



SOCIÉTÉ HONORAIRE
DE FRANÇAIS

Société Honoraire de Français of the American Association of Teachers of French Constitution

Our vision is to become a leading organization in the promotion and appreciation of the French language and francophone cultures. We aspire to cultivate a community of lifelong learners and culturally aware individuals who contribute to a more connected and inclusive world.

Article I. **Name**

The name of this honorary organization shall be the *Société Honoraire de Français* (SHF) of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF).

Article II. **Mission**

The mission of the SHF shall be to stimulate interest in the study of the French language and Francophone cultures, to promote high standards of scholarship, to reward scholastic achievements, and to foster an inclusive and supportive environment for all learners. We aim to create enthusiasm for and a deep understanding of the diverse francophone world, encourage cultural exchange, and promote national and international friendship and collaboration.

Article III. **Affiliation**

The *Société Honoraire de Français* was established through presidential order by the American Association of Teachers of French in 1949 as an affiliate of the AATF.

Article IV. **Membership: Charters**

A charter of the *Société Honoraire de Français* may be established by a current AATF member in any secondary school. Chartered homeschools shall be added to a state-designated SHF charter, e.g. Homeschools of Virginia. Each established charter will be issued an official charter number. Each *Société Honoraire de Français* charter is expected to establish its own constitution and bylaws based upon the national constitution standards. Individual charters are able to establish a charter name if so desired.

Article V. **National Council**

The *Société Honoraire de Français* shall operate under the direction of the SHF National Council. The officers of the organization shall be

1. **President** elected by the sponsors of active SHF and JAF charters.
2. **Two Teacher Representatives** elected by the sponsors of active SHF and JAF charters.
3. **Secretary** appointed by the Executive Director of the AATF.

These officers along with the Editor of *L'Elan*, the Executive Director of the AATF, and the national President of the AATF or his or her designee shall constitute the SHF National Council.

It is preferable to have at least one (1) member of the SHF National Council be a current or former JAF Sponsor.

Article VI. **Annual Meeting**

The SHF National Council shall meet annually. This meeting will be held at a time mutually agreed upon by all members of the SHF National Council.

Article VII. **Amendments**

This Constitution will be reviewed annually at the National Council meeting and may be amended. Amendments may be offered by any active charter sponsor or by the SHF National Council. Based on the majority vote of SHF National Council, notice of the proposed amendments shall be published in *L'Elan* at least one issue prior to consideration and the amendments shall be posted on the AATF website. Amendments shall be adopted by a plurality of the votes cast by the sponsors of active SHF and JAF charters.

Article VIII. **Bylaws**

Section I. **Membership**

1. Eligibility Requirements to be met by all *Société Honoraire de Français* sponsors:
 - a. The sponsor of the charter must be a current member of the AATF.
 - b. If the SHF charter is sponsored by more than one person, all sponsors must be current members of the AATF.
 - c. In the case of a chartered homeschool; each individual/teacher nominating students must be a current member of the AATF.
 - d. All SHF sponsors must maintain current membership in the AATF.
2. General Eligibility Requirements to be met by all students:
 - a. Selection of candidates shall be the responsibility of the sponsor/s.
 - b. Membership eligibility will be based primarily on scholarship in French.
 - c. Invitation to membership shall be restricted to those students actively engaged in the study of French in a secondary school when appropriate courses are available, or when outside courses become part of the student's secondary transcript, credits, and grade point average.
 - d. Candidates must be enrolled in the fourth semester of French or higher, i.e., the second semester of Level II or the equivalent.
 - e. Candidates for the SHF must be in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade of high school. Exceptions can be made for 9th grade students who meet requirement "d" above because of work at the middle school or junior high level.
 - f. Transfer students must have spent at least one full semester in the high school before becoming eligible for invitation to membership.
 - g. Selection of candidates and induction ceremonies may take place at any time during the academic year.
3. Scholastic Eligibility Requirements to be met for induction:
 - a. Candidates must have maintained a grade of at least A- (or equivalent) in French for three consecutive semesters prior to induction.
4. Member Status
 - a. Any further requirements for continuing membership must be included in the bylaws of the local charter of the *Société Honoraire de Français*.
 - i. The sponsor of the *Société Honoraire de Français* is empowered to revoke a student's membership, based on requirements stated in the local SHF charter constitution, bylaws, or school policies.

Section II. **Dues and Fees**

1. A one-time fee for creating an SHF charter must be included with any charter applications. The amount of this fee shall be designated by the SHF National Council.
 - a. If an SHF charter is inactive, a reactivation fee as designated by the SHF National Council shall apply.
2. An induction fee for official student membership must be paid to the AATF and is payable at the time of induction. The amount of this fee shall be designated by the SHF National Council.
 - a. Induction fees are payable once, and the inductee remains a member of the *Société Honoraire de Français* as long as the inductee is a secondary school student in good standing as defined by the local SHF charter.

Section III. Awards

1. Upon selection and payment of the induction fee, candidates shall be awarded an official certificate of membership to the *Société Honoraire de Français*.
2. SHF charters may designate awards of their own in addition to the official SHF certificates.
3. Graduating members of the *Société Honoraire de Français* may wear blue, white, and red honor cords or white cords.
4. An official *Société Honoraire de Français* seal may be affixed to the student's diploma and/or certificate.

Section IV. Charter Status

1. For a charter to be considered active
 - a. the SHF charter sponsor must have current AATF membership.
 - b. at least one (1) student must be inducted, at minimum, once every two (2) years.
2. If the above requirements are not met, a charter shall be considered inactive.
 - a. To regain active status, the SHF sponsor must submit an application for reactivation accompanied by a charter reactivation fee.
3. Each charter of the *Société Honoraire de Français* may have its own local constitution and bylaws.
 - a. Requirements for membership may exceed the national constitution and bylaws, but may not require less.
4. Each SHF sponsor is strongly encouraged to submit an annual report.

Section V. Duties of the SHF National Council

1. The President
 - a. The President of the *Société Honoraire de Français* shall act as liaison officer with the AATF, shall promote the establishment of new JAF and SHF chapters, monitor the welfare of those already established, and shall preside over the SHF National Council.
 - b. The President shall respond to inquiries regarding eligibility and other SHF constitutional questions.
 - c. The President shall attend the annual AATF Convention and prepare the presentation of the JAF/SHF session.
 - d. The President shall arrange, in conjunction with the SHF Secretary and the Executive Director AATF, for the annual meeting of the SHF National Council.
 - e. The President shall issue the call for action when a matter requires an immediate decision in the interim between annual meetings.
2. The Secretary
 - a. The SHF secretary shall keep a record of all SHF charters and accounts.
 - i. The secretary shall keep the President of the *Société Honoraire de Français* informed of the activity related to any new SHF Charters, activity status of SHF Charters, student inductions, etc. of the *Société*.
 - b. The SHF secretary shall receive dues for the establishment of new SHF charters and issue official SHF charter numbers.
 - c. The SHF secretary shall receive student induction fees paid for official SHF membership and issue official certificates of membership.
 - d. The SHF secretary shall oversee the collection of annual reports from active SHF charters.
 - e. The Secretary shall keep an account of all financial transactions and shall render an accounting each year at the close of the fiscal year to the Executive Director of the AATF and the President of SHF. SHF financials are included in the annual audit of the AATF.
 - f. The Secretary shall compile a yearly report on the activities of the *Société Honoraire de Français* and shall send copies of this report to all members of the SHF National Council. This report shall also be distributed to the members of the Executive Council of the AATF.

3. **Teacher Representatives**
 - a. Each Teacher Representative shall assist and support the President in their duties as needed throughout the calendar year.
 - b. Each Teacher Representative shall attend the annual AATF Convention and aid in preparation and presentation of the AATF annual JAF/SHF session.
 - c. Each Teacher Representative shall participate in the JAF/SHF National Council annual meeting.
 - d. Each Teacher Representative shall assist the President in reviewing annual reports and sending requests to sponsors for articles in the Bourse aux Idées.
 - e. Each Teacher Representative should be elected from a different local AATF Chapter, as should their successor.
4. **The Editor**
 - a. The Editor of the *Jeunes Amis du Français/ Société Honoraire de Français* newsletter, *L'Élan*, shall be responsible for editing and publishing all content that appears in the newsletter.
 - b. *L'Élan* shall be published twice per year.

Section VI. Contests

1. The SHF National Council shall oversee any SHF or JAF sponsored contests or scholarship offers.
2. All judging and evaluations of contest submissions will be done in accordance with the policies set forth by the AATF.
3. An Awards Committee composed of selected members of the SHF National Council will be responsible to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of prize monies based on evaluations of submitted entries.

Section VII. Stipulations

1. SHF National Council shall act in the interim between conventions upon matters requiring an immediate decision. Such voting, requiring a simple majority for approval or disapproval, may take place electronically.
2. No person shall hold more than one office on the SHF National Council.
3. Students of members of the SHF National Council and the AATF Executive Council are eligible for all SHF and JAF awards.

Section VIII. Elections

1. The President, a current or former JAF or SHF charter sponsor, shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the sponsors of active SHF and JAF charters.
 - a. The President shall serve a term of three (3) years, beginning January 1st following their election.
 - b. The President may run for re-election and may serve a total of two (2) terms.
2. Teacher Representatives, current or former JAF or SHF charter sponsors, shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the sponsors of active SHF and JAF charters.
 - a. Each Teacher Representative shall serve a term of two (2) years, beginning January 1st following their election.
 - b. Each Teacher Representative may run for re-election and may serve a total of three (3) terms.
3. The position of Editor of *L'Élan* shall be chosen by application and interviewing committee with approval by the AATF Executive Council. The editor of *L'Élan* will serve a term of three (3) years.
 - a. The three (3) year term may be renewed pending an evaluation by the AATF Executive Council.
4. Should a position on the SHF National Council become vacant for any reason, the President of the AATF shall appoint a successor to serve for the rest of the term of the vacancy.
 - a. The successor may then run for additional terms as outlined.

Section IX. **Publications**

1. The *Société Honoraire de Français* shall publish a newsletter to be sent to all active SHF charter sponsors.
 - a. The official name of this publication shall be *L'Élan*.
2. All contests sponsored by the *Société Honoraire de Français* and any stipends or awards distributed shall be announced in *L'Élan*.

Section X. **Finances**

1. The fiscal year of the *Société Honoraire de Français* shall run concurrent with the fiscal year of the American Association of Teachers of French which is July 1 through June 30.
2. Compensation
 - a. Of the members of the SHF National Council, the SHF Secretary and the Executive Director of the AATF shall receive a salary, to be set by the Executive Council of the AATF.
 - b. The Editor of *L'Élan* shall receive compensation by action of the SHF National Council, to be confirmed by the Executive Council of the AATF.
 - c. Expenses shall be reimbursed according to a policy set by the SHF National Council, in accordance with policies set by the Executive Council of the AATF.

Last Revision – September 4, 2024