

Bylaws of the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Harp Society, Inc.

2-26-24 Revised Bylaws

ARTICLE 1: ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The name shall be “Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Harp Society, Inc.” which has been incorporated under the laws of the State of New York as a nonprofit membership corporation. The American Harp Society shall be referred to herein as the “Society;” the local Chapter shall be referred to as the “Chapter.”

Section 2. The Chapter shall be in the Silicon Valley and environs and shall be part of the Region established by the Society to include said area.

Section 3. The Chapter shall sustain the aims and purposes of the Society.

Section 4. The Chapter’s fiscal year shall be from January 1-December 31.

ARTICLE II: MISSION AND PURPOSE

Section 1.

The mission of the Silicon Valley Chapter is to celebrate our legacy, inspire excellence, and empower the next generation of harpists.

Section 2.

The Chapter exists to provide opportunities for local harpists to perform and develop their skills, and to showcase upcoming and prominent harpists. The Chapter also exists to cultivate, promote, and sustain the harp and its history; to provide inspiration for and resources to programs that support the mission of the Chapter, and to foster an appreciation for the rich legacy of and future possibilities for the harp.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Chapter shall be open to harpists and other interested persons.

Section 2. Membership Categories

A. Regular Members

1. A Regular Member must pay dues to the Chapter and it is strongly recommended they belong to the American Harp Society in addition to the Chapter.
2. Only Regular Members, Patrons, and Benefactors may vote or hold a principal Chapter office (*defined in ARTICLE IV, Section 1, below*) ~~or have any of the rights and privileges of active membership in the~~

Chapter.

B. Student Members

1. A Student Member is anyone in primary or secondary school or enrolled in college full-time.
2. They shall pay local dues and national dues are recommended.
3. Student Members do not need to study with harpists who are members of SVCAHS.
4. Student members do not have the right to vote.

C. Friends of the Harp

1. A Friend of the Harp will be anyone other than a Regular or Student Member who wishes to support the mission of the Chapter.
2. They shall pay local dues only and shall have neither voting rights nor the right to hold office.
3. Friends may participate as committee chairs and committee members but may not hold office.

D. Honorary Members

1. Upon recommendation of the Board, a distinguished person may be elected an Honorary Member by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a Chapter meeting.
2. An Honorary Member who is not a chapter member shall have neither voting rights nor the right to hold office.

E. Higher paying categories of membership may include Patrons and Benefactors. They shall retain all the privileges and responsibilities of Regular membership.

Section 3. Membership Year

The Chapter's membership year shall be January 1-December 31.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1. The principal Officers shall be: President, Vice-president(s), and Secretary/Treasurer (or Secretary and Treasurer), elected for a term of two years.

Section 2. A Nominating Committee, appointed by the President, shall place names into nomination. Elections are to be held by secret ballot mailed, texted, or emailed to the Chapter membership. Election shall be by plurality of the members casting ballots. Elected Officers shall be introduced and assume their duties on January 1.

Section 3. Additional Officers may be elected as desired by the Chapter.

Section 4. Officers may be reelected without limitation except for the President, who may serve only two consecutive terms.

Section 5. Officers' duties shall be as follows:

- A. The President shall preside at all Chapter and Board meetings and shall send out meeting notices and information. In the event of his/her absence, the meeting shall be presided over by the succeeding officer.
- B. The Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President and will be in

charge of general programming for the Chapter. He/she shall also accept other responsibilities at the request of the President. In the event of the permanent inability of the President to serve, the Board, by consensus, shall appoint a successor to the office of the President for the remainder of the current term.

Such service is not to be considered a term of office under the limitation of Section 4 above.

- C. The Secretary shall be responsible for all secretarial duties. These include keeping records and files, and the taking of minutes at Board meetings with the submission of minutes following the meeting.
- D. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the Chapter, maintain banking accounts, keep records of financial transactions and supply the Chapter and Board with fiscal and membership information it may require.

Section 6. Except as a succession in the office of President is herein provided for, any other Officer vacancy may be filled by Presidential appointment, subject to Board approval, and said Officer shall serve for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE V: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors for the Chapter shall consist of all current elected Officers and designated Members at Large, selected by the Board of Directors. A quorum of not less than two-thirds of the Board shall have the power to act.

Section 2. The Board shall determine Chapter policy and shall have ultimate charge and management of the affairs, funds, and property of the Chapter.

Section 3. The Board shall meet as often as required but at least annually. Minutes of meetings may be reviewed upon request by Chapter members.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

Section 1. The committees required by the Chapter shall be determined by the President. Committee chairs shall be appointed by the President subject to approval by the Board.

Section 2. It is the responsibility of all chairs to complete the duties assigned by the President and report upon request.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual and Regular Membership Meetings

A minimum of one announced and scheduled business meeting shall be held each year. Additional meetings may be called by the President with the concurrence of the Board.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the membership of the Chapter, for any purpose or purposes, may be called by the President, or any Vice-President, or by resolution of the Board and shall be held on such date and at such place as shall be fixed by the person(s) calling the meeting, and shall be stated in the notice of the meeting. Notice of a special meeting shall also state the purpose for which the meeting is called. Notice of a Special Meeting shall be given no less than ten nor more than forty days before the Meeting to each member entitled to vote at such a meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: DUES AND DONATIONS

Section 1. Annual membership fees to the Chapter may be established by the Board.

Section 2. Regular Member and Student dues in the local chapter shall not exceed fifty percent of the American Harp Society's dues; the amount shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

Section 3. Membership in the Chapter shall terminate upon failure to pay annual dues by a date established by the Board.

Section 4. The Chapter may accept financial and other donations which may be used at the discretion of the Chapter in the pursuit of the aims of the Chapter and the Society.

ARTICLE IX: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The Chapter shall be governed by the rules contained in the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* in all cases in which said rules are applicable and in which they are consistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Chapter may adopt.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Chapter Bylaws may be amended at any time upon approval by a plurality of the members voting.

Section 2. Amendments may be proposed by the Board or by a proposal signed by at least five percent of the Regular Members of the Chapter.

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION

It is hereby provided that if, in the event of dissolution of this corporation, there shall be any property remaining after the payment or satisfaction in full of all just claims and demands against the corporation, or the retention of monies for such purpose, such property shall, unless otherwise ordered by the US Supreme Court pursuant to the

provisions of the Membership Corporations Law, be distributed to an organization or organizations which qualify as 'exempt organizations' under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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