

**SPECIAL INTEREST BYLAWS
FOR THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE**
Amended May 26, 2005

Article I. Name and Mission

Section 1.

The name of this organization shall be the Healing Story Alliance (HSA).

Section 2.

The mission of the Healing Story Alliance is to explore and promote the use of storytelling in healing. By "storytelling in healing", we mean the telling and evoking of stories to support people and communities in finding their own way to healing and wholeness physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Because our mission is broad, we welcome members who hold differing viewpoints, styles, perspectives and opinions about storytelling. As a membership organization, our mutual commitment is to respect and honor our diversity.

Section 3.

The Healing Story Alliance is a recognized Special Interest Group (SIG) of National Storytelling Network (NSN) members and adheres to the NSN bylaws and the policies and procedures of the "Policy and Procedures Manual Special Interest Groups and Discussion Groups."

Article II. Membership and Dues

Section 1.

The Healing Story Alliance will have two membership categories: HSA Members who are members of NSN and HSA Subscription Members who are not members of NSN and may not vote or serve on the Executive Committee. Persons who are not HSA members may attend HSA meetings, but may not vote.

Section 2.

All HSA dues include: 1) a fixed administrative fee set by the NSN Board of Directors and paid to NSN for basic staff services and 2) additional funds to cover HSA expenses including but not limited to publications, meetings and web site maintenance.

HSA memberships for NSN members will be renewed on the same schedule as NSN memberships. Dues that are not paid at the time of renewal of NSN membership will be prorated: if fewer than six months remain until a member's NSN membership renewal date, HSA dues will be 50% of the annual rate; if more than six months, HSA dues will be charged the yearly rate.

By the affirmative vote of a majority of the group's Executive Committee, HSA may change its dues structure or dues to any amount not less than the NSN administrative fee currently in effect. Dues may be changed only once a year effective November 1. For a dues change to take effect on November 1, the NSN Board must receive notice of the change no later than the preceding September 1.

Article III. Maintenance

Section 1.

HSA must maintain at least 30 members. If HSA fails to maintain at least 30 members for two consecutive years, the group will disband.

Section 2.

HSA will conduct at least one meeting of members every calendar year. If HSA fails to have an annual meeting for two consecutive calendar years, the group will disband.

Section 3.

HSA must submit an annual report and an annual budget to the NSN Board. If HSA fails to submit an annual report or an annual budget, the group will disband. Copies of the annual report and annual budget shall be available upon request to members of the special interest group.

Article IV. Executive Committee

Section 1.

HSA is governed by an Executive Committee consisting of no fewer than seven (7) and no more than fifteen (15) HSA/NSN members approved by the current executive committee to serve up to three consecutive two-year terms commencing on the date of acceptance. After leaving the Executive Committee for one term, a member may again be approved to serve.

Section 2.

No member of the HSA Executive Committee may simultaneously serve on the NSN Board of Directors. No member of the NSN Staff may serve as Chair of HSA.

Section 3.

Any executive committee member may be removed from the committee, with or without cause, at any time by the affirmative vote of a two-third (2/3) majority of the committee then in office. Any executive committee member may resign upon giving written notice to the committee.

Section 4.

A majority shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee

Section 5.

It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to plan and coordinate all programs sponsored by HSA.

Section 6.

It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to prepare and submit to the NSN Board each year an annual budget and an annual report. These reports will follow the guidelines and dates specified in NSN's "Policy and Procedures Manual Special Interest Groups & Discussion Groups."

Section 7.

It is the responsibility of each Executive Committee member to serve as an officer on or an active member and representative for at least one HSA committee.

Article V. Executive Committee Apprentice Members

Section 1.

Any HSA/NSN member may apply directly in writing or be recommended in writing by a member of HSA to be an apprentice member of the Executive Committee.

Section 2.

With the approval of the Executive Committee, an Apprentice will serve from three to six months (subject to waiver or extension by Coordinating Council) under a mentor and will fulfill agreed upon requirements. After approval by the majority of the Executive Committee, and when a position is available, the Apprentice will be installed as a member of the Executive Committee.

Article VI. Coordinating Council

Section 1.

The Executive Committee shall be governed by the Coordinating Council consisting of the Executive Committee Chair, Associate Chair, Secretary, and two additional Executive Committee members approved by the Executive Committee to serve for a one-year term commencing June 1. Additional Coordinating Council Members may be appointed at the discretion of the Executive Committee by a majority of the Committee.

Section 2.

The Chair shall preside at all meetings, oversee the planning and coordination of all programs sponsored by HSA, oversee the preparation and submission of an annual budget and an annual report, and is designated as the person whom the NSN Board may contact for any communications regarding HSA. The Chair must sign the NSN Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy for Member Leaders at the time the Chair takes office.

Section 3.

The Associate Chair shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chair, the Associate Chair will take over the office for the remainder of the term.

Section 4.

The Secretary shall serve as recorder, preserving a record of the proceedings of all meetings and shall submit an annual report.

Section 5.

The Treasurer shall receive and review quarterly financial statements from NSN (unless there has been no financial activity since the last statement), prepare and submit an annual budget and shall work with the committee to oversee the financial aspects of all programs sponsored by the Healing Arts Special Interest Group.

Article VII. Advisory Committee

Section 1.

At the discretion of the Executive Committee, former Executive Committee members and other esteemed persons who may or may not be current members of NSN or HSA may be asked to serve on the HSA Advisory Committee.

Section 2.

Advisory Committee members agree to act as consultants to HSA on a routine basis. Advisory committee members may serve unlimited terms, may attend membership meetings, and may be asked to attend Executive Committee meetings but may not vote on the Executive Committee.

Article VIII. Action Committees

Section 1.

An Action Committee is defined as a group of five or more people who share an interest in the use of storytelling for a specific healing purpose that complies with the mission, goals, and policies of HSA. The HSA Executive Committee must approve by a majority vote the creation of an Action Committee.

Section 2.

A proposal for the creation of an Action Committee can be made by any HSA member and/or by an established group that desires to be in formal relationship with HSA.

Section 3.

A proposal to create an Action Committee must be submitted in writing, on paper or electronically, and must include:

- 1) the name of the Action Committee
- 2) a statement of purpose
- 3) the names and signatures of five people at least two of whom are HSA members, who commit to the organization and growth of the Action Committee
- 4) the name of an HSA Executive Committee member who agrees to serve as the Action Committee representative and to act as a mentor to the Action Committee for a minimum of six months from the date of the approval of the Action Committee.

If a current Executive Committee member is either not available or not qualified to serve as the Action Committee representative, the proposed Action Committee may nominate one of its members to serve on the HSA Executive Committee as its representative. The Executive Committee must approve the nomination by a majority vote. All Action Committee representatives must be members of NSN and HSA and be willing to serve as Executive Committee members with all rights and responsibilities.

If the representative nominated by the Action Committee is new to HSA, another Executive Committee member, a former Executive Committee member or an HSA member knowledgeable about the resources, policies and procedures of HSA may be appointed by the Executive Committee as mentor to the Action Committee for a minimum of six months.

Section 4.

The Executive Committee must vote within 60 days of receiving the application.

Section 5.

Since HSA is committed to the success of recognized Action Committees, the mentor's role is to provide support and guidance in utilizing HSA's resources, including but not limited to, the HSA website, newsletter, and listserv.

Article IX. Support Committees

The HSA Executive Committee may form such Support Committees, as it deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the Finance Committee, Membership Committee, and Publications Committee.

Article X. Contracts, Loans and Checks

Unless authorized by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee of NSN, no HSA member shall enter into any contract or loan, or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of, on behalf of HSA or NSN, or in any manner bind or obligate HSA or NSN.

Article XI. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of HSA by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present providing that written notice of the proposed amendment(s) be announced to the members by the Chair at least 30 days previously. In accordance with NSN policy, these Bylaws also may be amended by mail or e-mail with an affirmative vote of two thirds of the HSA voting members responding. The closing time must be stated clearly on the ballots and the ballots must be mailed or e-mailed to the eligible members at least 30 days before such closing time.

Article XII. Status of Members and Officers

No member or officer of HSA shall be or be deemed to be an officer, employee or agent of NSN unless specifically so appointed by the Board of Directors of NSN.