

# By-laws of The Fossils

Effective as of August 15, 2006

## Article I

**Section 1.** The name of this organization is THE FOSSILS.

**Section 2.** The Organization and its members shall be titled, "The Historians of Amateur Journalism."

## Article II – Purposes

**Section 1.** Its purposes are to stimulate interest in and preserve the history of independent publishing, either separate from or organized in the hobby known as "Amateur Journalism" and to foster the practices of amateur journalism.

**Section 2.** The Fossils maintains an active interest in The Library of Amateur Journalism donated in 2004 to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Madison.

**Section 3.** The Fossils shall publish a journal, THE FOSSIL, as near-quarterly as funds from the treasury or contributed for this purpose permit. The contents shall include items of official business and news of the organization, information regarding members and matters of interest to their associates to sustain fraternity within The Fossils, as well as communications in harmony with its purposes. Each issue shall contain historic articles dealing with amateur journalism and, at the discretion of the Official Editor, literary articles and reminiscences submitted by members.

**Section 4.** The organization shall foster independent publishing of significant historic material by amateur journalists.

**Section 5.** Otherwise, through liaison contact with newspapers and other media, The Fossils shall sustain efforts to publicize the significance of independent publishing, its history in America and advantages derived from participation in amateur journalism as a stimulant for recruiting new members into the community of amateur journalism associations.

## Article III – Membership

**Section 1.** Any person who has been an active member of an Amateur Press Group, or its equivalent, and is interested in fostering the purposes and goals of The Fossils, as stated in Article II of the By-laws, is eligible for membership upon acceptance of dues by the Secretary-Treasurer.

## Article IV – Dues

**Section 1.** The annual dues shall be \$15 for single

membership and \$20 for joint membership of husband and wife, if both are eligible to join. Renewal date shall be one year from date of joining.

## Article V – Officers

**Section 1.** Effective upon the adoption of this amendment, elections will be held in even numbered years, commencing with the election in 2006. Officers shall serve for a two year term.

**Section 2.** Beginning with the election in 2008, the elective officers of this organization shall consist of three members, operating within the structure of a Board of Trustees. All other officers shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

a. The newly formed Board of Trustees shall select one of its members as President, at least two members concurring to the selection. Beginning with the election in 2010, elections shall be held for two of the three members of the Board of Trustees, the incumbent President being the carryover member. The newly formed Board shall select one of its number as President, at least two members concurring.

b. In case of confusion in selecting a President, the incumbent President shall appoint a committee of at least three members at large to determine which elected Trustee will be designated as president for the ensuing term of office.

c. In case of a vacation by a Trustee, the remaining Trustees shall select a replacement who will serve until the next election. If the Trustee member who was replaced was the President, the Board shall select a new President, following the procedure outlined in Sec. 2 a. and b. of this article.

### Section 3. Duties of Officers

(a) Board of Trustees: Responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the organization shall rest with the Board of Trustees except in those areas in which the duties of other officers must necessarily take precedence in order that the mandate of their office can be properly executed.

(b) President: As chief executive, the President may appoint special committees, enter into agreements with outside parties, approve expenditures apart from the regularly established expenses of the organization, and propose policies deemed beneficial to the well-being of the organization. Effective with the election of 2008, the President with at least one other member of the Board of Trustees concurring, shall elect appointive officers consisting of a Secretary-Treasurer, Official Editor, Historian, Librarian, and Webmaster who will serve in

their respective offices until the position is declared vacated by reason of one of the conditions detailed in Article V, Section 4.

(c) Secretary-Treasurer: As Secretary, this officer, or a designate, shall (1) pass upon the qualifications of applicants for membership, (2) conduct official correspondence, (3) be responsible for the printing of ballots, and fulfill the customary duties of secretary. As Treasurer, this officer shall (1) have charge of the funds of the organization, (2) make disbursements as authorized by the President, and (3) furnish the Board of Trustees with a financial report when requested.

(d) Official Editor: The Official Editor shall have full responsibility for publishing THE FOSSIL.

(e) Historian: The Historian shall compile a record of events and people of historic significance in the founding and development of The Fossils for publication in THE FOSSIL.

(f) Librarian: The Librarian shall convey to the membership through THE FOSSIL any pertinent communications from the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Madison, pertaining to the Library of Amateur Journalism.

(g) Webmaster: The Webmaster shall strive to maintain and enhance the organization's web page.

**Section 3.** In the event no member can be found to perform in one or another of these appointive offices, members of the Board of Trustees may assume any of these duties in addition to their assignments as members of the Board of Trustees, and may continue with these additional duties until a replacement can be found. In like manner, appointive officers may be elected to the post of Trustee and still continue to serve in their appointive positions.

**Section 4.** Vacating of an Office: An office shall be considered vacant in the event of (a) the submission of a written resignation by the office holder to the President; (b) the death of the officeholder; (c) release of an appointive officer from his duties by the Board of Trustees; (d) the office holder's ceasing to be a member of the Fossils

## Article VI – Nominating Procedures

**Section 1.** It shall be the duty of the President to notify the membership of the date and procedure for filing for election to the Board of Trustees. This notice should either be published in the April issue of THE FOSSIL or be mailed first class to all members in time for them to submit their names to the Secretary-Treasurer or designate.

**Section 2.** Names of those filing for office should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer or designate no later than June 30.

## Article VII – Elections

**Section 1.** Elections of officers and amendments to the By-laws shall be determined by ballots mailed by the Secretary-Treasurer or a designate to all qualified voting members by July 10.

**Section 2.** Ballots shall be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer or a designate no later than July 31. The Secretary-Treasurer or a designate shall tally the votes and convey the results to the incumbent President and the Official Editor for publication in THE FOSSIL.

**Section 3.** A majority of the votes cast shall be required for amending the By-laws. The two Board candidates receiving the first and second largest numbers of votes shall be elected. Any tie votes will be decided by giving preference to the candidate with the longest period of continuous membership in The Fossils according to the records maintained by the Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 4.** Elected officers shall assume office on August 15.

**Section 5.** Amendments to the By-laws shall become effective on August 15.

## Article VIII – Method of Amending the By-laws.

**Section 1.** Majority vote of the members of The Fossils shall be required to amend the By-laws as part of the election process, and such amendments shall be described on the ballot with appropriate "Yes" and "No" boxes. In the event that at least two members of the Board of Trustees determine that the approved amendment is of an emergency nature, a special election may be ordered at a time to be determined by the Board.

**Section 2.** Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Trustees, at least two members concurring; appointive officers, at least two officers concurring; or individual members, at least five members concurring. Proposed amendments should be submitted to the President no later than June 10 for review by the Board of Trustees. If the amendment is not determined to be of an emergency nature, the Board of Trustees shall submit them to the Secretary-Treasurer no later than June 30.

## Article IX – Distribution of Assets

In the event of final dissolution of The Fossils, any residual funds in the treasury shall be conveyed to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library in Madison for use for the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection. ♦