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# ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

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## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Organized and Adopted	April 21, 1902
Revised and Adopted	October, 1908
Revised and Adopted	April, 1932
Revised and Adopted	August, 1944
Revised and Adopted	September, 1962
Revised and Adopted	September, 1973
Revised and Adopted <sup>(1)</sup>	December, 2010

### NAME and OBJECTIVE

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1. The name of this Society shall be "The Athenaeum Society". It shall have for its objective the increase of knowledge and information among its members on the subjects relating to the Arts, Biography, History, Literature and the Sciences.

### OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

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2. The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary and Treasurer. The offices of a Secretary and Treasurer are to be held by the same person. The officers shall be elected by a voice vote<sup>(1)</sup> at the regular meeting in April of each year, and shall serve for one year until their successors are elected. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be exempt from the payment of any charges or dues during his term of office. The President and the Secretary-Treasurer are exempt from presenting a paper during their term of office.<sup>(1)</sup>

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3. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall constitute the Executive Committee. These same officers shall also constitute the Program Committee. The Executive Committee shall select the place and time for all meetings that the Society holds and present same to the Society for approval. The Program Committee shall prepare, have printed and distributed (specifically the Secretary)<sup>(1)</sup>, among the members a suitable yearly program for the Society; and shall also prepare and announce a program for the May Meeting (open Meeting) and any other special meeting that the Society may elect to hold.

32 4. The President, upon assuming office shall appoint a Committee on Membership to be composed  
33 of three members, whose duty it shall be to recommend to the Society, from time to time, suitable  
34 persons for any vacancies that may exist in the membership of the Society. The President shall also  
35 appoint a Committee on Nominations to be composed of three members, whose duty it shall be to  
36 place in nomination officers of the Society to be elected in April of each year.<sup>(1)</sup>

## MEMBERSHIP

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38 5. Members for the Society may be elected by the Society at any regular meeting, after being  
39 recommended by the Committee on Membership; said elections to be by secret ballot. Three adverse  
40 votes shall be sufficient to exclude any person from membership in the Society. The Secretary shall  
41 notify, by letter, newly elected members of their respective elections.

42 6. It shall be the duty of each member of the society, exclusive of the President and the Secretary-  
43 Treasurer,<sup>(1)</sup> to present a paper at the meeting to which he has been assigned on the yearly program, or  
44 the program for any special meeting. A member may exchange places with any other member on the  
45 yearly program by agreement. The exchange must be reported promptly to the Secretary, who will  
46 make a record of the same. The failure of any member to present his paper, or to provide a substitute  
47 for the meeting to which he has been assigned on the yearly program, (or which he has made an  
48 exchange), without satisfactory excuse reported to the Secretary prior to the day of the meeting, shall be  
49 considered as his resignation from the Society, and the Secretary is instructed to strike his name from  
50 the roll of members without referring the matter to the Society. The Subject of the paper to be  
51 presented to the Society by any member may be of his own choosing from the areas named in Article 1.  
52 It shall not be written on Politics or Religion.

## ATTENDANCE

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54 7. At each regular meeting of the Society, the Secretary shall call the roll of members, and it shall be  
55 the duty of any member absenting himself to present an explanation of his absence(s). After two  
56 consecutive monthly absences, the Secretary shall notify such member to attend the next regular  
57 meeting; and if he then fails to attend or respond in writing with an acceptable excuse (illness or family  
58 member illness) the Society shall take a vote to receive his implied resignation.<sup>(1)</sup> If there are  
59 exceptional circumstances involved, the Society may waive this rule or possibly move to Emeritus  
60 (Honorary) status a long-standing member who becomes physically debilitated (or a family member), or  
61 has moved from Hopkinsville and is unable to attend and prepare a paper.<sup>(1)</sup> Members granted  
62 Emeritus (Honorary) status are exempt from attendance requirements, paying dues, and presenting  
63 papers.<sup>(1)</sup> If they periodically attend a meeting of the Society they shall pay for their meal.<sup>(1)</sup> The count  
64 of members of the Society shall not include those in Emeritus (Honorary) status.<sup>(1)</sup>

## FEES and DUES

- 65  
66 8. A fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid by each member of the Society upon becoming a  
67 member thereof.
- 68 9. The regular dues for each member shall be set by the Society, following the recommendation of the  
69 Executive Committee. The dues shall be payable in advance for each half of the year i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> half (Sept.-  
70 Dec.), 2<sup>nd</sup> half (Jan.-April). The dues for the May Meeting (Open Session) shall be set by the Society,  
71 following the recommendation of the Executive Committee.<sup>(1)</sup> If any member shall become three  
72 months in arrears for dues he shall be automatically dropped from the Society.

## SPECIAL MEETINGS

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74 10. Once in each year, at a suitable time and place, the Society may hold a special or Open meeting to  
75 which each member may bring invited guests. Each member shall be responsible for the cost of his  
76 plate and those of his guests. Each member shall promptly notify the Secretary of the number of plates  
77 he wishes provided for him at such meeting.

## RECORDS and PAPERS

- 78  
79 11. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a correct roll of the membership of the Society; to  
80 report all vacancies as they may occur, and to keep all records of the Society in a book provided for that  
81 purpose. All papers read before the Society should become the property of the Society and should be  
82 open to criticism and comment.

## AMENDMENTS

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84 12. These bylaws shall not at any time be suspended. Any amendments to the same shall be made only  
85 with the consent of two-thirds of the entire membership of the Society, and after one month's written  
86 notice, given at a regular meeting, and specifying in what regard the particular bylaw is proposed.
- 87 13. The President, who serves a full year, shall not be eligible for re-election.
- 88 14. Any member is privileged to invite a guest, who is not a resident of Christian County, to regular  
89 meetings, giving due notice to the President and paying for the cost of the meal to be served.

90 15. No person recommended for membership shall be voted upon when other than the regular  
91 members are present.

92 16. The Society shall take a summer vacation during the months of June, July and August, holding no  
93 regular meetings, but special meetings may be held upon the call of the President.

94 17. In the discussion of the papers, presented to the Society, each member should limit his discussion  
95 to three minutes.

96 18. The membership of the Society shall be limited to forty members. Twenty members and one  
97 officer, present together, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

NOTES

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99 May 1951 Voted to drop the June meeting.

100 October 1956 Voted to raise membership from 30 to 40

101 January 4, 1972 Motion passed requiring all papers to be turned in to the Secretary.

102 April 1, 1982 Motion passed stipulating that papers filed with the Society be on uniform size  
103 paper (8 1/2 by 11) and that papers be typed.

104 December 2, 2010 Motions were made on changes indicated with a superscript (1), i.e. <sup>(1)</sup> Each was  
105 voted on and passed by consent of at least two-thirds of the entire membership of  
106 39.