

C O N S T I T U T I O N

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A S T R O N O M I C A L S O C I E T Y O F S O U T H E R N A F R I C A

1975 JULY 23

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL CENTRE

CONSTITUTION

(To supercede the Constitution of 1969 July 22,
as amended)

Article 1. Name

The Centre shall be called "The Astronomical
Society of Southern Africa, Natal Centre"

Article 11. Objects

The objects of the Centre shall be:

1. The encouragement and stimulation of the study of Astronomy.
2. The association of observers and the organization of astronomical observation and research.
3. The dissemination of such current astronomical information as may be helpful to observers and others interested in Astronomy.
4. To remain affiliated to The Astronomical Society of Southern Africa and to adhere to the Constitution of that body and to participate as far as possible in the activities of that Society.

Article 111. Membership

The Centre shall consist of:

1. Members who shall have the power to vote in any proceedings of the Centre and shall be eligible for election to all offices of the Centre.
2. Honorary Members who shall have all the privileges of Members.
3. Student Members who shall have no vote in the proceedings of the Centre and who shall not be eligible to hold office in the Centre and who shall be under the age of 18 years.

Article VI. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the fourth Wednesday in July or on such other date as the Council of The Astronomical Society of Southern Africa shall direct, or on a date as near as possible to the foregoing.

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting shall be to receive the report of the Committee, the Honorary Treasurer's audited Financial Statement to the previous 30th day of June, the reports of the Observing Sections and to transact any other business.

Article VII Election of Members

The Committee shall have power to elect Members.

A candidate for election must be proposed and seconded by Members of the Centre.

Every candidate for election shall be required to sign a declaration in the manner laid out in the addendum attached hereto, designated "Application for Membership".

The names of all candidates for election shall be circulated to members. If no objection shall have been lodged within 30 days of the date of publication of their names, the Committee shall have power to declare such candidates elected to Membership. Objection to election of candidates must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Centre giving full reasons for the objection.

If objection is lodged the applicant shall be elected only by unanimous vote of the full Committee.

No election shall be deemed complete until the entrance fee and subscription are paid, until which date the candidate shall not be entitled to the privileges of membership.

Article IV. Officers and Committee

The Centre shall be governed by a Committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and at least three but not more than five other Members all of whom shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Centre.

The Centre shall be entitled to select a member of The Astronomical Society of Southern Africa to represent it at the Society's Council meetings. This representative, who will be a full member of Council, shall be elected by the Committee of the Centre and his name shall be communicated to the Secretary of the Society by the twentieth day of August.

Article V. Management

The Committee shall have sole management, control and disposition of the affairs, property and funds of the Centre, and shall have power to decide any questions not specifically covered by the Constitution.

The Committee shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in any of the offices of the Centre or in its own body until the next election of officers.

The Committee shall have power to co-opt additional members to the Committee from the remaining Members of the Centre.

The Committee shall meet, as far as is practical, once a month and shall call General Meetings of the Centre, as far as is practical, once a month. Additional meetings of the Centre shall be held on the call of the Committee or at least 10% of the Members of the Centre. Members shall receive at least ten days notice of every meeting of the Centre.

Article VIII. Honorary Members

The Committee shall have power to elect as an Honorary Member of the Centre any person who has rendered special service to Astronomy or to the Centre. The number of Honorary Members shall not exceed five or 3% of all Members, whichever is the lesser.

Article IX. Entrance Fee and Subscription

Persons joining as Members of the Centre, whether or not they were previously Student Members, shall pay an entrance fee of one rand (R1-00) and an annual subscription of four rand (R4-00).

Student Members shall be exempted from paying the entrance fee when joining as a Student Member but shall be liable to pay the entrance fee upon reaching the full age of 18 years. Student Members shall pay a subscription equal to 50% of that laid down for a Member.

Honorary Members shall pay no entrance fee or subscription.

All subscriptions are payable in advance to the Treasurer of the Centre and shall become due on the first day of July in each year, but a Member joining the Centre after the first day of January shall be liable to pay for that year only half the subscription ordinarily due in the previous July.

Any member who fails to pay his subscription within three calendar months of the due date shall cease to receive notices and circulars from the Centre. If his annual subscription remains unpaid for eleven months after the due date, a final registered letter of warning shall be sent to him by the Committee and if the subscription is not paid within one month, he shall cease to be a member of the Centre.

In very special cases the Committee may waive payment of subscriptions by certain individual members. In each case the waiver shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Centre.

Article X. Resignation

Any Member or Student Member wishing to resign from the Centre shall give notice in writing to the Secretary of the Centre and shall pay all subscriptions due, after which his resignation shall take effect.

Article XI. Suspension and Exclusion

The Committee may suspend or exclude any Member or Student Member either for infringement of this Constitution or any rules made thereunder, or for misconduct reported to the Committee in writing, provided that the person so suspended or excluded shall have the right of appeal to the Committee whose decision shall be final.

Article XII. Reinstatement

Any member who has resigned in good standing may be permitted to join the Centre without payment of entrance fee at the discretion of the Committee. Persons who forfeit membership under Articles IX or XI may be reinstated with the consent of the Committee and shall then pay the entrance fee but not any arrears of subscription.

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Article Xlll. Liability and Indemnity

The liability of each Member is limited to the amount of his subscription.

Every member of the Committee shall be indemnified from liability for any bona fide action undertaken in the administration of their offices.

Article XlV. Interpretation

Words in the Constitution importing the masculine gender shall include females and plurals shall include the singular and vice versa.

On any question of the implication or interpretation of any of the provisions of the Constitution, the decision of the Committee shall be final.

Article XV. Winding up

Should the Committee or 10% of the Members decide that the Centre should be dissolved, they shall cause a general meeting of members to be called for the purpose of discussing their resolution and the final decision shall be made on a simple majority of all Members of the Centre present.

The Centre shall be considered dissolved if it ceases to exist without a formal decision so to do, e.g. by failure to elect officers or a committee or by failure of all members of the Centre to pay subscriptions.

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The immediately preceding Chairman and Committee shall within one month of the dissolution of the Centre, cause all assets, funds and records of the Centre to be sent to The Astronomical Society of Southern Africa for safekeeping and custody. The Astronomical Society of Southern Africa shall keep the assets, funds and records of the Centre until such time as it, in its sole discretion decides that:

1. The Natal Centre has been reformed;
2. The reformed Natal Centre has been in existence for at least one year;
3. It has at least twenty members;
4. It is likely to continue flourishing.

When the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa decides that the above conditions have been fulfilled it shall cause the assets, funds and records of the existing Centre to be returned to the reformed Natal Centre.

Whilst the assets of the Centre are in the custody of The Astronomical Society of Southern Africa it may:

1. Hand out or otherwise look after the assets of the Centre as it sees fit;
2. Retain the interest earned on the Centre's funds to maintain the Centre's assets in a satisfactory state of repairs or for its own use.

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Article XVI. Amendment of Constitution

The Constitution may be amended by a decision of three-fourths of these present at a General Meeting, provided that prior notice shall have been given of such amendment.

No proposed amendment shall be presented to the Centre without either the recommendation of the Committee or the signature of at least five members. Any proposed amendment shall be posted to every member who has the right to vote.

If in the opinion of the Committee, any proposed amendment would vitally affect the welfare of the Centre or any fundamental principal of this Constitution, the Committee shall intimate that fact to members by causing such fact to be discussed when it is submitted for voting.

Signed by me this.....day of.....1975

Chairman
Natal Centre ASSA.