THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

I. PURPOSE

THE purpose of the Pennsylvania Historical Association shall be the development and coordination of activities relating to the history of Pennsylvania. To this end it will (a) undertake to promote the collection, preservation, and utilization of material for Pennsylvania history; (b) compile bibliographies and inventories of such materials; (c) edit and publish bibliographies, documents, papers, and monographs; (d) promote research; and (e) hold meetings, with addresses, lectures, papers, and discussion.

II. MEMBERSHIP

1. The association shall be composed of (a) active, (b) institutional, and (c) honorary members.

2. Any person interested in the history of Pennsylvania may be enrolled as an active member upon application to the secretary and the payment of dues.

3. Any club, society, association, library, educational institution, or other organization interested in any phase of the history of Pennsylvania may be enrolled as an institutional member of the association upon application to the secretary and the payment of dues. Institutional members may be represented at all meetings of the association by one delegate with the right to vote.

4. Honorary membership may be conferred upon not more than two persons in any one year in recognition of achievement or of services rendered to the association. Nomination by the council and a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting of the association shall be required for election. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues but shall not have the right to vote unless they are also active members.

5. Active members shall be classified as (a) patrons, (b) contributing-life members, (c) life members, (d) sustaining members, and (e) annual members. The contribution of one thousand dollars or more to the permanent fund of the association shall entitle
the contributor to be enrolled as a patron. The life membership fee shall be fifty dollars payable in advance.¹ Life members making annual contributions of ten dollars or more in addition to the above-stated sum shall be enrolled as contributing-life members. The dues of sustaining members shall be ten dollars a year; those of annual members, two dollars a year.

6. Institutional members shall be classified as (a) permanent, (b) sustaining, and (c) annual institutional members. The fee for permanent institutional membership shall be one hundred dollars payable in advance; the dues of sustaining institutional members, ten dollars a year; and those of annual institutional members, three dollars a year.

7. All dues shall be payable in advance, and members failing to pay their dues for one year after they become payable shall cease to be members upon notice by mail of such default.

III. OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT

1. The officers of the association shall be a president, a first vice president,² a second vice president, a third vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, and an editor.

2. The officers, other than the editor, shall be elected by ballot at an annual meeting of the association, and their terms shall be three years or until their successors are elected. The first vice president shall be elected at the annual meeting at which the president, the secretary, and the treasurer are normally elected. The second vice president shall be regularly elected at the annual meeting following that at which the president and first vice president are elected, and the third vice president shall be chosen at the annual meeting next following that at which the second vice president is chosen.

3. In case a vacancy arises in any office, it may be filled by the council for the unexpired term, except that in the case of a vacancy in the office of president it shall be automatically filled by the first vice president, who shall serve until the next annual meeting, when

¹ Amendment adopted October 28, 1939, to provide life membership upon payment of fifty dollars payable in advance in place of one hundred dollars payable in advance.

² Amendment adopted October 28, 1939, to provide for a first vice president, a second vice president, and a third vice president, in place of simply a vice president.
a new president shall be chosen for the balance of the three-year term.

4. The editor shall be elected by the council at such time and for such term as it shall determine.

5. The government of the association shall be vested in a council composed of the officers, the ex-presidents, a member of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission to be designated by the commission, a representative of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies to be designated by its executive committee, and twelve elected members, four of whom shall be chosen for three-year terms at each annual meeting of the association.¹

6. The president, or in his absence the first vice president, or in their absence a chairman pro tempore, shall preside at all business meetings of the association and of the council. The president shall appoint such committees as he may deem desirable or as may be authorized by the council.

7. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the association and of the council, collect the dues, prepare and mail notices, and present a report on the activities of the association at each annual meeting.

8. The treasurer shall have the custody of all moneys belonging to the association and shall pay them out only on the presentation of bills attested by the president and the secretary or the president and the editor. He may be required by the council to give bonds for the faithful performance of his duty in such sum as it shall determine. He shall keep an account of all receipts and payments and report thereon in full to the association at each annual meeting and to the council whenever so ordered.

9. The editor shall edit or supervise all the publications of the association. He shall have the advice and cooperation of an editorial board consisting of six members, two of whom shall be appointed annually by the council for terms of three years. The editor shall be ex officio the chairman of the board.

10. The officers shall constitute a finance committee, which shall approve all investments and shall prepare a budget for submission to the council and to the association at each annual meeting.

¹ Amendment adopted on October 28, 1938, to provide twelve instead of nine elected members of the council.
IV. Meetings

1. The association shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as the council shall determine, and special meetings may be called by the council. Notice of all meetings of the association shall be mailed by the secretary at least ten days before the date of the meeting. Ten members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn to another date.

2. The council shall hold an annual meeting in connection with the annual meeting of the association and such other stated meetings as it may determine. Special meetings of the council for any purpose shall be called by the secretary on the written request of the president or of three members of the council. Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn to another date.

V. Publications

As soon as funds are available the association shall publish a quarterly magazine, which shall contain accounts or proceedings of the meetings of the association, together with such papers, documents, reviews, and news of historical activities as may be determined by the editor. All members in good standing shall be entitled to receive copies of the magazine, and subscriptions shall be accepted from others at such rates as may be directed by the finance committee. All other publications of the association shall be offered to the members at not to exceed two-thirds of the price at which they are to be sold to the general public.

VI. Collections

1. As it is not the purpose of the association to acquire collections of books, maps, manuscripts, newspaper files, and museum objects, except such office libraries as may be needed by the secretary or the editor, historical materials that may be given to it shall be turned over to such depositories as the council may direct.

2. The minute books, correspondence, and other records of the association and its committees shall be filed and preserved by the

*Amendment adopted on October 29, 1939, to provide a quorum of seven instead of five members for the transaction of business.*
officers and chairmen of committees and shall be promptly turned over by them to their successors or to the secretary when their terms expire. Such records that have ceased to be of use in conducting the current affairs of the association may, by the direction of the council, be turned over to the Archives Division of the Pennsylvania State Library for permanent preservation.

VII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed in writing and filed with the secretary by any five members of the association. Copies of the proposed amendments shall be mailed by the secretary to all members ten days in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered. If approved by the council they may be adopted by a majority vote; if not so approved, by a two-thirds vote at any annual meeting of the association.