

# **The North American Heine Society Constitution and By-Laws**

## **Constitution**

### **Article I: Name**

The Association shall be named the North American Heine Society,

### **Article II: Purpose**

1. The aim of the Society is to promote the study of all aspects of the life, work, and times of Heinrich Heine. The Society shall encourage scholars and scholarship in both the United States and Canada.
2. The Society shall specifically support the following objectives:
  - a. To distribute annually the *Heine-Jahrbuch* of the Heinrich-Heine-Gesellschaft without charge to dues-paying members.
  - b. To publish a Newsletter in January of each year.
  - c. To organize yearly panels for presentation at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association and/or the German Studies Association.
  - d. To award the Jeffrey L. Sammons Heine Essay Prize.
3. The Society shall cooperate with other institutions and organizations which share its interests and goals, in particular the Heinrich-Heine-Gesellschaft.

### **Article III: Membership**

Membership shall be open to anyone upon annual payment of dues.

### **Article IV: Officers**

The officers of the Society shall be: a President, a Vice President, a Secretary-Treasurer, and a Newsletter Editor. The President and Vice President shall be elected by virtual ballot at an online meeting of the membership-at-large and shall hold office for a renewable term of three years. The President shall appoint the Secretary-Treasurer and the Newsletter Editor.

## **Article V: Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall consist of five members, including the President and Vice President, to be elected for staggered three-year terms.

## **Article VI: Amendments to the Constitution**

Voting on amendments to the constitution of the society shall be by email and will require a two-thirds majority of those responding to the virtual ballot at an online meeting of the membership-at-large. Upon official written request submitted by at least five members to the Secretary-Treasurer, proposed amendments shall be brought for a vote to the next meeting of the membership-at-large.

## **Article VII: Meetings**

1. Meetings of the Society shall be held as provided in the by-laws.
2. When business of the Society is conducted in conjunction with an official meeting of the Society, it shall be conducted according to *Robert's Rules of Order*. The members present at the meeting shall constitute a quorum.

## **Article VIII: Committees**

The President, with approval of the other officers of the Society and the Board of Directors, is empowered to appoint such committees as will further the declared purpose of the Society.

## **By-Laws**

### **1. By-Laws**

By-laws may be adopted or changed at any annual meeting of the Society by a majority vote of the members present or by virtual ballot online requiring a simple majority of those responding to the ballot. Proposed changes to be discussed and voted on at a meeting must be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer at least one month prior to the meeting, in order that members can be notified of the proposed changes. Proposed changes to be voted on by virtual ballot online must be submitted by at least five members in form of an official written request to the Secretary-Treasurer and will be brought forward to a vote at the next online meeting of the membership-at-large.

## 2. Elections

- a. A committee consisting of the President and two senior members of the Board of Directors shall nominate candidates for the offices of President, Vice President and Board of Directors three months before the inauguration of new officers.
- b. Elections shall be by secret virtual ballot online.
- c. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall fill the vacancy until the next election. The Board of Directors shall appoint an interim Vice President who will serve until the next elections.

## 3. Dues

- a. The annual dues of the Society shall be:

Student Membership	free
Active Membership	30.00
Sponsor	50.00
Patron	100.00

The annual dues are to be paid to the Treasurer by May 1 of each year.

- b. The right to vote and hold office in the Society shall be contingent upon the payment of dues.
- c. The members may nominate honorary members. Such nominations require approval by virtual online ballot to be requested in election years. Honorary members are exempted from paying dues.
- d. Payment of annual dues will entitle members to receive all publications and bulletins of the Society without further charge, with the exception of Passive Members, who will not receive the *Heine-Jahrbuch*.

All funds of the Society shall be deposited in a bank account at the place of residence of the Secretary-Treasurer.

- f. The Secretary-Treasurer upon request shall submit the accounts once a year to the officers of the Society for their approval and acceptance.

## 4. Meetings

- a. A special Heine Session may be arranged annually to be conducted in conjunction with the meeting of the Modern Language Association of America and/or the German

Studies Association.

b. The President shall be in charge of organizing the annual meeting and appointing members to chair the business and scholarly session when appropriate.

### **5. The Jeffrey L. Sammons Heine Essay Prize**

This prize is named after Jeffrey L. Sammons (1936-2021), the long-time Secretary-Treasurer of the North American Heine Society and outstanding Heine scholar whose work continues to be an inspiration for the Heine research community in North America.

For this reason the Society awards a prize for the best essay published or accepted for publication by a graduate student or emerging scholar in North America within 15 years of receiving their Ph.D. that contributes to advancing research in any of the aspects of the life, work, times, and reception of Heinrich Heine. Runners-up may be awarded an honorable mention.

The prize is to be awarded biannually. If during that period no paper submitted is considered worthy of the award, the committee shall extend the time frame.

The President shall appoint a committee for each award period. Nominations and self-nominations are to be submitted to the President and the Secretary-Treasurer.

For the first prize, eligible publications will cover the period from 2020 to February 15, 2023. The second prize will cover the period from February 16, 2023 to February 15, 2025 and so on.

(updated June 6, 2023)