

Proposed March 17, 1994

BY-LAWS, NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER, SPJ

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The New England Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists was established (as a chapter of Sigma Delta Chi--SDX) in 1947 to bring together in good fellowship journalists devoted to advancing the quality of their profession. It is our continuing aim to promote diligent, honest journalism, to safeguard the free flow of information to the people, and to encourage those who wish to enter journalism and to devote their lives to it. We seek to foster the highest ethical standards. We stand dedicated to the great principles of SPJ: talent, energy, truth.

ARTICLE ONE

Section 1--The name of this organization shall be the New England Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ).

ARTICLE TWO

Section 1--The Chapter, its officers and members shall adhere to all the provisions of the By-Laws of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ).

Section 2--By-Laws of the New England Chapter, SPJ, may be amended only by a two-thirds majority of accredited professional members present at a meeting, and only after 10-days' written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the members of the Chapter by the Secretary.

Section 3--A copy of these By-Laws and all future amendments shall be given to each new member of the Chapter.

ARTICLE THREE

Section 1--A fee to include both the national membership and Chapter fees shall be paid by each professional member at the time of initiation. The required portion of the fee shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters of SPJ to be used in such a manner as the Constitution, By-Laws and special acts of SPJ shall provide. The balance of each initiation and membership fee shall be placed in the treasury of the New England Chapter.

Section 2--Expenditure of funds of the New England Chapter must be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee, except that expenditures of \$25 or less may be approved by the President and Treasurer.

Section 3--Annual dues of the New England Chapter shall be set by the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by a two-thirds vote at a regular chapter meeting, after 10-days' notice has been given to members.

Section 4--Chapter dues become payable on the anniversary date of a member's initiation. The membership dues invoice sent to each member by the National Headquarters shall serve as notice from the Chapter. Members shall be considered delinquent three months after the due date. Delinquents shall be subject to suspension, and suspended members shall be so notified.

ARTICLE FOUR

Section 1--Chapter officers shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2--The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, the immediate past president and a member of the Chapter. The President shall be chairman.

Section 3--Officers shall be elected at the regular June meeting. A slate of officers shall be presented by the Nominating Committee. Nominations may be made by any member of the Chapter. A nominee receiving a majority vote shall be elected. Officers shall assume office as soon as elected.

Section 4--A vacant office shall be filled by the Executive Committee, except for the office of President. The First Vice President Shall succeed to the office of President if a vacancy occurs there.

ARTICLE FIVE

Section 1--The Executive Committee shall meet in advance of any regular Chapter meeting and perform such functions as are in conformity with the By-Laws.

Section 2--Four votes shall be required for affirmative action by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE SIX

Section 1--The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Chapter. The President shall preside at all meetings, shall appoint committees, establish and maintain relations with other organizations and carry out the duties of the office set forth in the By-Laws, special motions and Chapter recommendations.

Section 2--The First Vice President shall preside at meetings of the Chapter and the Executive Committee in the absence of the President. The First Vice President shall function as the Program Chairman and perform such other duties as the Chapter may direct.

Section 3--The Second Vice President shall assist the President or First Vice President and act in their absence.

Section 4--The Secretary shall care for the general correspondence of the Chapter, keep membership records and supervise issuance of credentials for the Chapter. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Chapter and Executive Committee and other activities as required.

Section 5--The Treasurer shall receive all funds of the Chapter, pay them out as ordered, keep records of funds and report the Chapter financial condition to the Executive Committee periodically. A financial statement shall be presented to the Chapter no later than July 1, or one week after the Treasurer leaves office, whichever comes first.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Section 1--At least six regular meetings shall be held during the chapter year.

Section 2--Meeting notices shall be mailed to members at least 10 days in advance.

Section 3--Initiation ceremonies shall be held as designated by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Section 1--Standing Committees of the Chapter shall consist of Membership, Nominations, Audit, and Board of Trustees of the Academy of New England Journalists. Special committees shall be named by the President at the direction of the Executive Committee or of the Chapter.

ARTICLE NINE

Section 1--The Membership Committee shall review carefully all candidates for membership.

Section 2--A three-member Nominations Committee shall prepare a slate to present at the annual meeting.

Section 3--The Audit Committee, consisting of a chairman and no fewer than two other members, shall review the financial records of the Chapter after the annual June meeting and report to the Chapter at the September meeting.

ARTICLE TEN

Section 1--All persons admitted to membership in the Chapter shall have been approved by National SPJ.

Section 2--A member of SPJ seeking affiliation with the New England Chapter must file an application with the Chapter Secretary, must present credentials, and must be approved for affiliation by the Executive Committee.

Section 3--Nominations for membership may be made at any Chapter meeting or in writing to the Secretary, who shall forward them to the Membership Committee.

Section 4--The Membership Committee shall propose action on nominees to the Executive Committee. No one may be a Chapter member who is not also a member of National SPJ.

Section 5--When a candidate has been approved under provisions of Section 4, the Secretary shall inform National SPJ as prescribed by SPJ By-Laws and instructions.

Section 6--Initiation of new members into SPJ shall be held in accordance with National SPJ By-Laws.

Section 7--A suspended member shall be reinstated on payment of past dues and Executive Committee approval.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

Section 1--The Academy of New England Journalists shall be maintained and administered jointly by the New England Chapter of SPJ and the New England Society of Newspaper Editors, in accordance with the agreement endorsed by both organizations in March, 1992.

Section 2--The Academy and the Yankee Quill Awards it has sponsored since 1960 shall continue in accordance with the original statement of purpose: "...to recognize achievement in the profession. Election to the Academy is not based on a single distinguished achievement in news reporting or editorial writing, or on development of a publication of purely local impact. Rather, election recognizes the effort and dedication of those in New England who have had a broad influence for good in the field of journalism."

Section 3--Administration of the Academy, election of new fellows through the Yankee Quill Awards, and the Awards Dinner shall be handled by a Joint Committee consisting of the NESNE officers and the Academy Board of Trustees. The trustees shall be appointed annually by the President of the New England Chapter. They shall consist of the immediate past president, who shall be chairman; the current Chapter officers; the President of the institution housing the Academy archives; a second representative of that institution, appointed by its President; three fellows of the Academy; and five other members of the Chapter.

Section 4--The Academy room, its archives and plaques recording names of all the fellows (formerly at Colby College) shall be situated in the Journalism Department of Northeastern University. The room, its historical records and plaques shall be under jurisdiction of the Academy trustee named by the President of Northeastern.

Section 5--Election to the Academy shall be voted by the Joint Committee, from nominations made by members of both organizations and other journalists in New England. The fellows may be chosen from living journalists or posthumously. They may range across the entire field, including daily and weekly newspapers, radio and television news and editorial departments and other communication forms.

Section 6-- It shall be the responsibility of the Joint Committee to consider all nominations thoroughly and impartially and obtain additional information if necessary. Final selections shall be made by written ballot. The vote of each member shall have equal weight.

Section 7--NESNE shall become administrator and treasurer of the Yankee Quill Awards Dinner, which traditionally is held late in October. Duties shall be divided among members of a four-person Dinner Committee. NESNE shall appoint two members of this committee and the SPJ president shall appoint the other two--all Joint Committee members.

Each member of the Dinner Committee shall be responsible for one of four tasks, assigned by NESNE and the SPJ president. The four tasks are: mailings/nominations, location/dinner arrangements, programs/guest speaker (if there is to be one), and plaques. The person in charge of location and dinner arrangements shall also be chairperson of the Dinner Committee and be responsible for overseeing the event. NESNE shall print and mail nominations forms and dinner invitations to members of both groups and other journalists who might be interested.

Every effort shall be made to put the dinner on a self-sustaining basis. The two organizations shall share equally in any profit or deficit from the dinner.