



**Bylaws of the
Pomperaug Regional High School Chapter
of the National English Honor Society**
Adopted September 2019

**Article I
Name and Purpose**

Section 1

The name of the Pomperaug Regional High Chapter of the National English Honor Society (hereafter known as NEHS) shall be the “Pomperaug Regional High School Chapter.”

Section 2

The mission and purposes of the chapter shall be both literary and educational. As a chartered chapter of NEHS, it shall strive to:

- A. confer distinction upon secondary school students for high achievement in English language and literature;
- B. provide cultural stimulation in secondary school environments;
- C. encourage interest in the English language arts;
- D. promote exemplary character and good fellowship among its members; and,
- E. serve society by fostering literacy.

**Article II
The Principal**

Section 1

The principal of Pomperaug Regional High School reserves the right to approve all activities and decisions of that chapter in consultation with the chapter advisor.

Section 2

The principal shall appoint one or more members of the faculty as chapter advisor, who may serve consecutive terms, when the founding advisor resigns.

Section 3

The principal, in conjunction with the Faculty Advisory Council (hereafter known as FAC), shall receive appeals based only upon technical errors in both the application and dismissal processes.

Article III

The Chapter Advisor

Section 1

The chapter advisor shall be a teacher of English at Pomperaug Regional High School, appointed by the principal (when the founding advisor resigns), and who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 2

The chapter advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as a liaison among students, faculty, administration, and community.

Section 3

The chapter advisor shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, financial transactions, and the chapter bylaws.

Section 4

The chapter advisor shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

Section 5

The chapter advisor shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

Section 6

The chapter advisor shall be a voting member of the FAC.

Section 7

The chapter advisor shall be designated a NEHS honorary member but will not pay the national induction fee.

Section 8

The chapter advisor shall be the major liaison between the local chapter and the NEHS National Office, submitting the membership information and fees and any other items requested by the National Advisory Council, and receiving for prompt distribution those items pertaining to membership sent by the National Office.

Article IV

The FAC

Section 1

The Pomperaug Regional High School NEHS FAC shall consist of no fewer than three English faculty members identified by, and including, the chapter advisor.

Section 2

The term of the FAC shall be one year; members may serve consecutive terms at the sole discretion of the advisor.

Section 3

The FAC shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, consider dismissals, and/or for other related matters.

Section 4

The FAC shall develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for both the selection and the dismissal of members.

Article V

Membership

Section 1

Membership in the Pomperaug Regional High School Chapter of NEHS is an honor bestowed on a Pomperaug Regional High School student. Selection for membership is by the Pomperaug Regional High School FAC and is based upon scholarship in both English and English-related courses. Leadership, service, and citizenship are also considerations in selection. For the purposes of identifying “English,” any courses which use the “English” designation on transcripts or in fulfilling “English” requirements will be accepted.

Section 2

Once selected, members have a responsibility to continue to demonstrate high standards--including the maintenance of grades--in English and overall. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from membership.

Section 3

There are three types of membership: active, alumni, and honorary:

- A. active members are Pomperaug Regional High School students who remain active members while they maintain the required grade averages and until graduation, at which time they become alumni members;
- B. alumni members, in accordance with school policy, may be invited to participate in chapter events, but have no voice or vote; and,
- C. Honorary membership may be awarded, by consent of the FAC, to school officials, principals, teachers, adults, and students whose achievements in English or NEHS-related activities merit special recognition. Chapters may induct up to four honorary members per year and are responsible for induction fees for honorary members. Honorary members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 4

Any NEHS member who transfers to another school and brings a letter of verification from the former principal or chapter advisor to the new school's NEHS chapter advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter.

Section 5

Membership may not be determined, in any way, on the basis of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or physical disability.

Section 6

Acceptance into NEHS membership does not ensure automatic acceptance into Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

Article VI

Selection of Members

Section 1

Candidates for membership must have been in attendance at Pomperaug Regional High School the equivalent of one semester prior to being considered. If special circumstances merit, the FAC may waive the semester regulation.

Section 2

Candidates must have completed the equivalent of three semesters of English prior to application for membership.

Section 3

Candidates must have achieved a minimum overall B average (unweighted) prior to induction as members.

Section 4

Candidates must have achieved a minimum overall English B+ average (unweighted) prior to induction as members.

Section 5

Candidates achieving the minimal requirements may be invited to apply for membership in NEHS. The application process will require candidates to demonstrate their desire and accomplishments to be a member of NEHS.

Section 6

The Pomperaug Regional High School FAC may raise, but not lower, these criteria.

Section 7

Any member whose grades in English drop below the chapter's minimum admission requirement for one semester shall be dismissed from NEHS membership. Such members may be readmitted when current minimum membership criteria are again met.

Section 8

The method of selection of eligible students and their election to membership shall be determined by the Pomperaug Regional High School FAC and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of NEHS.

Section 9

A description of the selection procedure and Pomperaug Regional High School Chapter criteria shall be widely available in a timely fashion to all the school's students, faculty, and parents.

Article VII

Induction

Section 1

The Pomperaug Regional High School chapter *may* institute an appropriate ceremony for the induction of new members. The procedures for and nature of this ceremony shall be determined by the chapter advisor. Newly inducted members shall receive their membership certificates and other appropriate materials as their membership is affirmed.

Section 2

In the event that an individual qualifies for membership after the date of the induction ceremony, s/he may be inducted at a regular chapter meeting provided the membership forms and fees have already been submitted to the NEHS National Office and at the discretion of the advisor.

Article VIII

Removal from Membership

Section 1

The procedure for removal from membership shall be determined by the Pomperaug Regional High School NEHS advisor and enacted by the FAC in compliance with the rules and regulations of the NEHS National Advisory Council and the local school. A written description of the removal process shall be available to interested parties.

Section 2

Any members whose grades drop below the chapter's minimum requirements for two consecutive semesters shall be dismissed from the chapter. Such members may reapply to the chapter and be readmitted once those requirements are again met, except in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws (including situations of Plagiarism in academic

work or in paperwork associated with applying for or maintaining membership in the chapter)--in which case dismissal is immediate and without warning.

Section 3

All members of the chapter are accountable for their attendance at regular meetings. Members who miss more than 50% of scheduled meetings during an academic year shall be dismissed from membership. Members who amass three unexcused absences in an academic year are barred from running for officer positions. Members are also expected to contact the Secretary in advance of an absence to request being excused.

Section 4

Members who fail to document the accumulation of 12 service points (1 hour = 1 point) per academic year shall be removed from membership. The accumulation of points shall be as follows: 6 points documented/due by January 1st and 6 points documented/due by May 1st.

Section 5

In all cases of impending removal from membership, a member shall have the right to a hearing before the Pomperaug Regional High School FAC. This request must be made in writing to the advisor

Section 6

A member may be reinstated when the Pomperaug Regional High School FAC determines that the member is once again qualified for membership. All reinstatements must be reported promptly to the NEHS National Office.

Section 7

The chapter advisor shall notify the NEHS National Office promptly of any chapter member dismissals.

Section 8

The NEHS National Advisory Council shall hear no appeals in cases of removal from membership.

Article IX Chapter Officers

Section 1

The officers of the Pomperaug Regional High School Chapter, their duties, and the method of their election, shall be determined by the advisor, approved by the Pomperaug Regional High School FAC, and described in the chapter bylaws.

Section 2

In year one, the Pomperaug Regional High School Chapter officers shall be untitled and equal members of the "Founding Executive Committee." In successive years, the Pomperaug Regional High School Chapter officers shall be five in number: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Public Relations Officer. Together, they shall form the Executive Committee of the Pomperaug Regional High School Chapter (the "Executive Committee").

Section 3

New officers shall be elected in the spring and installed during the first regularly scheduled meeting the following year.

Section 4

The election of officers shall be held by secret ballot--a process determined and organized by the advisor and the Executive Committee. Simple majority vote shall determine the winners.

Section 5

Duties of Chapter Officers, in addition to the duties of the Executive Committee, shall be:

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the chapter and Executive Committee;
- B. The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and shall assume duties at either the request of the President or the advisor;
- C. The Secretary shall have primary responsibility for accurate minutes of the Board meetings, accurate attendance for meetings, and for accurate accounting of member service hours in a spreadsheet;
- D. The Treasurer shall have primary responsibility for accurate financial accounting and records. The treasurer will also collect dues and organize the procurement of cords for graduation; and,
- E. The Public Relations Officer shall have primary responsibility for crafting and managing any and all materials for distribution. This officer will also seek service opportunities, publicize service opportunities to members, and make connections with literacy-focused organizations in our area.

ARTICLE X

Removal from Office

Section 1

Student officers shall be held to the same standards as chapter members. Failure to do so will result in their dismissal from office.

Section 2

In cases of academic standards not being met, the officer will be given a warning and 4 weeks to reach the standards. If those standards are not met in 4 weeks, the officer shall be dismissed from his/her position.

Article XI

Executive Committee

Section 1

The chapter's Executive Committee shall consist of the chapter's officers and the chapter's advisor.

Section 2

The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter between its business meetings, make recommendations to the chapter, and determine and perform such other duties as are specified in the chapter bylaws and by the chapter advisor. All actions and recommendations of the Executive Committee shall be subject to the review of the chapter membership and to the approval of the chapter advisor.

Section 3

The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that chapter activities and procedures follow school policy and regulations.

Section 4

The chapter advisor shall have the right to remove from office any officer failing to meet his/her responsibilities to the chapter.

Article XII

Meetings

Section 1

Each chapter shall have regular meetings during the school year, on days designated by the Executive Committee and in accordance with school policy and regulations.

Section 2

The regularity of the meetings (i.e., weekly, monthly, bimonthly) shall be announced by the chapter Executive Committee, but meetings shall occur no less than once a semester.

Section 3

Special meetings approved by the Executive Committee may be called by the chapter president, in consultation with the chapter advisor.

Article XIII

Activities

Section 1

Each chapter shall determine, in accordance with the chapter advisor, activities appropriate to the purposes of NEHS.

Section 2

Chapter activities shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the FAC; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well-planned and well-executed. These activities may or may not directly pertain to the discipline of English, but should reflect alignment with the goals and mission of NEHS.

Section 3

Each chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive, responsible, and tasteful manner suitable for representing a national honor society such as NEHS.

Section 4

Students shall meet the requirement of participation in chapter-sanctioned activities or literacy-based service activities. Students shall earn a minimum of 12 points per year (1 point = 1 hour). Documentation for non-chapter literacy-based service events (chapter-created form) shall be provided to the chapter secretary describing said activity, bearing a signature from the advisor of the activity. In year one, students shall earn a minimum of 6 points. Participation in chapter-sponsored activities merits double points.

Section 5

Any points submitted to other honor societies are not applicable. Submitting points to NEHS from another honor society is dishonest and grounds for dismissal from NEHS.

Article XIV

Official Insignia

Section 1

NEHS shall have an official emblem selected by the National Advisory Council, who shall have the exclusive control of its use.

Section 2

Only active, alumni, and honorary members shall be entitled to wear this emblem.

Section 3

Any member who resigns or is removed from membership shall not be entitled to wear this emblem.

Section 4

The motto of NEHS is “Gelast Sceal Mid Are”– Old English for “duty goes with honor.”

Section 5

The official colors of NEHS are royal blue and gold.

Section 6

The official flower of NEHS is the white carnation.

Section 7

The official font of NEHS is Georgia.

Article XV

Dues

Section 1

In year one, a one-time due for this chapter shall be \$25, to cover the cost of national membership fees, annual fees, graduation cord, and induction/certificate costs. In successive years, the Executive Committee, working in concert with the advisor, will determine the yearly dues.

Section 2

Dues will be payable to the chapter treasurer within 30 days of selection to membership.