

# Soil Science Society of Georgia 2013-2014

To: SSSGA membership  
From: President Daniel Markewitz

Re: Minor changes to SSSGA bylaws

Greetings members of the Soil Science Society of Georgia,

During the course of the last year, your executive committee has proposed some minor changes to the bylaws of the Soil Science Society of Georgia. The only substantive change is clarification of who has signatory authority on Society funds. In other words, who can write checks to spend Society money. This authority is not currently designated in the bylaws but we felt this should be explicitly stated. All changes to SSSGA bylaws require a vote by the membership with 45 days prior notice. As such, we are providing you a copy of the bylaws with changes noted in underlined text and will have a vote at the annual meeting. We hope you will take a few minutes to read the bylaws and support us as we try to improve the management of your society. We look forward to seeing you in February.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Markewitz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail.

Daniel Markewitz  
President

**Amended Constitution and Bylaws  
of the  
Soil Science Society of Georgia**

**PREAMBLE**

The following Constitution and Bylaws shall govern the activities of the Soil Science Society of Georgia. This Constitution and Bylaws, when adopted, shall supersede and nullify all previous Constitutions and Bylaws of this Society.

**ARTICLE I: Name and Organization**

**Section 1.** The name of the organization shall be: "Soil Science Society of Georgia", herein referred to as "this Society".

**Section 2.** The organization shall consist of the membership as designated in Article III.

**ARTICLE II. Objectives**

**Section 1.** The objectives of this society shall be to promote the accumulation, dissemination, and utilization of knowledge pertaining to the soils of Georgia and to provide a medium for exchange of information by those interested in Soil Science and in closely related subject matter areas.

**ARTICLE III. Membership**

**Section 1.** There shall be three classes of active membership as follows:

- a. Individual: Persons who maintain active status by payment of annual dues as prescribed in Article VIII.
- b. Soil Consultant: Soil consultants who maintain active status by payment of Annual dues as prescribed in Article VIII.
- c. Student: Persons who are enrolled in good standing with any university or technical school who maintain active status by payment of annual dues as prescribed in Article VIII.
- d. Life: This membership classification is reserved for those individuals who are now retired from their principal career responsibilities as determined by the Executive Committee; and who for at least three years prior to retirement were active members of this Society. These members shall have all the privileges of individual members including attending and participating in the annual meetings, voting rights, and receiving Society materials and publications. They shall be exempt for life from payment of annual dues.

**Section 2.** The membership may further participate in the divisions listed below. The purpose of the divisional membership is to promote the specific interests of the division membership to the general membership. The members of each division will elect a vice president to serve a two-year term to represent the division on the executive committee. The divisions shall be:

- a. Academic, Research, Government, and Nonprofit Organizations
- b. Consulting, Business and Industry

#### **ARTICLE IV: Officers, Duties, and Election**

**Section 1.** Officers. The officers of this Society shall consist of the President, the President-Elect, Secretary, and the Treasurer. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, the most recent past President, and the Division Chairs who shall also serve as Vice-Presidents of this Society.

#### **Section 2.** Duties of Officers and Executive Committee

- a. The President shall preside at meetings of the Executive Committee, at business meetings of this Society, and at other meetings of this Society as he/she (and the Executive Committee) may deem appropriate. He/she shall appoint the necessary committees as provided for in Article VI and shall have general supervision of all the affairs of this Society including signatory authority on Society funds.
- b. The President-Elect shall serve as Chairman of the Program Committee as specified in Article VI, section 3, and shall be generally responsible for preparing the program and making the other necessary arrangements for the annual meeting.
- c. The Vice-Presidents shall be the Division Chairs as defined in Article III, section 2. They are responsible for presiding at all meetings of their respective divisions, appointing the necessary division committees, and have general supervision of all affairs specific to the division. The Vice-Presidents are also responsible for promoting the specific interest of the division membership to the general membership, keeping the President and President-Elect informed as to the activities of the division, helping the President-Elect with preparing the program and making other arrangements for the annual meeting.
- d. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Officers, Executive Committee, and regular Society meetings, and perform such other duties as may be appropriate to that office including signatory authority on Society funds.
- e. The Treasurer shall handle the financial affairs including signatory authority on Society funds and keep the financial records of this Society.
- f. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act for this Society in the conduct of normal and routine business between annual meetings, including:
  - appointment of ad hoc or standing committees.
  - filling vacancies as specified in Article IV, section 4.
  - establishment of award category and type, and presentation of awards at the annual meeting.

- accepting nominations and selecting recipients for awards and recognition.

**Section 3.** Election. The President-Elect shall be elected by ballot prior to the annual meeting of this Society. The Vice-Presidents shall serve as a Nominating Committee, as specified in Article VI, section 2. This committee shall nominate at least one candidate for the office of President-Elect. Any active member may make other nominations by contacting the President or a member of the nominating committee. Election shall be by a plurality of the votes cast. Ballots should be mailed at least 45 days prior to the annual meeting. Ballots will be counted 10 days prior to the annual meeting.

The President-Elect shall serve in that capacity for one year and then shall succeed to the Presidency for one year and past-president for one year.

The Division Chairs (Vice-Presidents) shall be elected by procedures established by the divisions and shall serve for a term of two years and may serve three terms.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall serve for a term mutually agreeable to him/her and to the Executive Committee.

**Section 4.** Filling Vacancies. If a vacancy should occur in one or more of the offices, or in the Executive Committee, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill the vacancy until such time as a regular business meeting of this Society shall be convened.

## **ARTICLE V:** Government and Meetings

**Section 1.** The major business and governmental affairs of this Society shall be transacted at the annual meeting, or at the other duly called meeting. A majority vote of those present at a duly constituted meeting shall be required for approval of any and all business matters, except the changing of this Constitution and Bylaws (See Article IX, Section 1). The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act for this Society between duly constituted meetings.

**Section 2.** This Society shall hold an annual meeting at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee. Other meetings, conferences, or tours may be arranged by the Executive Committee on their own initiative or in response to requests from active members of this Society.

**Section 3.** All business meetings of this Society shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, except where specified by these Bylaws.

**Section 4.** The annual business meeting of this Society should provide for the following:

- a. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting.
- b. Report of the President.
- c. Report of the Secretary.
- d. Report of the Treasurer.
- e. Report of the Auditing Committee.
- f. Old Business.
- g. Installation of officers.
- h. New business.
- i. Adjournment.

**Section 5.** A quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee shall consist of a majority of the members.

**Section 6.** A quorum at any duly called business meeting of this Society shall consist of at least fifteen per~~cent~~ of the active membership with the number of active memberships being certified to by the Secretary.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Committees**

To assist in the various duties and responsibilities of this Society, the committees listed below shall be appointed. Ad hoc or special committees may be appointed as deemed necessary by the President and/or Executive Committee.

**Section 1.** Executive Committee. This committee shall consist of the President as Chairman, the President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, the immediate past President, and the Vice-Presidents (Division Chairs). Duties of the Executive Committee shall include the following:

- a. Membership: To serve as a liaison and information medium between this Society and prospective new members.
- b. Cooperation: To serve as a liaison between the Soil Science Society and other related societies or agencies.
- c. Necrology: To secure a list of names of any members that might have passed away during the year and to prepare a suitable memorial statement for them.
- d. Resolutions: To prepare resolutions pertaining to any phase of the operations of this Society or otherwise, as the committee may deem pertinent.

**Section 2.** Nominating Committee. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of Division Chairs (Vice-Presidents) to make nominations for officers as specified in Article IV, Section 1.

**Section 3.** Program. There shall be a Program Committee consisting of the Division Chairs (Vice-Presidents), the President-Elect, who shall serve as Chairperson, and any other persons appointed by the President. This committee shall be responsible for assisting the President-Elect in establishing the program

for the annual meeting, for editing and publishing the proceedings of the annual meeting, and other material as might be deemed necessary from time to time.

**Section 4.** Auditing Committee. The President shall appoint an Auditing Committee consisting of at least two members of this Society to audit the Treasurer's books and to certify as to their correctness. The Auditing Committee's report shall be presented at the general business meeting immediately following the report of the Treasurer.

**Section 5.** Continuing Education Committee. Through this committee, this Society shall sponsor and/or conduct educational programs of significant interest in soil science and closely related subject matter areas. The committee shall submit program proposals to the Executive Committee for approval.

#### **ARTICLE VII:** Publications

**Section 1.** This Society shall publish the proceedings of the annual meetings in a publication to be designated as Soil Science Society of Georgia Proceedings. The Proceedings shall contain the papers presented at the meeting (with written summaries from poster presentations optional and left to the discretion of the presenter). The Proceedings shall also contain the minutes of the business meeting, including the results of the election, a list of the various committees, and other committee reports and materials as deemed necessary by the program Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Proceedings will be available to members by electronic format. Paper copies will be available by request to the Program Committee.

#### **ARTICLE VIII:** Dues and Finances

**Section 1.** Membership dues shall be as recommended by the Executive Committee, with the dues for various classes of membership as follows:

- a. Membership - Dues shall be set by the Executive Committee.
- b. Student membership - Dues shall be set by the Executive Committee.
- c. Life membership - Exempt as per Article III, Section 1c.

**Section 2.** Dues are payable on a calendar year basis. Dues are expected to be paid prior to or at the time of the annual meeting. Any dues received after the annual call for dues, and prior to the call for annual dues for the subsequent calendar year, shall be for that calendar year in which received. New members shall pay dues at the time of application.

**Section 3.** To defray cost of division activities and (or) issues, a fee may be charged to the division membership.

**Section 4.** To defray cost of the annual meeting, a registration fee will be charged those registering for the annual meeting. The Executive Committee will determine the amount of this fee.

**ARTICLE IX: Amendments**

**Section 1.** This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at any duly constituted annual meeting, provided such amendments have first been presented to the Executive Committee at least forty-five days prior to the time of the annual meeting and have been mailed to the membership at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

"Proposed by the Steering Committee on April 5, 2005 and amended and adopted by unanimous vote at a meeting of the membership on September 26, 2005."