will also have keyed access to said Post Office Box and be empowered upon a resolution passed by the Operating Board to obtain the contents of said Post Office Box and / or have its contents, both present and future, forwarded to another location specified in said resolution.

### ARTICLE III - OFFICERS, GOVERNORS, EXECUTIVE BOARD, OPERATING BOARD

Section 1. The Society will have an Operating Board consisting of the immediate Past President, the Society Founder, and four (4) elected Officers; the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. As a member of the Operating Board, the Society Founder will serve in perpetuity. The Society will also have an Executive Board comprised of the members of the Operating Board and up to ten (10) Governors. The Executive Board will manage, operate and

conduct the affairs of the Society. The four (4) elected Officers will be elected by the membership for a period of two (2) years and the Governors will hereafter be appointed by a two-thirds majority of the Operating Board and serve at the pleasure of the Operating Board.

Section 2. The President for each future election year (i.e., 1995 and each odd numbered year thereafter) will issue a call for suggested nominations of Officers, which will be published in the last issue of the Society Publication before the election year. All suggested nominations will be made in writing and submitted to the Secretary by postmarked letter, or email no earlier than January 1st and no later than March 1st of the election year. In order to be a candidate for office, a nominee must be an individual member in good standing. The Secretary will notify each proposed nominee by postmarked letter, or email no later than March 10th, of such proposed nomination, and request written acceptance or refusal. Each nominee will mail or deliver a written acceptance or refusal to the Secretary no later than March 31st; or in the absence of such an instrument, be deemed to have declined the nomination. Each proposed nominee who accepts a nomination will also provide to the Secretary no later than June 15th of the election year, a biography, not exceeding 100 words in length, which will include a record of the proposed nominee's services to the Society and the hobby of Duck Stamp collecting.

Section 3. Not later than July 1st of each election year, the Secretary will submit a written list setting forth each office and the names of those so accepting proposed nominations, and said biographies to each member of the Operating Board, who will each then select no more than two candidates for each office. Each Operating Board member will then identify their proposed nominees for each office to the secretary, who will determine the identity, by majority rule, of the final two candidates for each of the offices.

Section 4. The Secretary shall furnish the names of all such nominees in ballot form to each member in good standing, either by mail, email or in the appropriate Society Publication issue.

Section 5. All members in good standing, other than Junior and Associate members, will have the right to vote. Voting will be by mail or email only. Each voting member must insert their completed ballot in a sealed envelope and mail it separately to the Secretary, postage prepaid or alternatively, email their completed ballot to the Secretary. Completed ballots or email submissions must be postmarked or emailed at least 20 days prior to the date of the annual membership meeting in order for the ballot to be counted. The Secretary will count the ballots and certify which candidates have been elected to the respective offices and furnish the President of the Society with the results of the election. The voting results will be delivered prior to the annual general membership meeting and the newly elected Officers will be duly installed in office at that meeting or at any subsequent time determined by a majority vote of the membership present.

Section 6. Any person elected as President cannot succeed him or herself as President for more than two consecutive full terms of that office. In the event that an Acting President is selected to fulfill an unexpired Presidential term, said Acting President can fulfill the unexpired Presidential term, can run for an initial full term and, with approval of a two thirds majority vote of the Executive Board, would be eligible to run for a second full term.

Section 7. The Officers and Governors will have the usual duties delegated to their respective offices to conduct the affairs for the Society, and will serve without compensation, except as may be authorized by the Executive Board for services rendered.

Section 8. All officers and Governors must be members in good standing in the Society, and will hold office until their successors take office.

Section 9. The President will preside at all meetings and generally supervise all matters of business or of interest to the Society. In the absence of the President at any meeting, the next highest officer present will preside.

Section 10. The Treasurer will pay all Society bills authorized for payment by the President by single signature check drawn on the Society account. Other Society bills authorized by a particular committee such as the "Society Publication Committee" will also be paid by the Treasurer providing Presidential approval is initially given to each committee.

#### **ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES AND OTHER REQUIRED PERSONNEL**

Section 1. The President or next highest Officer serving in the President's absence may appoint committees as deemed necessary or proper for the conduct of affairs of the Society.

Section 2. The President or next highest Officer serving in the President's absence, with the approval of the Executive Board, may appoint other personnel to posts required in the Society, such as Editor, Advertising Manager, Librarian, Legal Counsel, Historian, Curator, and others, as may be designated by the Executive Board as necessary. These appointees need not be members of the Society.

Section 3. In case of a vacancy occurring in the office of President, the Vice President will succeed. If the Vice President should fail to fill the President's vacancy, it, as well as a vacancy in any other elective office will be filled by appointment by the Executive Board until the next annual election.

Section 4. The President will appoint a Committee entitled "Society Publication Committee". The composition of this committee will be at the discretion of the Society President, and may include one or more dealer members.

## **ARTICLE V - AFFILIATION**

Section 1. The Society will maintain continuous affiliations with major philatelic organizations, particularly those involved with Duck Stamps, such as the American Revenue Society, State Revenue Society, Souvenir Card Collectors Society, Bureau Issues Associate, American Philatelic Society, all Federal, State and Worldwide Duck Stamp Offices and Organizations, American Society for Philatelic Pages and Panels, etc., as appropriate.

## **ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS**

Section 1. This Society will hold a combined annual meeting of the Executive Board and of the Membership each year, during the time and at the place of the annual Federal Duck Stamp Contest. A notice of such meeting will be published annually in the appropriate issue of the Society Publication or by letter or email authorized by the President.

Section 2. The Executive Board will meet in open session following said contest to conduct the affairs of the Society. A majority vote of those present at such session will govern.

Section 3. Three members of the Operating Board will constitute a quorum at any of its meetings.

Section 4. Special meetings of the Operating Board may be called by the President when such a meeting, in the President's opinion, is considered necessary, and a two week notice is given. In the event a special meeting is called, all members of the Operating Board will be contacted by the President. A two-thirds vote of those present at said special meeting, whether it be in person or via conferencing shall govern, providing a quorum is present. In the event a special meeting of the Operating Board is called, those members who are unable to attend will be queried by the President, for their positions on the matters in question.

Section 5. The Executive Board may also vote by mail or email but in such case, an affirmative mail or email vote of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Executive Board will be required for the adoption of all resolutions including amendments to the By-Laws.

Section 6. Business meetings shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, or be in such form as the President or presiding officer shall direct.

Section 7. The first and formative meeting of the Officers and Founder of this Society was held in New York City on Saturday, March 14, 1992, between 3:00 and 5:00 PM, in a reserved room at the Sheraton Hotel, the site of Interpex '92.

Section 8. Any Governor may attend and vote at any meeting of the Operating Board but a Governor's presence will not alter the requirement that not less than three Operating Board members must be present at said meeting to establish a quorum. Meetings that are conducted via conferencing will be considered official meetings.

Section 9. Formal On-Site meetings of the Executive Board or Operating Board should be preceded by first class mailing or email to each Board member of an agenda specifying in detail all business to be considered, and for which a vote is required at that meeting. Said first class mailing or email is to be done two weeks prior to the proposed meeting.

Section 10. Any member of the Executive Board or Operating Board who is unable to attend a formal on-site meeting may cast a vote by proxy for each separate item of business specified in the agenda for that meeting by making his or her wishes known to the Secretary in a sealed envelope or via email, which will be counted for each relevant resolution. Only votes in the affirmative, non-affirmative or in abstention will be valid for business specific issues as outlined in Article VI, Section 9 preceding. Explanations corresponding to a vote on each business specific issue, as detailed above, will be permitted, but will not alter the voting process..

## **ARTICLE VII**

Section 1. This organization is a non-profit membership society and no part of its net earnings will inure to the benefit of any individual or organization.

Section 2. Should this Society be dissolved or liquidated, any and all assets available for distribution after the payment of just debts will be distributed to one or more IRS certified non-profit organizations to be designated by the last Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

Section 1. It will be the duty and responsibility of all members of the Executive Board and all appointed officials and Committee personnel to keep paramount the purpose and objectives of this Society, and to devote their energies to the accomplishment of these aims.

## **ARTICLE IX**

Section 1. Alterations or amendments to these By-Laws will be by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE X**

Section 1. The foregoing By-Laws were adopted by the procedure prescribed by Article VI, Section 5 on November 2, 1994.

Section 2 Various sections of the By-Laws were amended and adopted by the procedure prescribed by Article IX, Section 1 on June 11, 2024.

---

---