**CONSTITUTION OF  
THE MICHIGAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

This Association shall be known as the Michigan Sociological Association or MSA.

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The purpose of the MSA shall be to (1) promote an exchange of ideas concerning, and (2) develop methods designed to promote, the following objectives: (a) to improve sociological thought within the academic environment, (b) to improve sociological thought and practice within the public and private sectors, (c) to encourage development and collaboration, (d) to encourage quality teaching and innovation, (e) to increase public awareness of the contribution of sociology, (f) to provide a vehicle whereby sociologists can network together for personal and professional growth, (g) to maintain affiliations with appropriate national and regional sociological associations.

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

Regular membership in this Association shall be open to the following persons:

(a) Those holding a bachelor's or graduate degree or its equivalent in sociology or a related field. (b) Those teaching sociology or a related topic at or above the high school level. (c) Those who are engaged in sociologically related research or practice. (d) Undergraduate or graduate students majoring in sociology or a related field.

**ARTICLE IV – FEES**

The annual membership fee and other special assessments to members shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE V – ELECTED OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

SECTION 1. The elected Officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice- President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Executive Officer.

SECTION 2. The elected officers and the Board of Directors shall be elected from and by the regular membership.

SECTION 3. The President and Vice-President shall be elected annually in the annual meeting. The Treasurer and Secretary are elected for two-year terms and the Executive Officer for a three-year term in the annual meeting by members present and voting.

SECTION 4. The President shall have the following major responsibilities: (a) Shape the annual conference, (b) call regular Board of Directors meetings, (c) be in charge of representing the MSA in all official capacities, (d) send requests each fall to departments of sociology for institutional membership dues, (e) guide the Board in developing appropriate policies for MSA.

SECTION 5. The Vice President shall assume all the duties and responsibilities

of the President whenever the latter is unable to do so, and may perform other

functions that shall be assigned by the President and/or the Board of Directors. In addition, the Vice President shall serve as Program Chair for the Annual Conference in the year following election as Vice-President. In that capacity, the Vice President will: (a) support the intellectual leadership to the Annual Meeting by encouraging the submission of session and paper proposals, (b) coordinate with the Board in the development of the Annual Meeting program, (c) produce the Annual Conference program in its final form, (d) collaborate with the Webmaster to ensure the final program is posted to the Association’s web page in a timely fashion, and (e) coordinate with the Webmaster to ensure that e-mail messages sent to the Association’s web site are read and appropriately handled.

SECTION 6. The Executive Officer assists liaison between the MSA and other organizations, associations and groups, the government, and individuals; helps maintain continuity of correspondence and records; oversees transitions when new officers are elected; and performs such other functions as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Executive Officer is an ex officio member of the Board of Directors in the event she or he is not also an elected Board member.

SECTION 7. The Treasurer shall handle all the finances of the Association,  
which shall include collection and disbursement of funds, subject to the approval  
of the President and/or the Board of Directors, choice of the appropriate  
depository of the Association's funds, and the submission of necessary forms  
and tax reports as required. The treasurer shall maintain liability insurance on the operations of the organization, its officers and members of the Board of Directors. Expenses encountered by the officers in pursuance of the interests of the Association shall be reimbursed by the Association, subject to the rules and regulations that shall be promulgated by the Membership and/or the Board of Directors, and subject further to the availability of funds. The Treasurer shall present an annual report to the business session of the annual business meeting accounting for all funds.

SECTION 8. The Secretary shall coordinate correspondence and mailings between the Board and MSA members and correspondence to other groups and persons as needed and record and disseminate minutes of all Board and membership meetings.

SECTION 9. Elected officers and the elected and appointed members of the Board of Directors have indemnity protected to the full extent of the law.

SECTION 10. Board of Directors. In addition to the elected officers and ex officio members, the Board shall consist of up to thirteen (13) members, constituting  
both applied and teaching sociologists, from all geographic areas of the state,  
and from all levels of academic settings. There will also be up to four (4)  
students represented as voting members of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 11. The Board of Directors shall consider all matters of policy and management of the MSA, and unless authorized to act by this constitution or by a vote of the membership of the MSA shall submit recommendations at the annual meeting for the consideration of the membership assembled.

**ARTICLE VI – APPOINTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

SECTION 1. ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHAIR

The Annual Conference Chair shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall work with the Board in planning and coordinating the annual conference and shall oversee the conference on site. The Conference Chair arranges for services needed for the conference including all facilities required and food served. Working with the Secretary and the Board, the conference chair solicits participation in the conference and compiles and has published the conference preliminary and final programs coordinating all sessions. The Conference Chair shall exercise due care that the costs are within the limits approved by the Board. If not an elected member of the Board, the conference chair is an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. EDITOR OF THE MICHIGAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW

The Editor or the Michigan Sociological Review shall be appointed by the Board of Directors for a renewable term of three years. The Editor shall be responsible for seeing that the journal is edited and published using appropriate professional standards within the budget approved by the Board. If not an elected member of the Board, the Editor of the MSR is an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. MSA WEB PAGE MANAGER

The MSA Web Page Manager shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall have the responsibility for maintaining the MSA web pages on the Internet as directed by the Board. If not an elected member of the Board, the Web Page Manager is an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Each spring, a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President to nominate persons for the various offices and the Board of Directors. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be made in the business session of the annual meeting. Submission of nominees by the Nominating Committee shall not preclude nominations from the floor.

SECTION 5. AWARDS COMMITTEE

Each spring, an Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President to nominate persons for the Charles Horton Cooley Award for distinguished contributions to sociological scholarship, the Marvin Olsen Award for distinguished service to sociology, the Larry T. Reynolds Award for outstanding teaching of sociology and such other awards as the Board may designate. The report of the Awards Committee shall be made to the Board prior to the annual conference. The Board, by a simple majority, shall determine the award recipients based exclusively on merit. The award winners shall be announced at the annual conference.

SECTION 6. AD HOC COMMITTEES

The Board may appoint ad hoc committees to address specific issues as the need may arise. Such committees shall act under the supervision of the Board of Directors in accordance with the guidelines set by the Board and within the limits imposed by this constitution.

**ARTICLE VII – MEMBER SERVICES**

SECTION 1. The Association shall hold at least one meeting each year. The meeting is to be at such a time and place the MSA Board of Directors may decide. A quorum is defined as one third of the board members, representing at least three institutions.

SECTION 2. Communications and publications, as the Board may decide appropriate, will be made available to members.

SECTION 3. The journal, the Michigan Sociological Review, will be published and made available to all members. The frequency of publication shall be determined by the Board.

SECTION 4. The editorial policies of the Association's publication activities shall be determined by the regular members or the Board of Directors, as the latter may be authorized by the members.

**ARTICLE VIII – FUNDING**

The Association, through its members, the Board of Directors, officers and committees may secure additional funds for the Association in addition to its regular fees, including the investment of the Association's funds not used in the business of the Association. Any such funding activity shall be regulated by the Board of Directors, so as not to impair the Association's status as a non-profit organization.

**ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION**

SECTION 1. Should conditions warrant, the Association may be dissolved by approval of two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors present at a meeting scheduled with at least two week's advance notice.

SECTION 2. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, any assets remaining after payment of obligations will be transferred to the American Sociological Association (a not-for-profit organization) for its use.

**ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1. This Constitution, or portions thereof, may be amended in  
any business meeting of the Association after two weeks notice has been given to the membership, by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

SECTION 2. Unless otherwise specified, all amendments shall take effect upon approval.

***Constitution Adopted October 16, 1999.***

***Constitutional Amendment Adopted October 7, 2006***

*Article VI, Section 5, was amended to add, "the Larry T. Reynolds Award for outstanding teaching of sociology," October 7, 2006 at the annual business meeting of the Association on the campus of Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan.*

***Constitutional Amendment Adopted October 27, 2012***

*On October 27, 2012 at the annual business meeting of the Association on the campus of Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, several amendments were made. Article V, Section 7 was modified to include the sentence, “The treasurer shall maintain liability insurance on the operations of the organization, its officers and members of the Board of Directors.” A new section was added (after section 8, became the new Section 9) to Article V. Section 9 reads, “Elected officers and the elected and appointed members of the Board of Directors have indemnity protection to the full extent of the law.” The old Sections 9 and 10 under Article V were renumbered to become Sections 10 and 11. The following sentence was added to the new Section 10 under Article V, “A quorum is defined as one third of the board members, representing at least three institutions.”*

***Constitutional Amendment Adopted October 22, 2016***

*In accordance with MSA guidelines, this is notice that membership will be voting on the following constitutional amendments at the MSA Annual Business Meeting - Saturday October 22, Crawford room 205, Lake Superior State University at 4:30 pm.*

*On October 22, 2016 at the annual business meeting of the Michigan Sociological Association on the campus Lake Superior State University, two amendments were made to the Constitution. Article II, Section (g) was changed from “be a member of the National Council of State Sociological Associations” to “maintain affiliations with appropriate national and regional sociological associations.” This is in response to the inactive status of the NCSSA.*

*Article VI, Section 2 concerns the duties of the Editor of the Michigan Sociological Review. The original sentence was “The Editor or the Michigan Sociological Review shall be appointed by the Board of Directors” and will change to “The Editor or the Michigan Sociological Review shall be appointed by the Board of Directors for a renewable term of three years.” This planning will allow for an easier transition of duties.*

***Constitutional Amendment Adopted October 28, 2017***

*Suggested Changes to Section 5 of the Constitution*

*Duties of the Office of Vice President*

*SECTION 5. The Vice President shall assume all the duties and responsibilities*

*of the President whenever the latter is unable to do so, and may perform other*

*functions that shall be assigned by the President and/or the Board of Directors. In addition, the Vice President shall serve as Program Chair for the Annual Conference in the year following election as Vice-President. In that capacity, the Vice President will: (a) support the intellectual leadership to the Annual Meeting by encouraging the submission of session and paper proposals, (b) coordinate with the Board in the development of the Annual Meeting program, (c) produce the Annual Conference program in its final form, (d) collaborate with the Webmaster to ensure the final program is posted to the Association’s web page in a timely fashion, and (e) coordinate with the Webmaster to ensure that e-mail messages sent to the Association’s web site are read and appropriately handled.*

*Justification for the Constitutional Amendment: This change will facilitate conference planning and improve communication within the MSA.*