

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I—NAME

Section 1 The name of this Association shall be the West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers' Association (WVFLTA).

ARTICLE II—PURPOSES

Section 1 To promote the study of world language learning in West Virginia

Section 2 On a continual basis, to reexamine the multiple benefits of world language teaching and learning

Section 3 To promote the study and incorporation of current core practices in teaching methods and strategies

Section 4 To work for more effective articulation among the various levels of language instruction (pre-K-16)

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Membership in the Association shall be open to all world language teachers at any level in public, private, parochial, and charter schools.

Section 2 Any higher ed student interested in world language teaching and/or learning is encouraged to join the Association.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS

- Section 1** Officers of this Association shall be: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.
- Section 2** The term of office shall be for two years.
- Section 3** If a vacancy occurs in any office, the president shall appoint a member of the Association to fill the unexpired term.
- Section 4** If a vacancy occurs in the office of president, the vice-president shall become president for the remainder of the term of office.
- Section 5** With the exception of the offices of secretary and treasurer, no officer may serve in the same position for more than two consecutive terms. (total of four years)
- Section 6** If at all possible, the offices of president and vice-president in any given term shall be filled with one member from higher ed and one from K-12. (Rationale: This will guarantee representation from all segments of the membership.)

ARTICLE V—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Section 1** There shall be an executive committee consisting of the officers; THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF THIS ORGANIZATION; the president of any member organization (e.g., Arabic, Chinese, Classics, French, Spanish); four members-at-large—two from K-12 and two from higher ed (if possible); and the state world language coordinator, as an ex-officio member. With the exception of the ex-officio member, all members have voting privileges.

Section 2 The president of this Association shall be the presiding officer of the executive committee.

ARTICLE VI—AMENDMENTS

Section 1 The members of this Association may adopt amendments to this constitution by a majority of those voting, as long as the membership is advised at least one month in advance of the vote.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I—MEETINGS

Section 1 There shall be at least one meeting per year for all members. The Association may sponsor an annual conference to provide a language specific professional development opportunity for the membership. The required meeting may occur during the conference. There shall be a committee responsible for conference organization. See addendum for details.

Section 2 The executive committee shall determine the exact time and place of each meeting.

ARTICLE II—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 **PRESIDENT**—The president shall preside over meetings of the Association, appoint chairmen of standing committees, appoint special committees, be an ex-

officio member of all committees and perform all other functions *attributed to this office*.

Section 2 **VICE-PRESIDENT**—The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and perform any other presidential duties as a result of the inability of the president to perform them.

Section 3 **SECRETARY**—The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of each general meeting and of each meeting of the executive committee. The officer shall assist the president with Association correspondence.

Section 4 **TREASURER**—The treasurer shall hold the funds of the Association and shall disburse them upon authorization of the executive committee. The officer shall collect annual dues, keep accurate records of receipts and disbursements, and prepare an annual financial statement to be given at the fall meeting.

ARTICLE III-ELECTIONS

Section 1 In the year preceding an election, the president shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of a representative from each language organization.

Section 2 The nominating committee shall present one candidate for each vacant office. It shall be necessary to have permission from a candidate to place the candidate's name in nomination.

Section 3 Nominations may also be made from the floor for any of the vacant positions. It shall be necessary to have permission from a candidate to place the candidate's name in nomination.

Section 4

There shall be four members-at-large (two from K-12 and two from higher ed, if possible), each elected for three-year terms.

[Historical perspective--At the first election of members-at-large, two members will be elected for three-year terms, one member for a two-year term, and one member for a one-year term. The two candidates with the largest number of votes will serve three-year terms. The candidate with the third highest number of votes will serve a two-year term. The candidate with the fourth highest number of votes will serve a one-year term. In the future, members-at-large will be elected for three-year terms. There will be at least one such election each year.]

(Rationale: Staggered terms are proposed to avoid a drastic change in the composition of the committee in any one-year in the future.)

ARTICLE IV—COMMITTEES

Section 1

The president shall appoint chairmen of such committees as shall be deemed necessary for the effective functioning of this Association.
See addendum for details.

ARTICLE V—DUES

Section 1

The annual dues of the Association may be determined by the majority vote of the group at any meeting.

*Last amended at the 2024 Annual Meeting of WVFLTA.
Lewisburg, WV, October 26, 2024*