

# Constitution of the Kansas Athenaeum

## Preamble

We the undersigned, feeling the importance of an institution whose object shall be the encouragement of Literature and the Fine Arts, and believing such conducive to the best interests of Kansas, do hereby form ourselves into a Literary Association and adopt the following

## Constitution.

### Article first - Title.

The name of this Association shall be The Kansas Athenaeum.

### Article Second - Officers

The officers of this Association shall consist of one President, two Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and a Board of Regents, consisting of five, all of whom shall be elected annually by ballot.

### Article third - Duties of Officers

Sec 1<sup>st</sup> It shall be the duty of the President or, in his absence, of one of the Vice Presidents to preside over all meetings of the Association and maintain all rules established by Parliamentary usage.

Sec 2<sup>d</sup> It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to give notice of all meetings attend and keep a correct record of the same, and to notify Officers of their election.

Sec 3<sup>d</sup> The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct



the correspondence of the Athenium with other Societies and the public, notify members of their election, record all letters by him written, and preserve those received.

Sec 4 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect all monies due the Association, disburse the same under the direction of the Board of Regents, keep a correct account of the same, and to report annually and at such other times as the Board or Association shall direct.

Sec 5 The Librarian shall take charge of the Library and Reading Room, in a manner prescribed by the Association, keep a catalogue of the Books and a correct account of those distributed to members, report the condition of the Library when directed by the Association, and shall annually, in connection with the Board of Regents, examine and report the state of the Library, the number of volumes, and yearly increase.

Sec 6 It shall be the duty of the Board of Regents to procure suitable rooms for the Association and make provisions for furnishing, lighting, warming and keeping the same in order. They shall use suitable means for the increase and preservation of the Library, and together with the Librarian make an annual examination and report of the same, and shall superintend the publication of all documents, reports and circulars issued by the Association.

They shall devise means for obtaining the necessary funds for the Association - approve all accounts against the same previous to the payment of the same, by the Treasurer, and shall hold in trust all property real and personal belonging to the Association.

#### Article fourth; - Members

Members of the Association shall be classified



as follows - Members - Active Members - Life Members and Honorary Members

Article Fifth - Membership & privileges of Members

Sec 1 Any person may become a member of this Association by signing his name to the Constitution and paying one dollar annually, and shall have access to the Library and Reading Room

Sec 2 Any person may become an active member by receiving an election - signing his name to the Constitution - and paying two dollars annually, and shall thereby be eligible to office - allowed to vote on all matters pertaining to the government of the Association, and to participate in debates

Sec 3 Any person may become a Life Member by signing the Constitution and paying twenty five dollars and shall be allowed the same privileges as active members.

Sec 4 Honorary Members shall be constituted such by receiving an election.

Sec 5 No person shall be declared elected against whom five negative votes shall be cast.

Article Sixth - Meetings

Sec 1 The Board of Regents shall hold their first meeting on the first Monday in November and quarterly thereafter.

Sec 2 A special meeting of the Association may be called at any time by the Board of Regents or by a written petition of ten active members.

Sec 3 Meetings of the debating department consisting of



life and active members shall be holden weekly from the first Tuesday in November to the last Tuesday in March annually, the first to be holden on the first Tuesday of Nov. next.

The business of said meetings shall consist of Lectures, Debates and Essays.

### Article Seventh - Miscellaneous

Sec 1 There shall be a committee of three chosen annually by ballot, whose duty it shall be to procure lectures, select questions for discussion and appoint disputants.

Sec 2 A quorum shall consist of twelve members

Sec 3 This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two thirds of the members present at any regular meeting, provided such amendment be submitted in writing at any regular meeting <sup>one week</sup> prior to its passage.

### Amendments



# By Laws

Rule 1

The committee on questions shall appoint two disputants on each question, and two substitutes, one of each on the affirmative and one on the negative, which appointments shall be announced by the President one week previous to the discussion.

Rule 2

No member shall be allowed to speak over fifteen minutes on the same question, except the disputants, who shall be allowed ten minutes each in addition, in which to close debate.

Rule 3

It shall be the duty of the President to deliver an address on entering upon the duties of his office.

Rule 4

The discussion of the question shall commence at 7 o'clock P.M. and shall not continue later than half past nine except by unanimous consent.

Rule 5

Immediately after the discussion a vote on the merits of the question shall be taken, members voting aye and no as their names are called by the Secretary.

Rule 6

The Librarian shall file each regular newspaper when received, and such papers shall remain on file six weeks. He shall also file all papers received from individuals and continue the same on file one week.

Rule 7

The Librarian shall keep the room lighted from the usual time of lighting until nine o'clock each evening in the winter.



Rule 8 The Librarian shall keep the Library open from 1 to 3 o'clock P.M. on Tuesday and Saturday of each week for the purpose of drawing Books.

Rule 9 No member shall have more than two Books from the Library at the same time, and all books shall be returned within two weeks from the time of drawing the same under a penalty of twenty five cents for each week they may be kept out.

Rule 10 The Librarian shall examine each Book on its return and for all injuries to the same shall fix the amount of damage according to the value of the Book and charge the same to the person who had the same. In case of dissatisfaction with the assessment of damage, the party aggrieved may appeal from the decision of the Librarian to the Board of Regents.

Rule 11 No member shall lend a book to any person out of his family.

Rule 12 It shall be the duty of the Librarian to cover, with substantial paper all books received into the Library and endorse the titles thereon on the back before they are allowed to be taken from the Library.

### Amendments to the By-Laws

Rule 13 The regular weekly meetings of the Association shall be devoted first to Lectures and essays, and second to Debates alternately.