

## **XIII. NATIONAL CONSTITUTION**

(As amended January, 1986, July, 1994, April 1998, April 2002, October 2003, April 2004, October 2009, April 2011, November 2012)

### **Article I--Purpose**

Mu Alpha Theta, which is sponsored by professional mathematics organizations, including the Mathematical Association of America, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, is a non-secret organization whose purpose is the promotion of scholarship in, and enjoyment and understanding of, mathematics among high school and two-year college students.

### **Article II--Name**

The name of the organization shall be Mu Alpha Theta, National High School and Two-Year College Mathematics Honor Society. Either of these names may be used as desired. The organization was established in 1957. Each chapter shall be designated by the name of the school, city, and state in which it is located.

### **Article III--National Organization**

#### **SECTION 1. Ultimate authority**

The ultimate authority for the affairs of Mu Alpha Theta shall rest with the chapters, each having one vote. However, the chapters may delegate to the Governing Council (see Section 2), committees, and conventions of the organization the authority to deal with questions not specifically delegated to the chapters by this Constitution. Unless otherwise provided for by this Constitution, the following procedure shall be followed in submitting questions to the chapters: Questions may originate either in the Governing Council or in a General Convention. Or, a question may be proposed by any chapter of the organization by referring it to the Governing Council. The Council may then make a recommendation to be voted on by all chapters. Recommendations shall be deemed approved unless a majority of the chapters voting decide against it and inform the Secretary-Treasurer of their disapproval within two months of the date of submission, not including summer months.

#### **SECTION 2. The Governing Council**

The **Governing Council** of Mu Alpha Theta shall exercise all those functions usually assigned to an executive committee and shall have the power to decide all questions

concerning the organization as a whole, which are not otherwise addressed by this constitution or by vote of the chapters. The Council will meet at least twice a year. The Governing Council shall include: a President, a President-Elect or Past-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, four Regional Governors, and a representative from each of the sponsoring organizations.

Governors and officers shall serve without remuneration.

### SECTION 3. **Election of Officers**

The Regional Governors and the Secretary-Treasurer shall each serve for a term of four years, with two Regional Governors elected every two years. A president-elect will be elected every two years and will serve one year as president-elect, two years as President, and one year as Past President. The term of each officer shall begin at the conclusion of the annual meeting of the year or September 1 of that year, whichever is earlier. A nominating committee, of at least two persons, shall be appointed by the President no later than October 1 of the year before elections are held. Each sponsoring organization shall be invited to appoint one Council member. If any organization should fail to appoint such a member, then the nominating committee will prepare a slate of nominees, which will include the names of at least two members of said organization. The nominating committee shall nominate at least two qualified candidates suitable for the office of the president-elect and for the offices of Regional Governor, and at least one for the office of Secretary-Treasurer. Should the nominating committee be unable to find two willing candidates for any position, after contacting all chapters for qualified volunteers; a single candidate may stand for election. The Governing Council, a General Convention, or any chapter may make additional nominations at any time before the ballots are prepared. Nominations are subject to the following restrictions:

Nominations are subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) No one shall serve more than one term as President.
- (2) No limit shall be placed on the number of terms of the Secretary-Treasurer.
- (3) No elected council member, other than the Secretary-Treasurer, may serve more than eight consecutive years.
- (4) A sponsoring organization shall determine the term of its representative.
- (5) Two Council members shall not be elected from the same institution.

**Region1:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Canada, the Far East, the Pacific Islands, and Western Europe.

**Region 2:** Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, South America and Middle East.

**Region 3:** Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, and Eastern Europe.

**Region 4:** Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, District of Columbia, the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, and Africa.

Only chapters in a region shall vote on the candidates for Regional Governor of that region. All chapters shall vote on the candidates for president-elect and secretary-treasurer. Ballots shall be submitted to chapters by March 15 and shall contain the nominees for Regional Governor of the appropriate region and also the nominees for president-elect and secretary-treasurer. Each chapter shall indicate only one choice on the ballot for each of the officers to be elected. Ballots to be counted must be postmarked by April 24. Decisions shall be based upon a plurality of chapter votes cast for each office. In case of a tie among two or more candidates for an office, the outgoing Governing Council shall choose between the candidates.

#### **SECTION 4: Duties of Officers and Regional Governors**

(1) The **President** shall be the chief executive officer of the organization with the following responsibilities:

- a) Promote national Mu Alpha Theta activities.
- b) Approve all new chapters and sign the charters.
- c) Conduct meetings of the Governing Council
- d) Preside at the meeting for sponsors at the National Convention.
- e) Consider ideas and suggestions of sponsors and students.
- f) Meet with Student Delegate Assembly whenever possible and help to organize regional Student Delegate Assemblies.
- g) Appoint a Nominating Committee for the bi-annual elections.
- h) Serve with other members of the Governing Council as member of an appeal body in any case involving disciplinary action.
- i) Participate in the activities of the national convention.
- j) Represent Mu Alpha Theta at meetings and ceremonies of other organizations (e.g. United States Mathematical Olympiad Awards Ceremony).
- k) Appoint representatives to boards and councils on which Mu Alpha Theta is represented.
- l) Make appointments to fill all vacancies that occur among the Regional Governors or officers, with the approval of the Governing Council, for the balance of the

term. However, should the President-Elect be unable to fulfill the term of office, the President shall nominate a candidate to fill the remainder of the term, with approval of the Governing Council. That candidate and the person who received the next most votes in the prior election for the post, should that person agree to run, shall be placed in a special election of the chapters to be concluded within one month of the resignation of the President-Elect. The term for the individual elected in the special election shall be the remainder of the term of the resigning officer. Chapters shall have the opportunity to approve a replacement, even if only one candidate stands for election.

(2) The **Past President or President-Elect** shall perform the duties of the President in case of any temporary or permanent incapacity of the latter.

(3) The **Secretary-Treasurer** shall discharge the duties ordinarily pertaining to the offices of secretary and treasurer. He (or she) shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the Governing Council, and all decisions made by general conventions or by vote of the chapters, and shall have charge of the records and official correspondence of the organization. He (or she) shall also have charge of all moneys or other valuable properties belonging to the organization, and shall keep an accurate record of all financial transactions, said account to be audited as provided by the Council. He (or she) shall make an accounting to the Governing Council at all meetings of the Governing Council. He (or she) shall keep an official record of all members and issue membership certificates.

a) The details of day-to-day business shall be managed by an Executive Director. This person shall serve as a non-voting, Ex-Officio member of the Governing Council and will be hired by the Secretary-Treasurer with approval of the President. There is to be no specific term of office.

(4) Each **Regional Governor** shall:

- a) Promote Mu Alpha Theta activity within his(her) region.
- b) Vote throughout the year on approval of new chapters in his or her region.
- c) Attend all meetings of the Governing Council and report annually, at the winter meeting, Mu Alpha Theta activities in their region during the past year.
- d) Consider ideas and suggestions of sponsors and students.
- e) Meet with the Student Delegate Assembly when able and help to organize the regional Student Delegate Assembly.
- f) Serve on committees of the Governing Council.
- g) Serve with other members of the Governing Council as member of an appeal body in any case involving disciplinary action.
- h) Be a leader in suggesting ways in which Mu Alpha Theta can improve and

expand.

(5) Each **representative** of the sponsoring organizations shall

- a) Serve as a liaison between Mu Alpha Theta and their organization.
- b) Attend all meetings of the Governing Council and report on these to their sponsoring organization.
- c) Make an annual report to the Governing Council at the summer council meeting, describing interactions during the prior year between Mu Alpha Theta and the sponsoring organization, if any.
- d) Serve on committees of the Governing Council.
- e) Be a leader in suggesting ways in which Mu Alpha Theta and the sponsoring organization can best work together to further the mission of Mu Alpha Theta and better serve its chapters and their members.

## SECTION 5: **Conventions**

Mu Alpha Theta may hold regional or national conventions at such times as it may choose to do so. Such conventions may propose legislation to be submitted to the chapters for final vote, in which case the procedure shall be the same as specified in Section 1 of this Article. At such conventions officers may also be nominated and proposals made to be referred to the Governing Council.

## SECTION 6: **Certificates of Membership**

Certificates of Membership shall be issued by the Secretary-Treasurer on certification from the faculty-sponsor of the chapter.

## SECTION 7: **Fees and Dues**

There shall be **no** national annual dues. An initiation fee per member shall be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer for each person initiated into membership, whereupon the Secretary-Treasurer shall issue a membership certificate to that member and place his name on the official roll.

# Article IV-- **Chapters**

## SECTION 1: **Qualifications for Chapters**

Any high school or two-year college, with accreditation from a recognized accrediting agency and offering courses in mathematics, may petition to have a chapter, providing it meets the following minimum requirements:

(1) High schools must offer at least two years of algebra and one year of geometry, or their equivalent, and a minimum of one year of more advanced mathematics. These requirements cannot be fulfilled by courses in general mathematics, general business mathematics, or arithmetic. Two-year colleges must offer at least three courses beyond pre-calculus, which include calculus, differential equations, linear algebra, or statistics.

(2) The school must employ at least one teacher whose primary teaching field is mathematics and who has completed an undergraduate mathematics major or its equivalent at an accredited college or university. The equivalent of a mathematics major shall be understood to include a minimum of six college mathematics courses at the calculus level or above.

(3) The Principal, or other chief administrative officer of the institution, must approve the petition.

(4) An initial charter fee, along with the regular initiation fee for each member, shall be paid to the office of the Secretary-Treasurer before a charter is granted. If a check accompanies the petition, it will be held until the institution is granted a charter, at which time it will be cashed. If the charter is denied, the check will be returned to the petitioning school with an explanation of why the charter was denied.

(5) High School chapters shall be admitted for membership on the approval of the President and the Governor of the appropriate region. Two-Year College chapters shall be admitted for membership on the approval of the President and the AMATYC Representative. Should either deny a petition for membership, the school may appeal the decision to the Governing Council for consideration. A two-thirds vote of the Governing Council shall be required to approve such a chapter for membership.

## **SECTION 2: Inactive Chapters and Forfeiture of Charter**

(1) If a chapter makes no report of new members for one year, at the end of that school year, the National Office shall inquire by letter if it is still an active chapter. If no members are added the following school year, for a total of two consecutive years without members, the chapter shall be considered inactive. The school will be notified that the chapter has been made inactive and asked to remove the name Mu Alpha Theta from its math club. A chapter may reactivate at any time, simply by sending the initiation fees for its members and paying a reactivation fee.

(2) If an inactive chapter, with members, continues to use the Mu Alpha Theta name; and three months after a warning letter is received, still does not register their

members, their charter will be rescinded. If a charter is forfeited, the school must resubmit a petition and pay for a new charter, should they want to have a chapter at some time in the future. The chapter sponsor and the principal of the school will be notified by registered mail that they are in violation of this constitution and that their charter has been forfeited.

## Article V--**Membership**

The following minimum requirements for Members and Associates shall be common to all chapters:

(1) Each chapter shall have a faculty-student committee, which will recommend possible members to the chapter.

(2) Members:

a) High school students in grades 9 through 12, at the school where their permanent record resides, who have completed the equivalent of two years of college preparatory mathematics, including algebra and geometry, and in addition have completed or are enrolled in a still more advanced course, are eligible for membership providing their mathematical work was done with distinction. On the 4-point grading scale, this shall mean at least a 3.0 grade point average.

b) Two-year college students who were members of Mu Alpha Theta in high school are eligible for membership in their college's chapter. Two-year students are also eligible if they have had at least one mathematics course at or above the College Algebra/Precalculus level and at least a 3.0 GPA overall in all Two-year college mathematics courses at or above the College Algebra/Precalculus level.

(3) Associates:

High School students in grades 9 through 12, at the school where their permanent record resides, who have completed one year of algebra, or its equivalent, with distinction and are currently enrolled in a higher math course are eligible to be Associates of Mu Alpha Theta. Associates are not members of Mu Alpha Theta but are likely candidates for membership. Associates do not pay the initiation fee but are eligible to be listed with the National Office, should they wish to participate in Mu Alpha Theta national math contests. While they are not entitled to vote nor hold office in their chapter, they are entitled to attend and be heard at meetings. A student may remain an Associate for only one year and then, if eligible, must be inducted as a Member of Mu Alpha Theta

(4) No student shall be recommended for consideration that does not meet the minimum qualifications. Individual chapters may impose additional requirements, however, no student will be denied membership on account of race, religion, color, creed, ethnicity,

national origin, gender, sexual preference, and/or physical disability.

(5) No student may list membership in Mu Alpha Theta on a resume until their name has been submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer for inclusion in our official records. Chapters are responsible to notify the Secretary-Treasurer within one month of a student's initiation.

(6) A student may only compete in Mu Alpha Theta competitions with a team from the school where they are currently listed as a member and where their permanent records reside.

### **Article VI--Chapter Organization**

Each chapter is free to set up its own organization, officers, and finances with the following restrictions:

(1) Each chapter must have a semi-permanent faculty sponsor and the national organization (Secretary-Treasurer) must be kept informed of the current faculty sponsor's name and address.

(2) The minimum membership requirements set forth by the national organization must be met by all initiates.

(3) A complete and accurate list of all member initiates, accompanied by their initiation fees, must be received by the office of the Secretary-Treasurer no longer than one month after new members have been initiated. Failure to register students can lead to forfeiture of the chapter's charter.

(4) Each chapter must hold regular meetings at periodic intervals and not merely consider itself an honor society for high grades. At a minimum, there should be one meeting every month.

(5) Meetings must be open to all interested persons.

### **Article VII--The Constitution**

A two-thirds majority of the chapters voting shall be required to change this constitution.