

BYLAW OF THE OROMO STUDIES ASSOCIATION (OSA)

ARTICLE I

NAME, HEADQUARTERS & GOVERNING LAW

- 1.1 The name of the Association shall be The Oromo Studies Association (OSA).
- 1.2 The headquarters & address of OSA shall be:

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The Oromo Studies Association shall be a non-profit, Multi-disciplinary, scholarly, voluntary organization established to promote and foster studies on and relevant to the Oromo people.
- 2.2. To realize its objectives The Oromo Studies Association:
 - 2.2.1. Serves as the umbrella organization that guides, develops and promotes serious scholarship on the history, economy, culture, health, education, politics, law, biological & Biomedical sciences, physical sciences, social welfare and other disciplines.
 - 2.2.2. Promotes quality of thinking and all-round intellectual life among the Oromo people.
 - 2.2.3. Provides the opportunity and mechanism for non-Oromo scholars to actively participate in the evolution and development of scholarship about the Oromo people.
 - 2.2.4. Provides a forum for Oromo scholars to cooperate and support each other in developing research and writing skills and aids in identifying and soliciting of resources for their scholarly activities.
 - 2.2.5. Seeks and coordinates support and assistance on Oromo studies from governmental and non-governmental sources.
 - 2.2.6. Advances mutual understanding among the Oromo, the people of East Africa, and other people.
 - 2.2.7. Promotes the culture of democratic pluralism, rule of law in the Oromo society and advances and develops the GADA legacy.
 - 2.2.8. Undertakes all necessary and important tasks to implement its objectives.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. The Oromo Studies Association shall have an open membership to Oromos as well as non-Oromos.

- 3.2. A Member shall be a person who accepts the Constitution of the Oromo Studies Association and pays a membership fee
- 3.3. In its activities OSA members shall adhere to The OSA Constitution and the universally-accepted rules of professional ethics.
- 3.4. All OSA members shall have the right to vote on organizational matters, to elect OSA officers and be elected and/or appointed to positions within The Oromo Studies Association.
- 3.5. All OSA members, in good standing, shall receive the official OSA journal and The OSA Newsletter.

ARTICLE IV THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 4.1. The OSA shall have a Board of Directors elected by and accountable to the General Assembly. The term of office of the Board of Directors will be limited to 3 years.
- 4.2. The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to supervise the management of all OSA properties.
- 4.3. The Board of Directors governs and regulates all OSA officers.
- 4.4. The Board of Directors shall determine the policies of OSA and the Board shall take all necessary actions to realize OSA objectives. The Board shall render its reports to the annual membership meeting.
- 4.5. The Board shall have at least nine members, including a Chairperson and a Secretary.
- 4.6. The President of The OSA shall be an X-officio member of the Board of Directors.
- 4.7. A Board member when unable to attend a Board meeting may give his/her written proxy to another Board member to vote during a Board meeting.
- 4.8. Twenty-Five (25%) of members in good standing may initiate an emergency meeting of the OSA for a specified purpose before July 1, and the same shall be called by the chairperson upon written request filed within the General Secretary at least 21 days before the proposed meeting.
- 4.9. The Board of Directors shall have written by-laws, consistent with the OSA Constitution, that regulates its business meetings, decision-making process and other internal matters.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 5.1. The OSA shall have an Executive Committee.
- 5.2. The OSA Executive Committee shall be composed of: the President, the Vice-

President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Director of Publications and Public relations of OSA.

5.3. All the Executive Committee members shall be elected by the General Assembly of OSA.

5.4. The term of office of the Executive Committee shall be two years.

5.5. After the elapse of term of office the Executive Committee, as a whole or its members, may be re-elected.

5.6. The Executive Committee shall be accountable to The OSA General Assembly and when it is not in session to the Board of Directors.

5.7. The OSA President shall be the Chief Executive and Representative of The OSA.

5.8. The President of OSA shall assure the implementation of General Assembly resolutions and directives of the Board of Directors.

5.9. The President of OSA shall convene and chair all meetings of the Executive Committee, prepare its agenda, organize and coordinate The OSA Annual Conferences.

5.10. The vice-president of OSA shall perform all duties given to him/her by the President and when the President cannot discharge his/her duties shall execute all duties and responsibilities of The OSA President.

5.11. The Secretary of OSA shall record and keep all actions of the Executive Committee, including but not limited to, the minutes of all membership meetings, work closely with the Association's various committees, prepare all mail ballots and referendums, notify all meetings to the Executives Committee members and Board of Directors, and perform all duties The OSA President may assign.

5.12. According to the directives of the Executive Committee the Treasurer of OSA shall oversee the funds of The OSA and their expenditures and establish a bank account in the name of The OSA.

5.13. The Treasurer shall by his/her individual signature have the authority to sign a withdrawal of less than \$500.00 from The OSA account.

5.14. A withdrawal from The OSA account that exceeds \$500.00 at a time shall require a co-signature of the Treasurer and The OSA President, or in the absence of the President the Vice-President.

5.15. The Public Relations and Publications Director shall be responsible for all publications of The OSA.

5.16. The Public Relations and Publications Director shall solicit publishable articles and other produces and distribute the same.

5.17. The Public Relations and Publications Director shall nominate and recommend Editorial Committee members to the Executive Committee.

5.18. The Editor of the Journal of Oromo Studies shall ensure the quality of all the OSA publications.

5.19. To better implement The OSA objectives, the Executive Committee of The OSA may form ad hoc committees and determine their duties and responsibilities in so far as these determined duties do not contravene directly or indirectly any authority vested to any OSA officer as outlined in this Constitution.

5.20. The ad hoc committee of Section 5.18 may include, but not limited to, committee for: conference, publications, budget and finance, human rights, language, culture and arts, and women.

5.21. The duties, responsibilities and term of office of the Section 5.19 committees shall be determined by the Executive Committee of The OSA. To better implement The OSA objectives, the Executive Committee of The OSA may form ad hoc committees and determine their duties and responsibilities in so far as these determined duties do not contravene directly or indirectly any authority vested to any OSA officer as outlined in this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

6.1. The OSA shall have one membership meeting and a conference each year.

6.2. A quorum of the annual meeting shall be 51% of members present at the meeting.

6.3. The OSA shall decide policy issues by referendum and the same shall require the support of Two Thirds (2/3) vote of members in good standing.

6.4. Except on policy issues on other OSA meetings decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote.

ARTICLE VII ELECTIONS

7.1. No person shall hold more than one post, elective or otherwise, in OSA at one time.

7.2. All elective position's term of office shall begin at the close of The OSA annual meetings.

7.3. To stand for election a candidate must be in attendance at the annual meeting.

7.4. Mail ballots for elective posts must be accompanied by a written statement of a candidate on personal, professional qualifications and a statement of program if elected.

ARTICLE VIII FINANCE

- 8.1. The OSA shall operate as a non-profit voluntary organization.
- 8.2. The OSA Executive Committee, with the assistance of the Budget and Finance Committee shall, prior to the Annual meeting of The OSA, prepare a proposed budget for each forthcoming budget year.
- 8.3. The budget proposal prepared according to Section 8.2. shall be reviewed by the OSA Board of Directors and submitted to The OSA Annual Membership Meeting for approval.
- 8.4. The budget adopted by The OSA Annual Membership Meeting shall be binding for all officers and members of The OSA.
- 8.5. An Auditor, elected by the General Assembly of The OSA, shall audit the accounts of the Association and present an Annual Audit Report to the General Assembly of The OSA.
- 8.6. The Board of Directors of The OSA may request an audit report from the Auditor of OSA, prior to the Annual Membership meeting of The OSA.

ARTICLE IX RELATIONS WITH OTHER SOCIETIES

- 9.1. The OSA may affiliate itself with other professional research and educational bodies.
- 9.2. The affiliation of Section 9.1. shall be decided by the Board of Directors and be approved by the General Assembly of The OSA.

ARTICLE X MISCELLANEOUS

- 10.1. Upon the dissolution of The OSA, the Board of Directors, after satisfying or making provision for the settlement of all liabilities of the Association, shall dispose of all assets of the Association either exclusively for the purpose of the Association, or through gifts to organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes and qualify as same under the Federal Internal Revenue code.
- 10.2. No substantial part of the activities of The OSA shall be for carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.
- 10.3. The OSA shall not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public life, including publishing and distributing statements.
- 10.4. Notwithstanding any other provisions of OSA's Constitution; the OSA is organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes as specified in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- 10.4(a). The OSA shall not carry on any activities not permitted for tax exempt organizations under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

10.4(b). In the event of dissolution, all remaining assets of and property of The OSA, after obligatory and necessary expenses thereof, shall be distributed to such organizations as shall qualify under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or another organization(s) in the state where The OSA is registered which may best accomplish the purposes for which OSA was formed.

10.5. Robert's Rule of Order, the newly revised in the latest edition, shall govern The OSA in all cases to which it is relevant, provided it shall not contravene The OSA Constitution, or special rules of order of the Association.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENT

11.1. Amendment proposal(s) to The OSA Constitution supported by petition of twenty members in good standing shall be presented to The OSA members.

11.2. The Board of Directs may propose amendments to the OSA Constitution.

11.3. Amendment to The OSA Constitution shall be made by Two-Thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members voting in mail ballot.

Amended and Adopted by the OSA General Assembly
August 5, 1996, Washington, D.C.