

## Chartering a Chapter

A minimum of six national members of the American Harp Society, Inc., in good standing, must indicate their desire to form a chapter by coming together as a Committee of Organization and submitting their names, addresses, and signatures to the Chapter Committee on the appropriate form. A copy of the Chapter Bylaws must be sent with this application. The application will include:

- Election of officers (Chapter Officers must be members of the national AHS)
- Chapter name
- The area to be under the jurisdiction of the chapter
- Chapter Bylaws

This information will be entered under the Organization portion of the form and sent, along with chapter bylaws and dues from new national American Harp Society, Inc. members, to the Chapter Committee.

Upon approval by the Executive Committee, a charter will be prepared and forwarded to the President of the chapter. Each chapter is entirely free to operate according to the needs and interests of its membership and community, subject to the provisions of the Bylaws of the American Harp Society, Inc.

A chapter charter is not transferable, and upon dissolution of a chapter its charter must be surrendered to the Society.

Charters may be withdrawn by the Board of Directors in the interest of the Society.

If, upon dissolution of a chapter, there will be any property remaining after the payment of or satisfaction in full of all just claims and demands against that chapter or the retention of moneys for such purpose, such property will be distributed to an organization or organizations which qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## Governing Documents

Chapters will adopt bylaws consistent with the Society's Bylaws. Chapters will elect such officers as may be necessary or desirable, but not less than a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

The authority and powers of each Chapter is limited by the Bylaws of the Society, by the acts of the Board of Directors, and by the following limitations:

Not less than a two-thirds vote of the membership of a chapter shall be required for dissolution of the chapter.

No chapter shall have the power to contract any financial obligations on behalf of the Society.

## Membership

All active members of the Society are eligible for membership in local chapters. Active membership in local chapters is contingent upon payment of such dues as are assessed by the chapters.

Chapters may establish and collect annual dues not in excess of the amount of national Society dues. Chapter dues are to be expended solely on behalf of the chapter and in pursuit of the aims and purposes of the Society.

Active membership may be transferred from chapter to chapter within the membership year without payment of additional dues.

Active chapter members who are active members of the American Harp Society have the right to serve as officers of a chapter, and exercise chapter voting privileges. Chapter members who are students of national members, immediate family members of local chapter members, and honorary members as defined by the Bylaws of the Society may not vote or hold chapter office.