

Société Honoraire de Français of the American Association of Teachers of French

Constitution

I. Name

The name of this honorary organization shall be the Société Honoraire de Français (SHF) of the Secondary Schools of America.

II. Aim

The aim of this organization is to stimulate interest in the study of French, to promote high standards of scholarship, to reward scholastic achievements, to create enthusiasm for and an understanding of francophone culture civilization, to promote and perpetuate international friendship, and to reward efforts toward furthering solidarity in the French-speaking world.

III. Membership: chapters

A chapter may be established in any secondary school under the jurisdiction of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). Home schools will be added to a state-designated chapter, e.g. Home Schools of Virginia.

IV. Officers: National Council

The officers of the organization shall be: a President and

an Executive Secretary, each elected for a term of two years. These officers, with the Editor of the Newsletter and the Executive Director of the AATF, shall constitute the National Council.

V. Affiliation

The SHF was established through presidential order by the AATF in 1949 and remains affiliated with the parent organization.

VI. Annual Meeting

The National Council shall meet annually at the time and place of the AATF Convention.

VII. Amendments

The Constitution may be amended as follows: Amendments may be offered by any valid chapter or by the members of the National Council; on a majority vote of the National Council, the amendments will be posted on the web site; they may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of chapter sponsors in a mail-in ballot.

By-Laws

I. Membership

1. Eligibility Requirements to be met by all Sponsors:

a. The Sponsor of the chapter, including a home school, must be a member of the AATF. If dual sponsorship of the SHF is maintained, both sponsors must meet this requirement.

b. Faculty members in French select members at each school. Only the SHF Sponsor, however, is required to be an AATF member.

2. General Eligibility Requirements to be met by all students:

a. Membership shall be based on scholarship in general and scholarship in French in particular, leadership in French activities and interest, either in a group or as an individual.

b. Membership shall be restricted to those students actively engaged in the study of French in a secondary school.

c. Candidates must be enrolled in the fourth semester of French or higher, i.e. the second semester of Level II or the equivalent in quarters or trimesters.

d. Candidates must be in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade of high school. Exception is made for 9th grade students who meet the requirement "c" above because of work at the middle school level.

e. Transfer students must have spent at least one full semester in the high school before becoming eligible.

f. Selection of candidates may take place at any time

during the academic year.

3. Scholastic Eligibility Requirements to be met by all students:

a. Candidates must have maintained an A- (minus) average or higher in French during the semester of selection, and averaged cumulative grade of A-(minus) or higher for all French work awarded secondary school credit.

b. Candidates must have maintained a B- (minus) average or higher in all other subjects during the semester of selection, and an averaged cumulative grade of B- (minus) or higher in all other subjects for work awarded secondary school credit. French may not be used to calculate this average.

II. Dues and Fees

1. The charter fee for chapter membership is ten dollars, or as the National Council may designate. Chapters pay this fee when applying for membership.

2. The student membership in the SHF, payable at the time of initiation, is three dollars, or as the National Council may designate. This fee is payable once only, and the initiate remains a member of the SHF as long as he/she is a secondary school student. The SHF sponsor, however, may exercise the prerogative to revoke a student's membership for reasons of failure to maintain a high scholastic average, of behavior inappropriate to an honor society, irregular participation in SHF activities, insufficient service hours, failure to attend the initiation ceremony, etc.

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Any requirements for continuing membership must be included in the local SHF chapter By—Laws and approved by sponsor and officers.

III. Awards

1. Upon election, candidates will be awarded a certificate of membership in the SHF, and may order pins and charms through the chapter sponsor.
2. Schools having chapters may set awards of their own in addition to certificates.
3. Graduating members may wear white honor cords, available from the same company that supplies their school with caps and gowns.
4. The official SHF seal, available from SHF headquarters, may be affixed to the student's diploma and/or certificate.

IV. Duties of the officers

1. *The President.* The President shall act as liaison officer with the AATF, shall promote the establishment of new chapters and monitor the welfare of those already established, and shall preside over the National Council and administer the Constitution.

2. *The Executive Secretary.*

a. The Executive Secretary shall receive the dues and the annual reports from the Sponsors, shall keep a national file of chapters and accounts, shall keep the President informed of the progress of the Society, and shall act as secretary at the annual meeting. The Executive Secretary shall receive the dues, shall issue a charter for the establishment of the chapter, and certificates of membership to student initiates.

b. The Executive Secretary shall keep an account of all receipts and disbursements, and shall render an accounting each year at the close of the fiscal year to the Executive Director of the AATF.

c. The Executive Secretary shall compile a yearly report on the activities and the finances of the Society and shall send copies of this report to all members of the National Council.

3. *The Editor.* The Editor of the SHF newsletter, *L'Élan*, shall be responsible for editing and publishing all matter that appears in the newsletter.

4. *National Council.* The Society shall be under the control of the National Council, which shall have as members the National Officers, the Editor of the Newsletter, as well as the Executive Director of the AATF, who shall serve ex—officio and without vote.

V. Elections

1. The President and Executive Secretary shall be elected by plurality, vote by the Sponsors through a mail-in election announced in the newsletter. They must be members of the AATF.

2. The National Officers shall serve terms of two years each, beginning January 1st, and are eligible for re-election.

3. The Editor of the Newsletter shall be appointed by the President of the SHF for renewable two-year terms.

4. Should a national office become vacant for any reason, the President of the AATF will appoint a successor to serve until such time as a duly constituted body of the Society can elect a successor to fill the unexpired term.

VI. Chapter Status

1. Each unit of the Society located in a secondary school is designated as a chapter of the SHF. The person in charge of the chapter is the *Chapter Sponsor*.

2. A chapter may be formed by the application of an AATF member to the Executive Secretary of the SHF. The applicant will use the form supplied by the Executive Secretary.

3. In April/May of every year, each active chapter shall forward to the Executive Secretary of the SHF a brief summary of the activities of the chapter. These summaries will form the basis of the national "Report to the Chapters" and shall be printed in the fall issue of *L'Élan*.

4. A chapter which does not make an annual report or which does not submit a list of initiates during a period of two years may be considered inactive. To regain active status, the chapter must resubmit an application accompanied by the fee set by the National Council, which shall be the same as the original charter fee.

VII. Publications

1. The Society shall publish a newsletter to be sent to all active Chapter Sponsors. The official name of this publication is *L'Élan*.

2. All contests sponsored by the SHF and any prizes or awards distributed through the SHF will be announced in *L'Élan*.

VII. Finances

1. Fiscal Year. The Fiscal Year shall run from 1 July to 30 June.

2. Compensation. No officer shall receive a salary. The Executive Secretary and the Editor may receive compensation by action of the National Council. In this matter, the Executive Director of the AATF shall confer with the President of the SHF.

3. Funds

a. The finances of the Society shall be under the supervision of the Executive Secretary who shall be bonded at the expense of the AATF.

b. The Executive Secretary shall make disbursements at the direction of the National Council, or in emergency, at the direction of the President, subject to later approval by the National Council.

c. The Executive Secretary shall establish and maintain a checking account in the name of the Société Honoraire de Français/French Honor Society to receive funds from the chapters, and to expend them as directed.

Sharon B. Rapp, President

Amy Hanson, Executive Secretary

Revised March 1999 (sf)