

Constitution of the Florida Society of Geographers

Article I -- Name

The name of the organization shall be the Florida Society of Geographers.

Article II – Objectives

The objectives of the organization shall be to further the field of geography and to encourage the application of geographic findings in education, government, and business in Florida. The Society shall support these objectives by promoting discussion among its members and with scholars and practitioners in related fields by stimulating research and field investigation, by encouraging publication of scholarly studies, and by performing services to aid the advancement of its members and the field of geography in Florida.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. Members. The principle criterion of eligibility for membership shall be activity or interest in the field of geography. This criterion shall be considered to have been met by an individual who possesses any one of the following qualifications:

- a) a degree in geography or related discipline from a recognized college or university, or
- b) significant professional contributions to the field of geography, or
- c) training, work, and/or contributions to geography equivalent to either of the preceding groups.

Section 2. Student Members. Student members are those students currently enrolled in any school.

Section 3. Retired Members. Retired members are those members who have retired from their profession but who wish to maintain a membership in the Florida Society of Geographers.

Section 4. Honorary Members. Honorary Membership may be granted to any individual who receives the unanimous approval of the Executive Committee and is further approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership at the annual Business Meeting. Nominations for honorary membership should be sent to the President at any time.

Section 5. Membership Rights.

- a) Members—All members shall have full voting rights and office holding rights.
- b) Student—Student Members shall have the same rights as members except to hold office. However, a student is elected each year to sit on the Executive Committee as a Board Member.

- c) Retired Members—Retired Members shall have the same rights as Members.
- d) Honorary Members—Honorary Members shall have the same rights as Members except to nominate, vote, and hold office.
- e) Misuse of affiliation—Any Member who makes use of his affiliation with the Society in a manner considered improper by the Executive Committee may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of that Committee after opportunity has been given the individual for a hearing before the Executive Committee.

Article IV – Officers and Committees

Section 1. Elected Officers and Committees. The elected officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a three-member Executive Committee. The duties of these officers shall be those normally pertaining to their various posts. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers named, the immediate Past President, the Executive Committee and the editor of *The Florida Geographer*. The terms of office shall be one year for President, Vice-President; two years for Secretary and Treasurer; and three years for elected members of the Executive Committee. Elected officers and elected committee members shall be eligible for reelection to the same office. The terms of the three elected members of the Executive Committee shall be arranged so that one will retire each year. The President will automatically become an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee for one year upon expiration of his/her term as President. In addition, a student representative shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting to sit on the Executive Committee for one year. It is suggested that the student representative be from the region where the President is from in order that the student can assist with the planning of the Annual meeting.

Section 2. Methods of Nomination and Election of Officers. Nominations for open office shall be made by the Executive Board at the annual business meeting with other nominations taken from the floor. The Executive Board shall have power to fill vacancies until the next election.

Section 3. Executive Board. The Executive Board shall consist of the persons named under Section 1. The Executive Board shall have power to transact all business of the Society and to assign specific responsibilities to the various officers and committees of the Society. The Executive Board is the final authority in all disputes arising within the Society and may designate certain committees to be elected by the Membership. The Executive Board may delegate to the officers authority to sign contracts. The Executive Board shall meet at least once a year at the call of the President. Notices of Executive Board meetings shall be sent out at least three weeks in advance. A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Other Appointed Committees. The President may appoint other committees at his discretion, subject to procedures established by the Executive Board.

Section 5. Editors. An Editor or Editors may be appointed by the Executive Board for such term as it may determine.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meetings. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held at such time and place as the Executive Board may designate. The Executive Board may arrange other meetings in addition to the Annual Meeting. Announcement of the time and place of meetings must be given to Members, Associate Members, and Honorary Members at least 30 days in advance.

Section 2. Business Meetings. A Business Meeting shall be held during the Annual Meeting. During this meeting, as part of the Secretary's report, a summary of the actions of the Executive Board shall be presented to the membership. Reports shall be presented by the President, Treasurer, Editors, and the Chair of active committees. Any matter pertaining to the Society of its activities may be brought before Business Meetings for discussion.

Article VI – Changes in the Constitution

Changes in the Constitution proposed either by the Executive Board or by Petition of ten Members may be made by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members voting at the Annual Business Meeting.

Article VII Rules

Roberts Rules of Order shall govern all proceedings of the Society.

By-Laws

Section 1. Dues. All members, student members, and retired members shall pay an annual fee as designated by vote of the membership. Honorary Members shall pay no annual fee. Any member in arrears shall be dropped from the membership list of the Society after due notice according to procedures established by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Honors. The Society shall encourage meritorious achievements in geography by awarding honors in special recognition of outstanding contribution toward the advancement or welfare of the profession. The contributions might be in research, applied research, writing, teaching, committee or administrative work, collaborative work with non-geographers, or in other aspects of geographic professional work. Recognition may take the form of grants for further advancing or implementing the contributions already made, citations, medals, an annual honor roll or plaque, Honorary Membership, or other form appropriate to the purpose of such recognition. The Executive Board shall sit as the Honors Board when appropriate and shall have the power to make all honors awards except Honorary Membership as provided by Article III, Section 3. At the Annual Meeting the Executive Board shall announce any awards of such honors as it may have approved. In addition, the Local Arrangements Committee shall constitute a committee with statewide representation to evaluate student presentations at the annual meeting in order to award

undergraduate and graduate scholarship. The President and Treasurer will inform the Local Arrangements Committee of the funds available for student awards.

Section 3. Mail Vote. Matters of concern to the Society may be submitted by the Executive Committee to the membership for email vote at any time except those matters that must be voted at the Annual Meeting as provided for in the Constitution.

Section 4. Publications. The Society shall issue *The Florida Geographer* and other such publications as the Executive Committee may determine.

Section 5. Amendments. The By-Laws may be amended by a majority of the Members voting at the Annual Meeting of the Society.