

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **I. Name**

This non-profit organization shall be called the American Association of State Climatologists, Inc., and is referred to as the "AASC" in its Constitution and By-laws.

### **II. Objectives**

The objectives of the AASC are to:

1. Promote cooperation between State Climatologists and those federal, state, and private agencies whose functions include the collection, analysis and dissemination of climate information,
2. Facilitate exchange of information among climate services providers,
3. Provide mutual assistance in the development of effective State or Territorial Climate Offices (SCOs) and other local and regional climate monitoring and climate services programs,
4. Cultivate a diverse, inclusive, and accessible community of practice in the equitable production and provision of climate knowledge, and
5. Encourage sustainability of SCOs in support of state and national climate programs.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the AASC shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by (a) an Organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United State Internal Revenue Law or (b) an Organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

### **III. Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution of the AASC, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the AASC, dispose of all the assets of the AASC exclusively for the purpose of the AASC in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Committee shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed by the Superior Court of the county in which the principal office of the AASC is then located, exclusively for such purpose or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

### **IV. Membership**

1. The Membership of the AASC shall consist of Individual Members and Organizations. The types of Individual Members are:
  1. Members
  2. Honorary Members

### 3. Student Members

The types of Organizations are:

4. Charter Organizations
5. Affiliate Organizations

In the AASC Constitution and Bylaws and other governance documents, "Members" refers to the first class of Individual Members listed above.

2. The Membership Schedule lists costs/benefits of membership at various levels, which are set by a 2/3 majority vote of Members.
3. Any governmental, non-governmental, or corporate entity engaged in or supportive of climate services may become an Affiliate Organization, subject to initial and annual approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. In the event there is a grievance against the Affiliate Organization, the Executive Committee retains the right to vote to disassociate with the Affiliate Organization, at which point pro-rated dues will be refunded.
4. Any entity that is recognized by the Director of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) and a state agency as an official State or Territorial Climate Office (SCO), or is a Regional Climate Center, shall become a Charter Organization upon voluntary registration of contact information with the Secretary of the AASC, and payment of Charter Organization dues.
5. Any person who is engaged in climate services or is otherwise supportive of the objectives of the AASC may become a Member, either upon payment of dues and subject to approval by the Executive Committee, or by affiliation with a Charter Organization or Affiliate Organization, according to the Membership Schedule. Members shall be entitled to voting rights on all matters before the AASC, except the right to vote on changes to the Constitution and By-laws unless serving as the representative of a Charter Organization.
6. An Honorary Member must be nominated by the Nominations Committee and elected by receiving a majority of the votes of those Members attending a regularly scheduled meeting of the AASC. Honorary membership requires no dues and bestows no voting privileges. The nomination packet shall include a nomination letter and supporting documentation; individual members are encouraged to suggest candidates and provide information to the Nominations Committee. To be eligible to be nominated as an Honorary Member, an individual must meet two or more of the following criteria:
  1. Been a significant contributor to the furtherance of the goals and objectives of the AASC;
  2. Been a former State Climatologist who made significant contributions to the field of applied climatology and/or the advancement of state climate programs;

3. Been a significant contributor to the area of applied climatology; or
  4. Been a Federal Employee who consistently worked in the support of the applied climatology area and in support of the State Climate Programs.
7. Student Membership is available to all current students and up to two years after graduation. Student Members enjoy all rights and benefits of membership except the right to vote on matters of the AASC. They are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in all activities and meetings of the AASC.

## V. **Officers**

1. Elected
  1. In order to direct the activities of the AASC toward its objectives, an Executive Committee (EC), elected by majority vote of Members, shall consist of a President, who shall be the immediate past President-Elect; a President-Elect or immediate Past President (whichever office is occupied), a Secretary, a Treasurer, an ARSCO Coordinator, and a Membership Coordinator. Each must be a Member of the AASC. Their duties, unless otherwise specified, shall be those normally assigned to comparable offices in national scientific organizations.
  2. The President shall serve a term of two years, and the President-elect and past President shall each serve a term of one year. The President-elect shall be elected once every two years in odd years.
  3. The Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election every even year and shall be elected for a 2-year term to begin January 1 of the following year. Upon election, the Treasurer-elect shall work with the outgoing Treasurer to become familiar with the procedures and smooth the changeover.
  4. The Secretary shall be eligible for re-election every odd year and shall be elected for a two-year term, to begin immediately after the annual meeting.
  5. The ARSCO Coordinator shall be elected to a five-year term in 2024 and every fifth year thereafter. The ARSCO Coordinator shall be the chair of the ARSCO Committee, which oversees the process of AASC-Recognized SCO certification and tracking.
  6. The Membership Coordinator shall be eligible for re-election every even year and shall be elected for a two-year term, to begin immediately after the annual meeting.
  7. If the Office of the President becomes vacant while the office of President-Elect is occupied, the President-Elect shall assume that office for the unexpired term. Otherwise, the Secretary shall assume that office until such time as a special election for President among Members is conducted. The winner of said election shall serve as President for the remainder of the unexpired term.

8. A vacancy in the unexpired term of the President-Elect shall be filled by special election among Members.
  9. The President, in consultation with the EC and the Members, shall appoint a Member of the AASC to fill a vacancy in the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, or Membership Coordinator, effective for the unexpired term; or a vacancy in the office of ARSCO Coordinator, effective until a special election for the remainder of the unexpired term at the next annual meeting.
2. Ex-officio
    1. For the purpose of coordinating AASC activities with the functions of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) and related federal agencies, the NCEI and the National Weather Service's Climate Services Division (or their successor organizations) shall each be invited to appoint an ex-officio non-voting member of the EC.
    2. Executive Director. The Executive Director of the AASC is an employee of the AASC hired by the EC to handle administrative duties and implement policies and procedures as directed by the EC. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the EC and is not a Member of the AASC.
    3. The EC may invite certain Members or representatives of other entities to serve as ex officio non-voting members of the EC for designated periods from time to time.
  3. Council
    1. The Council of the AASC shall consist of all registered Members of the AASC, including officers of the EC, who shall be ex-officio officers of the Council.
    2. Council members shall have the responsibility to promote communication between the AASC and their respective State Governments.
    3. The Council shall be the body which represents the AASC in official transactions with federal, state, or private agencies and in announcements to the public at large.
    4. All corporate powers of the AASC shall be vested solely in the Council.
    5. A majority of Council members voting may direct the EC to act on behalf of the Council for specified purposes.

## VI. Amendments

1. This constitution may be amended by email ballot of the Charter Organizations of the AASC or by designated representatives of the Charter Organizations attending the annual open meeting, with one vote per Charter Organization, provided that the amendment was

- submitted at a previous meeting, or that it was presented in writing to the membership at least 30 days prior to the vote.
2. Submission of a proposed amendment of the AASC Constitution shall require a majority vote by the EC or a petition to the EC signed by at least ten Members.
  3. Adoption of an amendment shall require a two-thirds majority of votes cast in a scheduled election for which a quorum is present.

## **BY-LAWS**

1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the AASC in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution or By-Laws of the AASC.
2. The EC shall levy membership dues. An AASC action which involves financial obligations shall incorporate a provision to meet each obligation on an ad hoc basis. Dues shall be payable prior to each calendar year of membership. The first dues payment of new members joining more than halfway through a calendar year will cover the remainder of that year and all of the next year.
3. Meetings. The time and place for each meeting of the AASC shall be designated by vote of the Members, or by the EC in the absence of such a vote. A meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute an official meeting of the Council.
4. Quorum. A quorum for a meeting of the AASC shall be greater than or equal to 30% of the authorized voting membership. A quorum to amend the AASC constitution or by-laws shall be greater than 50% of the Charter Organizations or their designated representatives.
5. Invited Participants. The EC shall be empowered to invite non-voting observers or advisors to attend meetings of the AASC for any purpose that is consistent with AASC objectives.
6. Nomination of Officers. A Nominations Committee, consisting of three Members and elected by a majority vote of the Council, shall prepare a list of candidates in advance of an announced election. A nomination for any office may also be made by the signed petition of five or more Members. Officers of the EC are not eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee, nor to sign a nominating petition.
7. Elections. Elections normally shall be held at meetings of the AASC. The EC shall be empowered to arrange an election by mail ballot when circumstances warrant.
8. Headquarters. The official headquarters address of the AASC, its EC, and its Council, shall be at 151 Patton Avenue, Suite 120, Asheville, North Carolina, 28801.

9. Minutes of the annual meeting will posted online following the annual meeting.
10. Amendment of By-laws. These by-laws may be amended by vote at any meeting of the AASC or by electronic voting, by a two-thirds majority of those Charter Organizations voting, provided that the amendment was submitted at a previous meeting, or that it was presented in writing to the membership at least 30 days prior to the next meeting and a quorum has participated in the voting.
11. The EC shall appoint as many members to a Standing Committee or *ad hoc* committee as deemed necessary to carry out its purposes. Appointments may be terminated or renewed by the EC.