

CONSTITUTION OF THE LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA (LAG)

PREAMBLE

We, linguists and other professionals who have a keen interest in the study of language in Ghana and beyond, having agreed to come together have solemnly declared our intentions to form an Association to be known as the **Linguistics Association of Ghana**. Now therefore, in pursuance of our objectives we do hereby solemnly and faithfully give ourselves this constitution this 5th day of February, 2010.

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of the Association shall remain LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA.

ARTICLE 2: OBJECT

The object of the Association shall be to advance the scholarly study of language by holding a minimum of one Scientific meeting annually at which papers shall be presented, by publishing the transactions of the Association, and by other means that membership may deem suitable.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Categories of membership

The following categories of members are proposed:

- 3.1.1 *Regular members*: they shall be persons holding academic positions in institutions of higher learning, or persons of equivalent standing.
- 3.1.2 *Student members*: they shall be (i) enrolled students of linguistics or of a cognate discipline or (ii) teaching / research assistants in any of these disciplines.
- 3.1.3 *Honorary members*: they shall be retired persons who express interest in the Association. However, any such persons may choose instead to be a Regular Member of the Association.
- 3.1.4 A person remains a member on payment of dues.
- 3.1.5 Regular members are the only category of members with voting rights and also eligible to stand for election.

3.2 Application Process

3.2.1 Everyone has to formally apply for membership to the Association. An application must be refereed by one *Regular Member* of the Association.

3.2.2 The application will be examined by the Secretary, under the supervision of the President, both acting on behalf of the Executive Committee, and a decision made based on Article 3.1.

3.2.3 The decision made will be communicated in writing to the applicant.

3.3 Dues

- 3.3.3 Regular members: GHC 60 per annum
- 3.3.4 Honorary members: GHC 30 per annum
- 3.3.5 Student members: GHC 20 per annum

These amounts are subject to periodic review at General meetings.

ARTICLE 4: ORGANISATION

- 4.1 The Association shall elect biennially a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and an Organising Secretary. The Association, through the elected officers, shall also appoint an Editor whose term of office shall run concurrently with that of the elected officers. All six officers shall be regular members of the Association. The six officers shall constitute the Executive Committee of LAG. The officers should come from at least three institutions represented within the Association.
- 4.2 A person shall not occupy the same elective office for more than two consecutive terms. However, a person may seek to return to the same office after two years of leaving that office; a person may proceed from one office to another without observing the two year break. There is no limit on the number of terms an Editor may serve.
- 4.3 There shall be at least one *Executive meeting* each year.
- 4.4 An annual *General meeting*, including a *Scientific meeting*, shall be held. Normally this meeting shall be held anytime from May to August, at which (i) papers shall be presented, (ii) the President, Treasurer and Editor shall present reports and (iii) fresh elections shall be held every two years.
- 4.5 The Executive Committee may call an *Emergency meeting* whenever the need arises.
- 4.6 A third of the number of Regular Members known to be in Ghana at the time of a general/emergency meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.
- 4.7 The Editor may co-opt an Assistant Editor with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Assistant Editor shall not serve on the Executive Committee.
- 4.8 Chapters in various institutions may be set up (i.e. when this is considered necessary) to strengthen grass-root participation.

ARTICLE 5: ELECTIONS

- 5.1 The general assembly will appoint an Electoral Officer to take charge of general as well as by-elections. His/her term of office shall run concurrently with that of elected office-bearers. He may be re-appointed to carry out this specific duty only.
- 5.2 The Electoral Officer shall call for nominations at least one month prior to the General meeting at which elections shall be held.
- 5.3 A nominee must confirm interest in writing (electronic or hard copy) to the Electoral Officer at least five working days prior to the elections day.
- 5.4 Only paid-up Regular Members may vote.
- 5.5 A person wins an election by securing a simple majority of the votes.

ARTICLE 6: OFFICE-BEARERS

- 6.1 The President shall be the legal representative of the Association, preside at meetings, and have general oversight responsibility for the running of the Association.
- 6.2 The Vice-President shall assist the President in steering the affairs of the association and shall deputise for the President when he/she is absent.
- 6.3 The Secretary, under the authority of the President, shall implement the policies of the Association, conduct the correspondence, prepare documents, and see to the general administration of the Association.
- 6.4 The Treasurer, under the authority of the President, shall see to the financial and other resources of the Association and to the discharging of its financial obligations.
- 6.5 The Editor shall oversee the publication of the transactions of the Association and any other material approved by the Association. The Editor may co-opt a member of the Association to serve as Assistant Editor. The Editor may also co-opt any other members to assist in the execution of his/her duties.
- 6.6 The Organising Secretary shall, under the authority of the President, take steps that lead to successful organisation of events of the Association.

ARTICLE 7: RESOURCES

- 7.1 The resources of the Association shall be derived from the contributions of its members and any grants, donations or subventions accepted by the Association to be used in conformity with its aims as defined under Article 2.
- 7.2 Membership dues shall be set by the Executive body with the approval of a majority of members present at an Annual General meeting.
- 7.3 In conformity with Article 6, the President and, under his/her authority, the Secretary and Treasurer shall be empowered to administer the resources of the Association, and to enter into contracts related to the implementation and financing of projects approved by the Association.
- 7.4 A bank account shall be kept at a commercial bank and the signatures of any one of the following three (President, Secretary, Treasurer) and any other officer shall be required for signing cheques drawn on this account.
- 7.5 An auditor shall be contracted periodically to audit our financial statements.

ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENT

- 8.1 A proposal to amend the constitution shall be considered valid if a member submits the proposal in writing (either electronically or in hard copy) to all members, indicating the approval of at least ten members.
- 8.2 The constitution may be amended if the proposal secures the approval of at least two-thirds majority of the members present at the Association's General meeting.

ARTICLE 9: EFFECTIVE DATE

The Constitution of the Linguistics Association of Ghana shall become effective on 5th of February, 2010.