

BYLAWS, DORIS LESSING SOCIETY

(Revisions Approved January 8, 2023)

The Doris Lessing Society

BYLAWS

I. Name: The name by which the organization shall be known is: The Doris Lessing Society.

II. Purpose: To foster and encourage the scholarly study of, critical attention to, and general interest in the work and career of Doris Lessing, and to pursue ways in which all people interested in her writing—scholars, critics, teachers, students, and common readers—may learn from one another through meetings, publications, and exchanges of information.

III. Membership: Any person who subscribes to the purposes of the Society may become a member upon payment of an annual fee as established by the Executive Committee (currently waived) and shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of the Society.

IV. Administration:

- 1). The administration of the Society shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee, consisting of the officers of the society: the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer; members-at-large, ex-officio members; the Presidents of other chapters of the society (e.g. the Doris Lessing Society of South Asia); and the editors of *Doris Lessing Studies*.
- 2). The officers of the Society shall be responsible for publishing on the Doris Lessing Society website and/or disseminating by email the actions and policies of the Executive Committee and minutes of the Annual Business Meeting.
- 3). For the conduct of all formal business of the Society, the authority shall be the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* as may be amended from time to time by vote of the membership.
- 4). The accounts of the Society shall be handled by the Treasurer who shall present an annual report to the Executive Committee and membership.

V. Officers:

- 1). Officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
- 2). The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Executive Committee. In the absence of the President, these duties shall fall on the Vice-President.
- 3). As approved by the Executive Committee, the Secretary will record the minutes of all Society meetings.
- 4). Under the direction of the Executive Committee, the Treasurer shall have charge of all financial operations of the Society, including the collection of sums due the Society, the payment of its bills and the presentation to the officers each year of a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. After action by the officers, the budget shall be made available to the members for their information.
- 5). The Executive Committee is empowered to develop policies and procedures relating to the election of officers and to present them at the annual business meeting of the Society for approval by the Membership.
- 6). Officers shall be elected by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

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- 7). Any member of the Society may propose nominees, including self-nominations, for vacant positions.
- 8). The nominees receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared elected. In the event that no nominee receives a majority, a runoff election shall be held between the two nominees with the highest number of votes.
- 9). In the event that an elected officer should for any reason be unwilling or unable to carry out the responsibilities of the office, the Executive Committee shall determine the time and manner of replacement, until the next Annual Business Meeting.
- 10). The President and the Vice-President of the Society normally serve for two years. They may be re-elected to a subsequent term. The Vice-President normally succeeds the President.
- 11). The Secretary and Treasurer may serve terms of two to five years. The ex-officio and members-at-large of the Executive Committee may serve terms of two to five years, which may be renewed.

VI. Committees

In the event that additional committees are required, they may be appointed by the Executive Committee and approved at the Annual Business Meeting.

VII. Conventions and Meetings

- 1). As an Allied Organization of the The Modern Language Association, the Society shall organize at least one session annually at the MLA Convention.
- 2). The Membership shall hold one or more business meetings annually, normally in conjunction with the Modern Language Association's annual convention.
- 3). Meetings shall be planned by the Officers and approved by the Executive Committee.

VIII. Publications

The Society publishes the peer-reviewed journal *Doris Lessing Studies*. The editors, as selected by the Editorial Board, shall be responsible for editorial decisions and administration of the journal, subject to the approval of the Editorial Board.

IX. The Bylaws and Amendments to the Bylaws

In order to approve the Bylaws and Amendments, the officers must send a notice of the vote at least three weeks in advance. Two-thirds of the voting members must approve the changes.