

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Association**  
(Last amended 6/29/2020)

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

The official name of the organization is the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Association, or the acronym "MIFLA". The association's conference is the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference (hereinafter referred to as the "Conference"). The Conference will use the acronym "MIFLC" in the official conference-related correspondence, in the program for the annual meeting, and on the website when referring to the Conference; the acronym "MIFLA" will be used when the association is represented in all other official instances.

**ARTICLE II: DURATION**

The existence of the Association shall be perpetual.

**ARTICLE III: PURPOSE**

The purpose of MIFLA's Conference, MIFLC, is to provide an international academic forum for professionals involved in the advancement of teaching, scholarship, and research on classic and modern world languages and their cultures and literatures at all levels. Although participants are welcome from across the globe, host institutions must reside in the following states of the U.S.: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**ARTICLE IV: LEGAL RESIDENCE**

The legal residence of MIFLA shall be that of the Secretary Treasurer.

**ARTICLE V: TAX STATUS**

MIFLA is a non-profit organization.

**ARTICLE VI: MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of MIFLA is comprised of those who attend its annual Conference and participate in its activities and Business Meeting. All such members are expected to pay the MIFLC registration fees for attending the Conference. The amount of the registration fee for each of the following categories of members shall be determined by the MIFLA Executive Committee and ratified at the Annual Business Meeting of the Conference.

Members of MIFLA are classified as follows:

A. **Voting Members:**

**Active Members.** This category consists of all those involved in the teaching, scholarship, and research of classic and modern foreign languages and their literatures referred to in the above Article III. A. and B. including graduate students and high school teachers.

B. **Non-voting Members:**

**Honorary Members.** Honorary membership may be awarded at the Annual Business Meeting of the Conference upon recommendation of the Executive Committee to those who have supported and contributed during many years to the success of the Conference.

## **ARTICLE VII: MANAGEMENT**

**Section 1. Business Meeting.** All power of MIFLA shall be exercised by and under the authority of the Business Meeting, composed of all the active members referred to in the preceding article VI. A. However, in order to facilitate the transactions of the everyday affairs of MIFLA, the Conference's Business Meeting may delegate such power upon the Executive Committee.

**Section 2. Executive Committee,** The Executive Committee (EC) will administer the affairs of MIFLA and the Conference and be composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, the four preceding presidents, and the Editor of the *MIFLC Review*. Of the EC members, no more than two may represent/be employed by the same college/university to ensure diverse representation of MIFLA members. The majority of the EC's attending members will constitute a quorum. All decisions of the EC will be by a simple majority of voting members present, or via e-mail. A tie vote will be considered a failure to pass the proposed measure.

If the site for the annual meeting of the Conference has been approved two years in advance, the person designated to head that meeting at said time may be invited to attend the meeting of the Executive Committee as an observer and as rising Vice-President. In any year, this Committee may meet as many times as necessary if any of its members request such meetings to deal with matters concerning the Conference. With the consent of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee, the President may instead conduct the meeting by conference call or electronic mail.

**Section 3.** To fulfill the responsibilities mentioned in Section 1. above, the Executive Committee may establish one or more committees, whether standing (for a term) or ad hoc (for special purposes), with the power to exercise, between annual meetings of the Conference, any and all powers conferred on or duties imposed upon this Constitution, in order to carry out the purposes of MIFLA and the Conference.

## **ARTICLE VIII: HOST INSTITUTION**

**Rotation.** The sponsoring institution of the Conference in any given year shall be determined by a rotating system that will give institutions in those states in the MIFLA area a fair opportunity to host the annual meeting of the Conference. The site of this meeting shall be approved by the Executive Committee and ratified at the Business Meeting. The Conference shall be held in a different state each year. If such rotation is not possible, the Executive Committee can endorse a petition to hold consecutive Conferences in the same state.

Institutions bidding to host the annual meeting of the Conference shall submit an invitation to the MIFLA Executive Committee through the Secretary-Treasurer two years in advance of the proposed meeting, but no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. It shall include:

- A. Approval in writing from two appropriate officials of the sponsoring institution (President or Dean, and the Chair or Head of the department), which is making the invitation to host the Conference.
- B. Designation of a person, from the MIFLA members of the foreign language department(s), who will manage the meeting, becoming Vice-President and then President as stated in article X. A. 2. of the Constitution.
- C. Agreement to hold the Conference during the three days stated in Article IX. A. of the Constitution.
- D. Description of facilities and logistical systems.
- E. Agreement to publish the program for the annual meeting and make available to all MIFLA members attending the MIFLC in question. An electronic program is acceptable via the MIFLC website, although the President should provide a few hard copy versions at the registration table for reference.

## **ARTICLE IX: ANNUAL MEETING**

- A. **Annual Conference.** Once a year, the Conference shall hold its Annual meeting during three days in the month of October, preferably no later than the second week of the month. During those three days (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) the following meetings shall be held:
  - 1. Conference Sessions for the presentation of scholarly papers by members described in Article III. A. and B. of this Constitution. The time and place of each presentation shall appear in the published program of the Conference as well as at the MIFLA website.
  - 2. The MIFLA Executive Committee shall meet the first day of the annual Conference. Its place and time will appear in the published program of the Conference and in the

MIFLA website during the year and before the annual Conference takes place. During this time, any committee member may submit matters for discussion concerning aspects of the annual Conference. If necessary, before the annual meeting the MIFLA President may also consult, via electronic mail, with the members of the Committee.

3. The Business Meeting shall be held the last day of the Conference with the participation of all registered members attending its annual meeting. The place and time for this meeting will be determined by the current President and announced in the published program and at the MIFLA website. This meeting's agenda shall include the following matters:

- a. to ratify or not all decisions taken by the MIFLA Executive Committee in the cases required by this Constitution;
- b. approval or disapproval of the Secretary-Treasurer's fiscal annual report;
- c. approval and disapproval of the President's fiscal annual report.

4. A wine and cheese reception shall take place on Thursday evening. The traditional banquet of the Conference, with an invited keynote address, shall take place on Friday evening.

## **ARTICLE X: OFFICERS, TERMS, AND DUTIES**

The officers of MIFLA are to be university or college foreign language faculty, current and emeritus, and must consist of:

- A. A MIFLA **President** who will serve for a one-year term, from December 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. This officer must serve the previous year as MIFLA Vice-President. He/she must be selected by the host institution among the members of its department(s) of foreign languages with the approval of the Executive Committee, as ratified at the Annual Business Meeting of the Conference. Before approval, the MIFLA President-Designate must submit to the Secretary Treasurer a letter of invitation, specifying the financial and logistic support, from its chair and dean of the college.

The MIFLA President will have-the following duties:

1. be the official representative of the Conference during his/her year as President;
2. be the organizer and President of the Conference Annual Meeting;
3. chair the meetings of the Executive Committee and that of the Business Meeting.

4. continue participating in the activities of the MIFLA Executive Committee and of the Business Meeting for the next four years.

Additionally, the President will:

1. manage a balanced conference budget over the year, receiving and disbursing funds for the program and meeting;
2. publicize the Conference (and maintain its website that year);
3. arrange the publication of the Conference printed program;
4. appoint committees that he/she considers necessary for the organization of the annual meeting, the selection of the keynote speaker, or the writing of proposals to secure additional funds;
5. receive proposals for papers and sessions, have them evaluated by a panel of qualified readers, and organize them into a program;
6. make a report on attendance and finances to the MIFLA Executive Committee;
7. disburse, by December 31st, to the Secretary-Treasurer those portions of conference registration fees designated for the MIFLA Treasury; and
8. send, by December 31st, to the Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor of *MIFLC Review*, and the rising MIFLA President the final list of registrants' names, affiliations, and addresses; and

- B. A MIFLA **Vice-President** who is a member of the foreign language department(s) of the next year's host institution and has been designated as representing the institution for the Conference by its chair and dean, approved by the Executive Committee, and ratified at the annual Business Meeting of the Conference. Upon the expiration of the President's one-year term, the Vice-President automatically becomes MIFLA President.

The Vice-President shall assist the President in the various duties assigned by the President and, in case of his/her absence, according to Article X. A., assume the duties and responsibilities of the President.

- C. A MIFLA **Secretary-Treasurer** elected for a five-year term by the Executive Committee and ratified at the Annual Business Meeting. This officer may be re-elected for an indefinite number of subsequent terms.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the records of MIFLA and the Conference and be responsible for funds derived from the annual dues as well as the disbursement of funds

as directed by the Executive Committee or by the general Business Meeting. He or she shall make an annual report on the membership and finances of the Conference at the annual Business Meeting in compliance with the provisions of this section of the Constitution. He/she will have the following duties:

1. keep the records of the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Business Meeting as well as any legal or important documents concerning the Conference;
2. manage the collection of funds that the Treasury of the Conference is entitled to receive from the annual registration fees; and
3. disburse funds from the MIFLA Treasury as directed by the Executive Committee;
4. submit to the annual meeting of the Executive Committee a fiscal report on MIFLA treasury for its approval;
5. keep the final list of registrants' name, affiliation, and addresses received from the President of each year's annual Conference; and
6. maintain and pay for MIFLA's rights to its website ([www.mifla.org](http://www.mifla.org) and [www.miflc.com](http://www.miflc.com)) and annual subscription to a server, as well as any other ongoing general services that have been agreed to by the Executive Committee.

- D. A MIFLA **Assistant Secretary-Treasurer** elected for a five-year term by the Executive Committee and ratified at the Annual Business Meeting of the Conference. This officer may be reelected for an indefinite number of subsequent terms. If needed, the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer will assist the Secretary-Treasurer in his/her duties or in any other activity of the Conference required by the MIFLA President or the Executive Committee. The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer will substitute for the latter if he/she is not able to fulfill his/her duties temporarily or permanently.
- E. The last **Four Preceding MIFLA Presidents**, who will serve as voting members of the Executive Committee after his/her term as President has expired, shall attend the Conference's annual Executive Committee and Business Meetings for the following four years, and will advise the President and Vice-President on questions they may have about planning and managing the annual Conference and the affairs of MIFLA.
- F. The **Editor of MIFLC Review**. The Editor of *MIFLC Review* is elected for a five-year term by the Executive Committee and ratified at the Annual Business Meeting of the Conference; the Editor may be re-elected for an indefinite number of subsequent terms. The Editor will conduct the regular publication of the *MIFLC Review*, which is the official journal of MIFLA. In consultation with the Executive Committee, the Editor may appoint members of an editorial staff as deemed necessary for the operations of the journal.

## **ARTICLE XI: REPLACEMENT AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. Replacement of Executive Committee Members.**

If the MIFLA President-Designate is not able to fulfill his/her duties, temporarily or permanently, for the one-year term for which he/she was elected, the MIFLA Secretary-Treasurer, on behalf of the Executive Committee, will work with the host institution to designate an Acting MIFLA President for the rest of that year. The decision will be approved by the Executive Committee and the ratification will take place at the Annual Business Meeting of the Conference.

In the event of the death, resignation, or incapacitation of one of the four preceding presidents, he/she will not be replaced.

In the event of the death, resignation, or incapacitation of one of the 5-year appointed positions—Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer and Editor of *MIFLC Review*--replacements will be confirmed following the procedures outlined in Article X, and each newly confirmed officer will serve the remainder of the 5-year term of the previous appointee.

### **Section 2. Removal of Officers.**

For causes of incompetence, lack of cooperation, or lack of time to perform the duties incumbent upon any member of the MIFLA Executive Committee, the same Executive Committee may vote to ask that the person in question to resign his/her position. If the individual refuses to resign, the Executive Committee may vote to declare the position vacant and appoint, following procedures in Article X, a successor who shall serve until the end of the term in question.

## **ARTICLE XII: REGISTRATION FEES**

Registration fees for Active Members referred to in Article VI. A. shall be determined by the host institution within the limits established by the Executive Committee each year.

## **ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS**

A proposed amendment(s) to the MIFLA Constitution may be submitted as endorsed by 25 Active MIFLA Members at least two months prior to the MIFLC. Any amendment(s) must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and then approved by a two-thirds vote of the active members in good standing as present at that year's Business Meeting.

The Executive Committee may propose amendment(s) to the Constitution through the work of an ad-hoc Constitution Committee comprised of at least three members of the Executive Committee. At least two months prior to the MIFLC, this Committee will submit its proposed amendment(s) to the Executive Committee for approval by majority vote. If approved, the

amendment(s) will be presented at the Business Meeting of that year for approval by two-thirds vote of active members in good standing at that meeting. Once approved, the proposed amendment(s) to the Constitution will be in effect the day following approval.

#### **ARTICLE XIV: DISSOLUTION**

The Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Association shall be dissolved upon the recommendation of two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee, which shall send its decision to the Business Meeting for consideration and approval. Once the matter has been moved, discussed, and approved in two consecutive annual Business Meetings of the Conference by two-thirds vote of its active members in good standing, the proposed dissolution shall be in effect the day after its approval.