

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**  
Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter  
American Meteorological Society

**ARTICLE I:           NAME**

This local chapter shall be known as the Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society.

**ARTICLE II:         OBJECTIVES**

The Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society shall promote advancements in operational meteorology through research, forecasting, broadcasting and education. The chapter shall serve the residents of Delaware, eastern Maryland, southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey by providing the community with a social and scientific point of contact for matters dealing with meteorology, hydrology and other related sciences. The Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society shall encourage collaborative research among its members and shall engage in continuing education on the latest developments in the various branches of the science.

**ARTICLE III:       MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership is open to any resident of Delaware, eastern Maryland, southeastern Pennsylvania or southern New Jersey with an interest in meteorology and its related fields, and who agrees to abide by the requirements of this constitution.
2. Officers shall be the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Officers shall be active members of the Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society.
3. Regular elections for the offices of President and Secretary shall be held in the spring of years ending in an odd number. Regular elections for the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer shall be held in the spring of years ending in an even number. Terms of office shall be two years in length. An officer may not run as a candidate for any office in the same year during which his or her term ends. However, that individual may run for election anytime thereafter.
4. The President will preside as the Chair at all local chapter meetings and is responsible for the ideological and financial well being of the chapter. The President has the authority to appoint committees, to act upon local chapter interests as necessary and to oversee the goals and aspirations of the active membership. The President shall report directly to the Executive Director of the American Meteorological Society. The President is required to be a Member, Associate Member or Student Member of the American Meteorological Society.
5. The Vice-President will preside as the Chair in the absence of the President. The Vice-President will also assist the other officers in the performance of their duties.

6. The Treasurer will serve as the administrative focal point for all chapter activities, keep a current list of the active membership, manage the chapter's finances, collect dues and maintain accurate financial records concerning local chapter activities. The Treasurer (or the Treasurer's designee) shall make a report of the financial status of the chapter at each meeting. In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, the Treasurer will serve as the Chair at the local chapter meeting.
7. The Secretary will be charged with keeping the active membership informed about chapter functions and submit reports of chapter activities to the national organization through the President. In the absence of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer, the Secretary will serve as Chair at the local chapter meeting.
8. The active membership has the right to petition for the dismissal of an officer if that individual's actions are not in the best interest of the chapter. The membership may petition the President to remove an individual from office. If the President is the subject of the dismissal, the membership may petition the Vice-President or Secretary. The officer receiving the petition shall call for the dismissal and shall be responsible for carrying out the vote. The voting procedures for the removal of an individual from office are covered in Article VI Section 7.

#### **ARTICLE IV: DUES**

1. Membership dues shall be collected on an "as needed" basis and shall not exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) a year.
2. A fifty (50) percent discount will be made available to undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled at an accredited academic institution on at least a half time basis.
3. Members who are seventy (70) years of age or older will not be required to pay dues.
4. Dues are to be paid within ninety (90) days of the initial request for payment. If an individual does not pay the local chapter dues on time, his or her membership privileges may be revoked.
5. Use of all dues shall be for activities of the Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and for the betterment of the chapter.

#### **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

1. The chapter shall have a minimum of four meetings/functions per chapter year. The chapter year shall run from 1 August to 31 July with elections held in the spring.
2. The time and location of the meetings will be determined by the officers, with input from the active membership.
3. All meeting minutes shall be made available to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the next meeting.
4. Meetings shall be announced at least thirty (30) days in advance. The announcement shall include the time, place and purpose of the meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI: VOTING PROCEDURES AND ELECTIONS**

1. All active members of the Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society may participate in voting. An active member is defined as an individual who is in good standing with the Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and whose name appears on the official membership list.
2. All matters that require a vote will be subject to one carried out by electronic mail. If an active member does not have access to electronic mail, other arrangements will be made by the officers, upon request, to allow that individual to cast his or her vote. The President or a designee of the President shall retain copies of all ballots for a period of one year.
3. In the case of the election of officers, there will be an open period for the nomination of candidates. The nominations will be accepted during a period of at least twenty-one (21) days set during the month of April. The officers will predetermine the dates for the nomination period and the President (or the President's designee) will be responsible for collecting the nominations. The officers will be responsible for informing the membership of the slate of candidates no later than 1 May. The election of officers will take place during the month of May. Ballots will be accepted during a period of at least fourteen (14) days. The officers will predetermine the election period and will be responsible for receiving and tallying the votes. The new officers will be elected by popular vote based on the number of votes received. The newly elected officers will be announced within fourteen (14) days of the end of the election period.
4. In the event that there is only one candidate running for an office, that individual needs the approval of at least twenty five (25) percent of the active membership in order to be elected. If the candidate does not receive the approval of at least twenty five (25) percent of the active membership, the President may appoint an existing officer or chapter member to that office or the President may leave that position vacant, whichever is deemed to be in the best interest of the chapter.
5. If during the course of the nomination period no candidate emerges for a particular office, the President may leave that position vacant. The President may also appoint an existing officer or chapter member to fill the vacancy if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the chapter.
6. If an office becomes vacant, a special election will be held. If the vacant office is that of President, Treasurer or Secretary, the Vice-President will fill that position until a replacement has been selected. If the vacant office is that of Vice-President, the position will be left vacant until a replacement is selected.
7. A two-thirds majority of the votes received is required for the dismissal of an officer. The officer receiving the petition of dismissal from the membership will post the question to all active members. Votes will be accepted during a fourteen (14) day period beginning on the day after the question is posted. Votes will be made directly to the officer calling for the vote. Results of the vote will be announced as soon as they are available.
8. A two-thirds majority of the votes received is required for amendment of the constitution. The President (or the President's designee) will post the question to all active members. Votes will be accepted during a fourteen (14) day period beginning on the day after the question is posted. Votes will be made directly to the President (or the President's designee). Results of the vote will be announced as soon as they are available.

9. A simple majority of the votes received is required for all matters other than constitutional reform, the election of officers or the removal of an individual from office. If a vote becomes necessary for a matter other than constitutional reform, the election of officers or the removal of an individual from office, the President (or the President's designee) will post the question to all active members. Votes will be accepted during a fourteen (14) day period beginning on the day after the question is posted. Votes will be made directly to the President (or the President's designee). Results of the vote will be announced as soon as they are available.

#### **ARTICLE VII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

1. Expenditures of the Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society may be authorized by a majority of the officers, with input from the active membership. The Treasurer shall have the authority to sign checks for these expenditures. If there is no Treasurer, the President shall have signature authority.
2. The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition* shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**

The Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society is organized and operated exclusively as a nonprofit entity, and no portion of its earnings shall be used to the benefit of any individual.

#### **ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION**

Upon dissolution or disbandment of the Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society all funds and properties in excess of liabilities and expenses of dissolution will be distributed as determined by a majority of the active members.

#### **ARTICLE X: ADOPTION**

The original constitution of the Delaware and Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society was adopted on December 5, 2001.

This amended version of the constitution was adopted by the membership on March 19, 2011.