



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

MARCH 1988

MARCH 2026



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY..... 3

PREAMBLE..... 3

ARTICLE I – Name and Type..... 3

ARTICLE II – Objectives and Mission Statement..... 3

ARTICLE III – Membership..... 4

ARTICLE IV – Organization 6

ARTICLE V – Voting..... 8

ARTICLE VI – Dues..... 8

ARTICLE VII – Administration..... 9

ARTICLE VIII – Committees..... 10

ARTICLE IX – Regions..... 12

ARTICLE X – Professionals..... 13

ARTICLE XI – Chapters 13

ARTICLE XII – Offices..... 14

ARTICLE XIII – Duties of Elected Offices 17

ARTICLE XIV – Meetings 19

ARTICLE XV – Bylaws 20

ARTICLE XVI – Amendments..... 21

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

The National Society of Black Engineers National Constitution describes the manner in which the national organization shall be governed and structured. This Constitution shall supersede the authority of all other governing documents and working rules of NSBE and its incorporated sub bodies. It shall take authority in matters where other governing documents or working rules of NSBE incorporated sub bodies are silent or are in conflict. As such, all relevant sections of this Constitution shall apply to all incorporated sub bodies of the national organization and their working rules. Other governing documents may extend powers or duties provided they are not in conflict with this Constitution, and all working rules of the incorporated sub bodies of NSBE shall comply and be consistent with this Constitution.

PREAMBLE

The National Society of Black Engineers, as a national student and professional based organization, does hereby dedicate itself to the development of intensive programs for in-creasing Black and other ethnic minority participation in the field of engineering and engineering technology. These programs will be initiated both within and outside the university community and will serve to strengthen relations between professional industry and the black community. All members of this organization are encouraged to join and participate in their individual professional societies. This organization will endeavor to provide general counseling to all members.

ARTICLE I – NAME AND TYPE

The name and type of this organization shall be the National Society of Black Engineers, a nonprofit student run organization; hereafter referred to as the National Society.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES AND MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of the National Society shall be to stimulate and develop student interest in engineering; to strive to increase the number of students studying engineering at both the undergraduate and graduate levels; and to endeavor in the advancement of the ethnic minority engineer in professional industry.

The mission statement of the National Society shall be to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers, who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

The term "member" when printed without an initial capital, where used in this Constitution, includes all categories of membership. The term "Member" when printed with an initial capital, where used in this Constitution, is defined in Article III, Section 3(A).

Section 2.

Membership in the National Society shall be designated as Member, Affiliate member, NSBE Jr. member, Professional member, Professional Affiliate member, Lifetime member, or Honorary member.

Section 3.

A. Members shall be defined as:

1. An undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in an accredited educational institution or program that offers a degree in the field of engineering and is a candidate for a degree in engineering, engineering technology, or applied/physical science or
2. A graduate student who has received an undergraduate degree in engineering, engineering technology, or applied/physical science, and
3. has received a registered membership card through the payment of annual membership fees whereas
4. said Membership status will be maintained throughout the NSBE membership year in which dues were paid so long as any conferred degree is obtained after November 1st of the same membership year.

B. An affiliate member shall be defined as a person who is not a candidate for a degree in one of the areas defined in Article III, Section 3 (A) (1), and who does not have voting power, and as such is exempt from positions including, but not limited to a National or Regional office, or a position of Senator.

C. A NSBE Jr. member shall be defined as a pre-college student enrolled in grades 3rd to 12th and who has met the criteria to receive a registered membership card through the payment of annual membership fees.

1. NSBE Jr. membership shall vote only in NSBE Jr. meetings and only on NSBE Jr. matters.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



- D. A Professional member shall be defined as
1. A person who has received a Bachelor's degree or advanced degree from an Accredited Educational Institution in engineering, engineering technology, or applied/physical science as defined using an approved standard or
 2. A candidate for an advanced degree in engineering, engineering technology or applied science as defined using an approved standard, from an Accredited Education Institution,
 3. and who has met the criteria to receive a registered membership card through the payment of annual membership fees.
- E. A Professional Affiliate member shall be defined as a person who is not enrolled in a university undergraduate program and does not meet any of the qualifications for Professional member in Article III, Section 3 (D), but supports the mission and objectives of the National Society and has met the criteria to receive a registered membership card through the payment of annual membership fees. Said person shall not have voting power, and as such is exempt from certain positions including, but not limited to a National or Regional elected office, or the position of Senator or Delegate.
- F. A Lifetime member shall be defined as a person that qualifies for any of the membership categories described in Article III, Section 3 (A), (B), (C) , (D) or (E), has completed the Lifetime Membership Application, and has received a receipt verifying that lifetime membership dues have been paid in full.
- G. An Honorary member shall be defined as
1. A person who does not meet the definition of Member, Affiliate, NSBE Jr., Professional, Professional Affiliate, or Lifetime member but has contributed through efforts in support of the goals of the National Society and has been nominated by a Chapter, Regional, or National Executive Board.
 2. This person may be granted one year membership or lifetime membership at the discretion of the National Executive Board.
 3. And who does not have voting power. And as such is exempt from positions including, but not limited to, a National or Regional office with voting power, or the position of Senator.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.

***Section 4.***

A graduate student who qualifies for membership of the National Society may participate as a Member or a Professional member, but not both.

Section 5.

Membership and participation shall be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, ethnic group, age, national origin, or country of abode.

Section 6.

The “good standing” of a NSBE member shall be defined as the definition of a good standing dictated by the respective institution or chapter of that member.

ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATION***Section 1.***

The term “chapter” when printed without an initial capital, where used in the Constitution, includes all categories of chapters within the National Society. The term “Chapter” when printed with an initial capital, where used in this Constitution, is defined in Article IV, Section 3.

Section 2.

The National Society shall consist of all chapters in six regions.

Section 3.

- A. Chapters – Shall be defined as ten or more Members attending the same educational institution or attending one of a group of educational institutions within a defined geographic area, and who have chartered as a Chapter of the National Society. Members may petition the National Executive Board to allow for Chapters of less than ten Members.
- B. NSBE Jr. Chapters – Shall be defined as five or more NSBE Jr. members attending the same secondary school who have chartered as a NSBE Jr. chapter of the National Society; or five or more members in the same locality who are directly affiliated, advised and chartered by an official chartered Chapter or Professional chapter of the National Society.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



- C. Professional Chapters – Shall be defined as ten or more members in a defined geographical area who have chartered as a Professional chapter of the National Society. Professional members may petition the Professional Executive Board to allow for Professional chapters of less than ten members.

Section 4.

Regions – A region shall be defined as the following geographical locations:

- A. Region I – North Eastern; defined by the States of – Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, and New Jersey; Montreal (Canada), and all international affinity chapters assigned to Region I.
- B. Region II South Eastern; defined by the States of Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia; and all international affinity chapters assigned to Region II.
- C. Region III Southern; defined by the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida; and all international affinity chapters assigned to Region III.
- D. Region IV Great Lakes; defined by the States of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Minnesota; and all international affinity chapters assigned to Region IV.
- E. Region V Midwest/South Central; defined by the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana; and all international affinity chapters assigned to Region V.
- F. Region VI Pacific/Rocky Mountain; defined by the States of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii; and all international affinity chapters assigned to Region VI.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



ARTICLE V – VOTING

Section 1.

Each Chapter in good standing shall select two senators to cast votes in regional and national business.

Each Professional Chapter in good standing shall select two delegates to cast votes in Professional regional and Professional national business.

Section 2.

Each member who has fulfilled the requirements for chapter membership, as specified by his or her chapter's constitution, shall be entitled to vote in his/her respective chapter general body meetings.

Section 3.

Professional members may vote only in NSBE Professionals meetings and only on NSBE Professionals matters except for the National Professionals Chairperson — or a representative of the Professionals Executive Board with the consent of the National Executive Board in the National Professionals Chairperson's absence or removal — who may vote on matters proposed to the National Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI – DUES

Section 1.

Annual and Lifetime membership dues shall be reviewed annually by the National Executive Board (NEB) and can be changed only by a two-thirds vote of the senators attending the Annual Convention upon recommendation of the NEB.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



ARTICLE VII – ADMINISTRATION

Section 1.

There shall be an Executive Board of the National Society which shall consist of the:

- A. National Chair
- B. National Vice-Chair
- C. National Secretary
- D. National Treasurer
- E. National Programs Chair
- F. Six (6) Regional Chairs
- G. Standing Committee Chairs
- H. Professionals Chair
- I. Ad-hoc National Executive Board positions as approved by the National Executive Board

Section 2.

The National Executive Board shall:

- A. Determine all questions of policy and shall administer the affairs of the National Society under the Constitution and Bylaws, and the general provisions of the law under which it is incorporated.
- B. Be subject to the orders of the membership and none of its acts shall conflict with decisions made by the vote of the general body, or the goals and objectives of the organization.
- C. Not receive any salary for service.
- D. Make recommendations to the National Society.
- E. Set the hour, agenda and place of the Annual Convention.
- F. Coordinate activities at all levels of the National Society.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES

Section 1.

There shall be nine standing committees of the National Society, which are:

- A. Academic Excellence
- B. Membership
- C. Communications
- D. Finance
- E. Pre-College Initiative
- F. Publications
- G. Public Relations
- H. International
- I. Technical Outreach and Community Help

Section 2.

Standing Committees shall have the following duties:

- A. Academic Excellence
 - 1. Collect and maintain data needed to establish the progress of the National Academic Excellence Program.
 - 2. Create and maintain academic excellence programs and activities.
- B. Membership
 - 1. List all of the various chapter status and problems incurred in establishing a charter.
 - 2. Review Charters of those organizations proposing membership and forwarding reviewed charters to the National Executive Board for approval.
- C. Communications
 - 1. Shall define mechanisms by which the National Executive Board will initiate communication following the Annual Convention.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



D. Finance

1. Identify and develop national funding sources.
2. Identify mechanisms for fundraising.

E. Pre-College Initiative

1. Shall manage and coordinate the activities of the Pre-College Initiative Program and Regional and Professional Pre-College Initiative Chairs.

F. Publications

1. Shall develop mechanisms for establishing and sustaining the National Society Newsletter. This includes the funding and publication responsibilities for the Newsletter and all other publications.

G. Public Relations

1. Identify other Black engineering student/professional organizations for publicity and/or support.
2. Establish interface mechanisms with abovementioned organizations when expedient and viable.
3. Establish mechanisms to define resources of the National Society by industry and vice versa. Select committee to administer speakers bureau; the committee reports to Public Relations Chairperson.

H. International

1. Identify potential chapters to charter internationally.
2. Provide international chapters all information needed to function properly.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



I. Technical Outreach and Community Help

1. Identify and implement methods by which our society can be culturally and socially responsible.
2. Shall manage and coordinate activities of the Technical Outreach and Community Help Program and Regional and Professional Technical Outreach and Community Help Chairs.
3. Collect and maintain data needed for Technical Outreach and Community Help Hours.

Section 3.

In addition to the above duties, the committees will carry out assignments deemed necessary by the National Executive Board.

Section 4.

The National Executive Board will create and appoint chairs for any special committee(s), as necessary.

ARTICLE IX – REGIONS

Section 1.

Each region shall have an executive board consisting of a chair and officers and shall have established working rules approved by the NEB and filed as an official document of the National Society.

Section 2.

Regional executive boards shall serve as liaisons between its chapters and the National Executive Board and shall carry out the objectives of the National Society.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



ARTICLE X – PROFESSIONALS

Section 1.

There shall be a Professional Extension to the National Society consisting of Professional members for the purpose of enhancing the National Society's ability to achieve its goals and objectives.

Section 2.

The Professional Extension shall have a Professional Executive Board, and shall establish operation guidelines approved by the National Executive Board and filed as an official document of the National Society.

ARTICLE XI – CHAPTERS

Section 1.

All chapters shall serve as the primary program vehicle for the members; programs should be in accordance with the objectives of the National Society.

Section 2.

Each chapter shall have a chapter constitution to be filed as official documents of the National Society.

Section 3.

All chapters must register annually with the National Society to be officially recognized as a chartered chapter.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.

**ARTICLE XII – OFFICES*****Section 1.***

The elected offices of the National Executive Board are:

- A. National Chair
- B. National Vice Chair
- C. National Secretary
- D. National Treasurer
- E. National Programs Chair
- F. Regional Chairs
- G. Standing Committee Chairs
- H. Professionals Chair

Section 2.

- A. All elected offices on the National Executive Board except for Professionals Chair will be held by Members in good standing.
- B. The elected office of Professionals Chair on the National Executive Board will be held by a Professional member in good standing and be subject to any additional qualifications defined in the operation guidelines of the Professionals.
- C. The appointed office of Convention Planning Committee Chairperson will be held by a Member in good standing.
- D. All other appointed offices on the National Executive Board will be held by either Members or Professional members in good standing.

Section 3.

The National Executive officers are the National Chair, National Vice-Chair, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and National Programs Chair.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.

***Section 4.***

Any Member of the National Society is eligible for a National elected office who:

- A. Has a minimum classification of junior undergraduate status or the equivalent for the elected term, and
- B. Has been registered as a fulltime student the academic semester prior to the beginning of the elected term and must maintain Member status throughout the elected term. Coop students on a work tour shall be considered to have fulltime student status for purposes of this section.
- C. Graduate students who have fulfilled Member status and must maintain Member status throughout the elected term.

Section 5.

- A. The National Executive Board-Elect shall take office May 1 following the election and shall serve a one year term.
- B. No person shall serve in the same nationally elected office for more than two (2) terms.
- C. No person shall serve in a nationally elected office for an aggregate of more than five (5) terms on the same board.

Section 6.

Should a vacancy occur in the office of National Chair, the unexpired term shall be filled by the National Vice Chair. Should a vacancy occur in the office of Professional Chair, the Professionals will fill the position according to the Professionals Operating Guidelines. Should a vacancy occur in the office of Regional Chair, the Region will fill the position according to the region's working rules. Should a vacancy occur in any National Executive Board office other than National, Professional, or Regional Chair, the unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the National Chair and approved by the National Executive Board.

Section 7.

Regional offices and their duties shall be defined by each region's working rules in accordance with all regulations of the National Society.

Section 8.

All chapter offices and their duties shall be defined by chapter Constitutions in accordance with all regulations of the National Society.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.

***Section 9.***

The previous National Chair shall serve as Chair-Emeritus, with the approval of the National Executive Board.

- A. The Chair-Emeritus shall serve as an advisor to the National Executive Board and shall not have a vote as Chair-Emeritus. The term shall coincide with the term of the National Executive Board.

Section 10.

There shall be a National Parliamentarian appointed by the National Chair and approved by the National Executive Board. The parliamentarian shall:

- A. Serve as an advisory member of the board and shall not vote.
- B. Serve as a resource on parliamentary procedure.

Section 11.

Elections to National Offices:

- A. Elections of National Offices will take place at Annual Convention; Regional Chairs may be elected at Regional meetings.
- B. The NEB shall appoint an elections committee to compile and disseminate documents and procedures to members seeking office. This elections committee will also coordinate the election at the Annual Convention with the supervision of the National Parliamentarian.

Section 12.

The previous National Treasurer shall serve as the National Treasurer Emeritus, with the approval of the National Executive Board. The terms shall coincide with the term of the Executive Board.

- A. The National Treasurer Emeritus shall serve as an advisor to the National Finance Zone and shall not have a vote as National Treasurer Emeritus.
- B. The National Treasurer Emeritus shall serve as an advisor to the National Finance Zone and shall not have a vote as National Treasurer Emeritus.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



C. The National Treasurer Emeritus will be responsible for the following:

1. Complete and efficient transitioning of the National Treasurer-Elect.
2. Assisting the National Treasurer-Elect with final development of the National Budget for the subsequent fiscal year.
3. Year-end budget preparation for the annual audit process.
4. Advising the National Treasurer-Elect on yearend expenditure reduction, namely the National Leadership Institute, National Executive Board Meeting, and regional/national yearend activities.

ARTICLE XIII – DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICES

Section 1.

The duties of the elected offices are:

A. National Chair:

1. Shall preside over all official meetings of the National Society.
2. Shall serve as the representative of the National Society.
3. Shall appoint members of all standing, and special committees, with advice and consent of the National Executive Board, except where otherwise provided for in this document.

B. National Vice Chair:

1. Shall preside in the absence or the inability of the National Chair.
2. Shall develop programs of interest for the National Society meetings in cooperation with the National Executive Board.
3. Shall perform any activities, duties, and responsibilities as designated by the National Chair.
4. Shall oversee the activities of the seven standing committees.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



C. National Secretary:

1. Shall keep the corporate seal, fill out and countersign all certificates issued, and make proper entries in the books of the National Society.
2. Shall serve all notices required by law or the Bylaws of the National Society and in case of absence, refusal or inability to act, the duties of the office may be performed by any person who the National Executive Board may direct.
3. Shall record accurately the minutes of the National Executive Board meetings and make available the minutes to all members upon request.
4. Shall require from the National Executive Board, standing committees, and special committees of the National Society, a record of the activities of said body.

D. National Treasurer:

1. Shall keep accounts and deposit organization funds of the National Society Treasury.
2. Expenditures made for National Society business shall be in a manner approved by the National Executive Board.
3. Shall maintain the membership roll and collect annual dues of the National Society in a manner developed along with the National Executive Board.

E. National Programs Chair:

1. Shall be responsible for the implementation of national projects and programs.
2. Shall design and implement methods by which chapters may learn how to create and maintain programs.
3. Shall work with the Regional Programs Chairpersons in order to develop uniform programs in keeping with the goals of the Society.
4. Shall assist the Convention Planning Committee in developing the agenda for the Annual Convention.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



F. Regional Chairs:

1. Shall act as regional director of region activities, including communication among local chapters National Society affairs.
2. Shall represent the thoughts and wishes of the region in National Executive Board meetings, and in some instances, at Annual Convention.

G. Committee Chairs:

1. Shall carry out the duties of the committees.

ARTICLE XIV – MEETINGS

Section 1.

The Annual Convention shall be held each year. This convention and meeting shall:

- A. Serve as a vehicle to incorporate business and professional growth.
- B. Allow for national focus and networking.
- C. Review the past fiscal year of the National Society.

Section 2.

A Convention Planning Committee shall be formed annually to coordinate this convention and meeting. This committee shall have a leadership structure and established working rules approved by the NEB and filed as an official document of the National Society. The Convention Planning Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the National Executive Board in accordance with the National By-Laws.

Section 3.

There shall be at least two (2) Regional meetings prior to Annual Convention to update chapters on organizational matters and give opinions and ideas on a regular basis.

Section 4.

All chapter meetings shall be determined by each individual chapter.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



ARTICLE XV – NATIONAL BYLAWS

Section 1.

The National Society shall establish and maintain Bylaws that will serve as the working rules of the National Society in support of the requirements of the National Constitution.

Beyond the superseding authority maintained by this Constitution, no other governing documents, working rules, or parliamentary authority that the Society may establish can supplant or oppose the established rules in the Bylaws of the National Society.

Section 2.

Any proposed amendment to the National Bylaws intended to be brought to the Senate for a vote must be submitted in written form to the National Executive Board at least 60 days prior to the start of Annual Convention. The proposal must be clearly stated and justified.

Section 3.

- A. Immaterial amendments shall be defined as a change in the wording or structure of a clause, section, article, etc. that does not change the meaning, intent, or application of said content.
- B. Clerical amendments shall be defined as a change made due to previous administrative errors or oversights made when editing or amending a document that does not change the meaning, intent, or application of said content.
- C. Amendments deemed as immaterial or clerical in nature may be made to the Bylaws of the National Society at the discretion of the National Parliamentarian via a process approved by the National Executive Board.

Section 4.

The Bylaws of the National Society shall be amended by a two-thirds vote of the senators attending the Annual Convention, or by a two-thirds vote of the National Executive Board.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



ARTICLE XVI – AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by:

- A. A two-thirds vote of the National Executive Board.
- B. One-third of the voting Members or Chapters, through national referendum.
- C. Two-thirds of the senators at a regional meeting.

Section 2.

Amendments deemed as immaterial or clerical in nature may be made to the Constitution of the National Society at the discretion of the National Parliamentarian with the unanimous consent of the National Executive Board.

Section 3.

Proposed amendments must be submitted in written form to the National Executive Board at least 60 days prior to the start of Annual Convention to be reviewed. The proposal must be clearly stated and justified.

In the event of a significant immediate legal obligation, acute financial or reputational harm, or inevitable violation of the Constitution is imminent due to substantial change in circumstance, the above rule requiring at least 60 days may be suspended by three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the National Executive Board.

Section 4.

Ratification of any amendments to this constitution shall be subject to a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the senators present at the Annual Convention of the National Society.

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.



Submitted By:

Chika Okwor

2025-2026 National Chairperson

&

Noel Christopher

2025-2026 National Parliamentarian

Approved By:

NSBE Senate

2026 Annual Convention

March 21, 2026

This document was amended by the NSBE Senate at the 2026 Annual Convention.