

National Market News Association Bylaws

ARTICLE I - ESTABLISHMENT

The name of this Association shall be the National Market News Association and its principal place of business shall be in the city and place designated by the members at the annual/biennial conference of the Executive Committee. The latter is hereby authorized to establish offices wherever it may deem advisable.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

The objective of this association is to perfect the organization of Market Reporter, Market News and Information Specialist, or Analysis, etc., for the purpose of improving market information in line with changes in the marketing system; discussing reporting or other Market News procedural techniques; the industry; and consideration of mutual technical problems.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The organization shall be a membership organization with no capital stock, and no dividends or pecuniary profit of any character shall inure the benefit of any member. All market reporters, Market News and Information Specialist Analysts, and all persons interested in accomplishing the purpose of this association shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. There shall be three classes of membership in this association.

A. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP - Any person actively engaged as a Market Reporter or as Market News or Information Specialist or Analyst in any government agency shall be eligible for regular membership.

B. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - Any individual, company or firm engaged in work which promotes the objectives of this association is eligible for associate membership upon approval of the Executive Committee. Associate members shall be entitled to be regularly accredited delegates to all meetings. Such delegates shall be eligible to membership of all committees, but may not hold committee chairship office in the Association.

C. HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP- Honorary Lifetime Membership may be conferred by the Executive Committee as a mark of respect or distinction upon persons who have rendered eminent service in Market News, Marketing Information, the marketing profession, or to this Association.

Section 3. Any member may be expelled upon the finding of the Executive Committee that he or she does not possess the requirements for membership, or who shall be adjudged by the committee to have violated the Constitution or Bylaws of the Association, or who, in the opinion of the Committee, has been guilty of conduct prejudicial to the Association. Voting shall be limited to regular membership only.

ARTICLE IV - DUES

Dues for membership shall be fixed at seven dollars \$7.00 annually or \$14.00 biennially on a uniform basis for all classes of membership for the ensuing calendar year, but may be changed upon approval by a majority vote of the members present and in good standing at the annual/biennial conference of the association. Honorary Lifetime Members shall be exempt from payment of dues. Dues may be paid at the annual/biennial conference or at any time during the year. New Market News reporters shall receive a free membership, exempt from dues payment, from the association for their first year.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

The officers of the association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian and such other officers as the Executive Committee may deem advisable. The Historian will serve as a permanent

position or as approved by the Executive Committee as they deem appropriate. The succeeding President shall not reside in the same state as their predecessor.

ARTICLE VI - VACANCIES

Vacancies occurring among the officers, or within any standing committee of the association, may be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER AND HISTORIAN

Section 1. **PRESIDENT** - The president shall preside at all meetings of the association and of the Executive Committee, preside at all meetings of members, both general and special, and shall have the general supervision of all business of the association and of the Executive Committee, term of office shall be restricted to two years, and at least two years must elapse before being eligible for reelection to president.

The president shall also assume duties as Editor in conjunction with compiling and disseminating the association's newsletter, the "Communicator."

Section 2. **VICE PRESIDENT** - The vice president shall consult with, counsel, and advise the president. In the absence or disability of the president, presidential duties shall be performed by the vice president.

The vice president shall also assume duties as Editor in conjunction with compiling and disseminating the association's newsletter, the "Communicator."

Section 3. **TREASURER** - The treasurer shall receive all the funds paid to the association and shall deposit same in the name of the association at an accredited bank in the city where the treasurer resides, subject to withdrawal upon the treasurer's signature. The treasurer shall bill all members for dues applicable to this respective group and pay all bills of the association approved by the president, submit a report to the president at any time the president may so request, give bond in such amount as the Executive Committee directs, the cost of which shall be paid by the association.

Section 4. **SECRETARY** - The secretary shall keep all records of the association, shall take and keep minutes of all meetings of the members and Executive Committee, and shall give notice of such meetings. Subject to approval of the Executive Committee, may employ such assistants and assign to them such duties as he or she may deem necessary. At the close of each conference, the secretary shall render an annual/biennial report, including the treasurer's financial accounting to the president. This report shall be available to all members and shall be provided to any member upon request.

Section 5. **HISTORIAN** - The historian shall maintain all historical records of the Association, including but not limited to, the Secretary's, Treasurer's, and committee reports, past President Awards, Scholarship and Bylaw records. Other duties may be assigned by the Executive Committee as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. There will be an Executive Committee consisting of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, historian, ex-Officio MNAA President and the five most recent past presidents in good standing with the association. In the interim between conferences, the Executive Committee shall have the power to transact all business of the association. The Executive Committee shall meet upon the call of the president, and the president shall call meetings of the Committee upon the written request of a majority of its members. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The Executive Committee may transact business by mail, voting upon specific proposals mailed to them by the president. Under such circumstances, a majority vote of the Executive Committee shall control. The Executive Committee should try to meet at least once a year.

Section 2. **OTHER COMMITTEES** - The president shall appoint the following committees with the Executive Officers serving as committee chairpersons. No person except the president can chair more than two

committees each year. Committee memberships shall represent the majority (3 or more) of the commodities represented in the National Market News Association.

A. Advisory Committee - Committee shall consist of Past President, Historian and Treasurer. Duties will consist of overall program review as submitted by NMNA President and his or her program committee. The advisory committee will provide guidance in such areas as overall program content including and not limited to NMNA financial responsibilities.

B. Awards Committee - To include Reporter of the Year, Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Support Award, Distinguished Support Staff Award. "Committee memberships shall represent the majority (3 or more) of the commodities represented in the National Market News Association."

C. Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

D. Achievement Recognition

1. Membership to include the vice president of the association.

2. Publishing in the Communicator prior to the annual/biennial conference and in the program at the annual/biennial workshop a list of Market News Federal and/or State personnel who have received Market News achievement awards, or complete certification requirements as reporters during the past years.

3. An achievement status list is to be requested from each commodity represented in the National Market News Association including Federal and State.

E. Nominating

F. Resolutions and Bylaws

G. Membership

H. Program - Membership to include president, vice president, representatives of USDA, AMS and other persons deemed necessary at the discretion of the president.

I. Scholarship - Membership to include president, vice president, and treasurer.

ARTICLE IX - CONFERENCES

There shall be an annual/biennial workshop conference of all members of this association at such time and place recommended by the president and approved by the Executive Committee. All business coming before the conference shall be disposed of by a majority vote of the regular members present.

Special meetings shall be called by the President upon written request of a majority of the executive committee, or upon written petition of 10% or more of the regular members.

Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the president at any time upon 15 days written notice to each member of the committee, including notice of the business to be considered.

ARTICLE X - PARLIAMENTARY RULES

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the governing parliamentary law of the association in all cases not definitely provided for by its constitution or its own rules.

ARTICLE XI - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this association shall be from one calendar year to the succeeding one, and all membership fees shall be for such fiscal year.

ARTICLE XII - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Elections at annual/biennial conferences shall be by the majority of regular members present at the time of election. Voting may be either by standing vote or by secret ballot as may be determined by the conference.

At each annual/biennial conference, the president shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members. This committee shall receive and prepare nominations for all elected offices and present such nominations to the conference after which nominations may be received from the floor.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

Regular members at any conference may alter or amend these Bylaws by a majority vote of all regular members present at such conference.

ARTICLE XIV - SEAL

The seal of the association shall be in rectangle form and contain the following "NMNA" seal used



on newsletters adopted as the official seal of the association.

ARTICLE XV - AWARDS

Section 1. MARKET NEWS REPORTER OF THE YEAR - The association shall make an annual/biennial award entitled "Market News Reporter of the Year". This award shall be presented in recognition of outstanding achievements in agricultural or fisheries market news reporting that inspires and encourages professional improvements in others. This award signifies the application of superior judgment, diligence, and capabilities above the normal requirements of a job assignment.

A. The Market News Reporter of the Year shall be selected by the Awards Committee.

B. The following guidelines for the selection of Market News Reporter of the Year are offered:

The Committee is not asked to choose the "best" person. The committee is asked to choose a representative of the market news profession.

Nominations should come from the NMNA membership and from members of the committee.

Nominations are not to be considered as votes.

1. The chairperson of the committee will send copies of all nominations to each member of the committee.
2. The chairperson should poll each committee member for other nominees.
3. The chairperson should poll each committee member for their selection of three persons for further consideration.
4. The chairperson should poll the committee with the results of the previous poll, and poll the committee members for their choice of two nominees for further consideration.
5. Each committee member should be polled for a final decision between the two remaining nominees.

Section 2. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - May be conferred by the association upon a person(s) for recognition of leadership in their profession and for encouragement and support for the market news reporting services. This award shall be made only after the most careful deliberation by the Awards Committee, from time to time, as may be appropriate. The number of awards is limited to two per conference but no more than one award for each commodity represented in the NMNA.

Section 3. DISTINGUISHED SUPPORT AWARD - May be conferred by the association upon a person(s) or organization(s) who have been unrelenting in their support and encouragement of the ideals, goals and objectives of the National Market News Association and/or Market News. This award shall be made from time to time, as deemed appropriate, and after most careful deliberation by the Awards Committee. The number of

awards is limited to two per conference but no more than one award for each commodity represented in the NMNA.

Criteria:

A. Must be an individual(s) or group from the agricultural industry, which may include federal and state governments, universities, colleges or other commercial status organizations.

B. Administrative individuals within federal and state agencies are eligible.

C. Reporters, secretaries and clerical staff are not eligible.

Section 4. DISTINGUISHED SUPPORT STAFF AWARD - May be conferred by the association upon a person(s) for recognition of meritorious and outstanding performance in their profession and for service, support and encouragement of the Market News Reporting Service. The number of awards is limited to two per year but no more than one award for each commodity represented in the NMNA.

Section 5. NMNA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD – Presented in recognition of active Market Reporters who have passed away.

1. May be conferred by the association upon an individual for outstanding contributions to the agriculture industry through academics, leadership, and high moral character. This award shall be made only after the most careful deliberation by the Scholarship Committee. The treasurer will give an accounting of the scholarship fund at the annual/biennial conference. The scholarship amount awarded at each conference will be determined by the Scholarship Committee, and shall not exceed the interest earned on the scholarship fund and the interest accrued by the association accounts.

The principal of the scholarship fund is to be invested in Certificates of Deposit in a federally insured institution.

Criteria:

A. Student in good standing at an agriculture college/university in the state of the presiding president.

B. Major field of study in the following: Agriculture, Animal Science, Economics, Marketing or other agriculture commodity field encompassing the NMNA membership.

C. Has a financial need, but this is not the sole determining criteria.

Committee selection is to be made through the college/university in the state of the presiding president.

2. On behalf of the Association, the President or appointed representative will present a plaque to the family of the deceased, at an appropriate time, to identify and recognize contributions by the individual(s) who passed away during active duty the past twelve months.