

Charter of the Senior Science Society

(revised 09/2018)

ARTICLE 1 MISSION

The Senior Science Society exists to leverage the information within the minds of Harford County senior scientists to benefit county youth by working within the educational community, business, and government organizations to foster and promote the scientific, rational and creative thinking processes through education, networking, advocacy, and professional and field development.

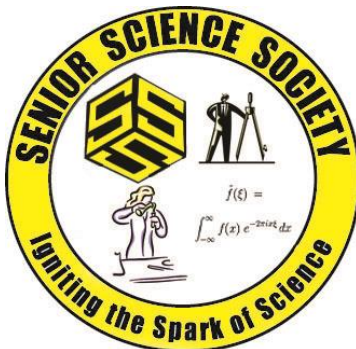
ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

- Section 1: **Be a beacon for science philanthropy.** Attract scientists to expand and accelerate the appreciation of science, engineering and mathematics in Harford County Youth.
- Section 2: **Improve the message of the messenger.** Augment and supplement the learning experience through scientific advice, cooperative mentoring and encouragement, realizing elementary schools may not always have dedicated science teachers and that teachers at all levels could benefit from the Society's involvement.
- Section 3: **Enable parents to become Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) advocates.** Become a respected science sounding board that supports educational institutions. Help awareness of and attentiveness to the benefits of science within the family, Harford County, and the greater community.
- Section 4: **Secure the future.** Develop funding sources to sustain the work of the Society and fund STEM scholarships.

ARTICLE III OPERATION

- Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the *SENIOR SCIENCE SOCIETY*, (subsequently referred to as the "Society"),
- Section 2: The motto of the Society is "*Igniting the Spark of Science*",

Section 3: The seal and emblem of the Society is:



Section 4: The Society informally interacts with Harford Community College (HCC) and maintains a mailing address at this location. HCC provides meeting sites and amenities on a reimbursable basis while the Society promotes HCC through the Society's outreach programs. The Society supports the Senior Science Society Transfer Scholarship program implemented through the Harford Community College Foundation.

Section 5: The fiscal, membership, and program years shall run from July 1 thru June 30 of the subsequent year.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1: The elected officers of the Society shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The term is for two (2) consecutive years.

Section 2: Any Member who has been nominated for the office of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer shall have been a Society member for a minimum of two (2) consecutive years prior to their nomination and shall have served actively as a Committee Chair.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: It shall be the duty of the **President**:

- a. To preside at all meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors.
- b. To suspend a member for violating this Charter and/or Rules and Regulations of the Society pending action of the Board of Directors.
- c.

- d. To set yearly goals of the Society for approval by the Board of Directors.
- e. To be an Ex-Officio member of all committees.
- f. To appoint all Committee Chairs. To the extent the President deems appropriate, this responsibility may be delegated to any other elected officer.
- g. To remove any appointed Committee Chair or any member of a committee.
- h. To recommend the constitution and dissolution of ad hoc committees for approval by the Board of Directors.
- i. To arrange for meeting sites and notification of meetings to the membership.

Section 2: It shall be the duty of the **Vice President**:

- a. To assist the President, and in the President's absence to officiate Society functions.
- b. To supervise the Committee Chairs and other activities as delegated by the President.

Section 3: It shall be the duty of the **Secretary**:

- a. To have custody of the Charter and other such books and records of the Society as the Board of Directors shall direct.
- b. To record and distribute minutes of all meetings of the Board, and general member and special meetings.
- c. To maintain correspondence files and all other Society records.
- d. To maintain the membership roster of the Society, to include the status of dues payments.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the **Treasurer**:

- a. To serve as the financial officer of the Society, having custody and control of the funds and securities of the Society.
- b. To deposit the Society's funds and securities to the credit of the Society in such bank or depository as may be designated by the Board.

- c. To disburse the funds of the Society in accordance with the Board of Directors, taking and preserving proper vouchers for such disbursements.
- d. To render an account of all transactions and the financial condition of the Society using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

ARTICLE VI THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Section 1: Composition:
The Board of Directors, which will subsequently be referred to as the Board shall consist of a maximum of sixteen (16) members consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the founding members of the Society. Vacancies are to be filled by at-large members, elected annually by the membership, to serve for a term of two (2) years. Emeritus founding members may participate in board meetings but have no vote.
- Section 2: Quorum:
A majority (more than half) of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Directors who are indisposed such that they are unable to attend three consecutive meetings will be classified as inactive and will not count as part of the Board to ascertain quorum requirements. If a quorum is not met, the Board may meet for information purposes only.
- Section 3: Duties of the Board:
It shall be the duty of the Board:
- a. To manage the Society.
 - b. To fill all vacancies upon said Board which occur, during their term, for any cause.
 - c. To adopt such rules and regulations governing the Society, and its members, as may be found necessary, not in conflict with this Charter, and when so adopted said rules shall be of the same force and effect as if herein contained.
 - d. To, at all times, have the power, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, to suspend or expel any member for good cause shown, after written charges shall have been proffered and a reasonable opportunity given the member to present their defense. However, the Board shall have the right to reconsider the expulsion or suspension of any member and may by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Board, reinstate such member upon such terms and conditions as it may prescribe.

- e. To receive and act upon any action of the President in accordance with Article V, Section 1.b.
- f. To elect or disapprove applications for membership in accordance with Article VII.
- g. To create and dissolve committees as required in the best interest of the Society.
- h. To authorize all financial expenditures.
- i. To approve scholarship awards by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Board.
- j. To meet on the second Wednesday of every month.
- k. To propose the yearly dues/fees for individual membership for approval by the majority at the annual General Membership Meeting.

**ARTICLE VII
ELECTION OF MEMBERS**

- Section 1: An application for membership must include a *curriculum vitae* (2 pages max.) and be sponsored by one (1) member in good standing.
- Section 2: The election of members shall be by secret ballot of the Board at any meeting of said Board. Two negative ballots shall reject such applicant. No rejected applicant shall be proposed again within a year thereafter.

**ARTICLE VIII
MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1: Individual membership shall have the following credentials:
- a. Twenty years post-baccalaureate experience with a career in STEM, with exceptions as agreed upon by the Board.
 - b. A strong interest in advancing the goals of the Society.
- Section 2: Emeritus membership will be based on application by the member and subject to Board approval. Emeritus members will be expected to support the Society, although monetary support is not mandatory.

**ARTICLE IX
RESIGNATIONS AND SUSPENSIONS**

- Section 1: The resignation of a member of the Society shall be acted upon by the Board.
- Section 2: A member shall be suspended by the Board when they are at least sixty (60) days in arrears for their annual dues or other indebtedness. The Treasurer shall notify the member of such suspension. The Board may make exception to the policy of automatic suspension.

**ARTICLE X
COMMITTEES**

- Section 1: Membership Committee:
The President shall appoint a Membership Committee consisting of a Chair and three (3) other members. The Committee is to actively recruit individual members. All applications for membership in an approved format shall be turned over to the Chair who will present the applicant and sponsors to the Board at a regular Board meeting.
- Section 2: Nominating Committee:
The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of a Chair and three (3) other members at least ninety (90) days before the annual meeting. The Committee will nominate the officers and at-large member(s) to fill vacancies on the Board.
- Section 3: Events Committee:
The President shall appoint an Events Committee consisting of a Chair and as many members as deemed appropriate. The Committee is to conduct exploratory surveys or examination of records to determine where and how the educational system can be enhanced to “Ignite the Spark of Science” in the youth of Harford County. The Committee shall search for and record STEM events ongoing in the greater Harford County area and bring them to the attention of the Society membership for the possible involvement of members. The Committee shall also liaise with other organizations, schools, government, and industry/businesses to work on cooperative STEM education efforts.
- Section 4: Scholarship Committee:
The President shall appoint a Scholarship Committee consisting of a Chair and as many members as deemed appropriate. The Committee is responsible for the development and updating of evidentiary protocols for scholarship applicants and the development of the criteria for awards. Applications for scholarship are to be reviewed by the Committee and recommendation(s) for award(s) made to the Board.

Section 5: Public Relations Committee:
The President shall appoint a Public Relations Committee consisting of a Chair and two (2) members to publicize the Society. The Committee shall act as the receiver of information about upcoming activities and meetings of the Society for further action. The Committee will accept articles and disseminate them in appropriate venues with the goal of informing the community at large about the Society. The Committee shall publish a quarterly newsletter at least thirty (30) days prior to every General Membership Meeting. The Committee shall also be responsible for editing articles and brochures, overseeing the website, disseminating information through a variety of venues and selecting photos or acquiring photos to accompany articles when needed. It shall also ensure appropriate means and venues for formal presentations as may arise from time to time, frequently working with the other committees to ensure propriety and publicity.

ARTICLE XI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- Section 1: The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in August at HCC or at such place as shall be designated by the Board, for the election of officers, to fill vacancies on the Board, and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before said meeting. The installation of the officers shall occur immediately after the election. This is a closed meeting, but it may be held in concert with the regular quarterly business meeting.
- Section 2: Regular business meetings will be held during the second month of each quarter of the year, usually on the Monday following the second Wednesday of the month. Announcement of the meeting (date, location, and special event) is to be communicated to all members of record at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date.
- Section 3: Special meetings may be called by the President, or at the written request of ten (10) or more members, provided that the business of the meeting is stated in the request. The notice for such special meetings stating the purpose shall be effectively communicated to the membership at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. This is a closed meeting.
- Section 4: A quorum for all meetings shall consist of not less than ten percent (10%) of those members entitled to vote.
- Section 5: Only members in good standing may vote at any Society meeting. No proxies are permitted at any meeting.

- Section 6: At all meetings the order of business shall be as follows:
- a. Reading of minutes of the previous general membership meeting.
 - b. Treasurer's report.
 - c. Special communications.
 - d. Committee reports.
 - e. Unfinished business.
 - f. New business.
 - g. Elections.
 - h. Good of the Society suggestions.
 - i. Adjournment.
- Section 7: The order of business may be changed at any meeting by a vote of the majority of those present.
- Section 8: Robert's Rules of Order shall be standard procedure at all meetings.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

- Section 1: Proposed amendments to the Charter may be submitted in writing to the Board or by proper motion from the floor at any General Membership Meeting.
- Section 2: All members in good standing must be notified in writing of the proposed amendments effectively communicated at least ten (10) days prior to the General Membership Meeting following their introduction, and with a vote on the amendments taken at this meeting.
- Section 3: This Charter shall not be amended, modified, or repealed except by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present at a General Membership Meeting when a quorum is met.
- Section 4: The master copy and all amendments to this Charter shall be maintained by the Secretary.

Section 5: This Charter cannot be suspended.

AUTHENTICATION

This charter approved at the General Membership Meeting held on 19 November 2018.

President: Dick Schwanke

Secretary: Edward Schmidt

13 Feb '19