

**BYLAWS
LAS VEGAS CHAPTER
AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY**

**ARTICLE I
NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. The name of the organization is **LAS VEGAS CHAPTER, AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY**, hereinafter referred to as "Las Vegas Chapter."

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

Section 1. The purpose of the Las Vegas Chapter is to foster wine education and to promote the appreciation and responsible enjoyment of wine.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Eligibility. Membership in the Las Vegas Chapter shall be open to all members of the American Wine Society, who are genuinely interested in supporting the purpose of the Las Vegas Chapter.

Section 2. Member of Record. A member who is listed by the National AWS as belonging to the Las Vegas Chapter.

Section 3. Member Voting Rights. Each member of record shall be entitled to personally vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

- A. Individual American Wine Society membership: entitled to one vote.
- B. Couple American Wine Society membership: each person entitled to one vote.

**ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS**

Section 1. Designation. The principal officers of the Las Vegas Chapter shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Together with the Immediate Past Chair and the Events Chair, these officers shall comprise the chapter Board. If the Immediate Past Chair is unable to serve, the Board will operate with one less member during that term of office. No two offices may be held by the same person.

Section 2. Officer Voting Rights. Each Board position shall have a single vote in all matters brought before the Board.

Section 3. Chair. The Chair shall have charge of all Las Vegas Chapter activities. He/she shall preside at meetings of the membership, promote chapter membership, appoint committees as needed, and see that chapter activities are reported to the Executive Director for potential national publication.

Section 4, Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall stand ready to assume the duties of the Chair in the event the Chair is temporarily or permanently unable to serve. The Vice Chair shall also assist the Chair in the conduct of the business of the Chapter and perform other duties assigned by the Chair and the Board.

Section 5. Secretary. The Secretary shall perform the duties and functions customarily performed by the secretary of an organization, including recording minutes of Las Vegas Chapter business meetings, keeping attendance of Las Vegas Chapter events, and maintaining the Las Vegas Chapter membership roster. In the absence or disability of the Chair **and Vice Chair**, the Secretary shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Chair.

Section 6. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds, shall keep full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Las Vegas Chapter, and shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name of and to the credit of the Las Vegas Chapter in such depositories as may be designated by the officers. He/she shall disburse the funds of the Las Vegas Chapter as necessary to achieve its purpose, or as may be ordered by the officers, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements. The Treasurer shall make a financial report to the Las Vegas Chapter membership at least once each quarter.

Section 7. Committee Chairpersons. An Events Chair, who shall also serve as an at-large member of the chapter Board, shall be elected by the membership in accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, and other committee chairs may be appointed by the Las Vegas Chapter Chair for a term coextensive with that of the Chair, subject to the approval of the other officers.

ARTICLE V BUSINESS MEETINGS of MEMBERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Frequency of Meetings. Meetings of the membership shall be held at least quarterly at suitable places as may be designated by the Las Vegas Chapter officers.

Section 2. Notice of Meetings. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to send a notice of each meeting, stating the purpose of the meeting as well as the time and place where it is to be held, to each member of record no less than one week prior to such meeting.

Section 3. Quorum. The members of record in attendance at any meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Matters Subject to Vote. The Board may bring for a vote before the membership any matter related to the business of the Chapter. Any member may also propose to the Board in writing any matter about which it is desired to obtain consideration of the Board for a vote of the membership.

Section 5. Voting. At every meeting of the membership, each member of record present shall have the right to vote in accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 3 on each question. The vote of the majority of those present shall decide any question brought before such meeting.

Section 6. Elections. Elections shall be held in October of each even year (i.e. 2010), and those members selected as Chapter Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Events Chair shall hold their respective offices from January 1 through December 31 of the following two years. Each elected officer may directly succeed himself/herself.

Section 7. Officer Vacancies. At any regularly scheduled or special meeting of the membership duly called, any elected officer may be removed with cause by a vote of the majority of the membership in attendance. A successor may then and there be elected to fill the vacancy thus created. Such will also be the case for any office vacated by resignation or inability to continue to serve. If the Chair is removed, resigns or is unable to serve, the Vice Chair shall serve as acting Chair until a new Chair can be elected.

ARTICLE VI MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Paid Chapter Events. For each paid tasting event of the Las Vegas Chapter, registration fees shall be set based upon the nature of the tasting, and shall be due no less than one week prior to the event. If a payee cancels during the final week preceding the event, the fee shall be forfeited. Forfeiture dates for special events shall be established in advance by the Events Chair.

Section 2. Guests. Anyone eligible for membership in the American Wine Society may attend up to three tasting events of the Las Vegas Chapter, subject to the payment of all fees in advance and the

forfeiture provisions of Article VI, Section 1. After that, he/she must officially join the American Wine Society in order to continue participation in such events.

Section 3. Event Hosting. Volunteer hosts shall provide a location for convening Chapter events, and be compensated one dollar (\$1.00) from each registration fee to offset the cost of any consumables provided (bread, tableware, etc.). [TNB – this doesn't quite fit our regular meeting process, but might be useful for occasional meetings hosted at a member home].

Section 4. Event Facilitating. Volunteer facilitators shall organize the event programs, including procuring wines with the registration fees collected for the events, preparing educational materials, and leading the events.

Section 5. Event Format. At least half of the tasting events each year shall be organized to score wines using the AWS system.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Balloting. These Bylaws and the provisions herein may be altered, amended, or repealed ("changed") by a majority of those members voting in a ballot of the entire membership in which at least 20% of the eligible votes are cast. If less than 20% of the total active membership of the Las Vegas Chapter responds to a ballot, this shall be considered a technical defeat of the amendment.

ARTICLE VIII DISSOLUTION OF THE CHAPTER

Section 1. Distribution of Assets. Upon dissolution of the Chapter, none of its assets shall be distributed to any officer or member, but shall be disposed of in accordance with the applicable regulations of the Internal Revenue Service and provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Code then in force.