

Society for the Study of the American Gothic

Bylaws

I. Purpose:

The Society for the Study of the American Gothic was established in 2023 to promote and advance the study of the American Gothic through research, teaching, and publication. It is a voluntary nonprofit educational organization that seeks to strengthen relations among persons and institutions both in the United States and internationally who are undertaking such studies, and to broaden knowledge among the general public about the American Gothic in its many forms. These purposes will be served by the publication of a scholarly journal; through SSAG-hosted conferences and symposiums; through SSAG-sponsored panels and gatherings at appropriate events; through cooperation with other American Gothic-related organizations and communities; and through other forms of communication and dialogue on social media and in other forms.

II. Membership:

On application to the executive coordinator and the payment of annual dues, any individual or institution sharing the purposes stated above is welcome to membership.

Selection of honorary members, chosen from those who have made notable contributions to American Gothic scholarship, will be ratified by ballot. Nominations for honorary members should be considered by the officers and members of the executive committee. Honorary members shall be exempt from any dues.

III. Dues:

Appropriate annual dues (by calendar year) will be determined by a consensus of the members of the executive committee.

IV. Officers and Their Duties:

The elected officers shall be:

(a) a president, for a term of three years, who shall preside at business meetings and serve as chair of the executive committee; the president will have the authority to form ad hoc committees and appoint non-officer positions, including conference director, social media coordinator, webmaster, and awards coordinator; (b) a vice-president, for three years, who shall preside at business meetings in the absence of the president and will be charged with working toward sustaining SSAG continuity; (c) an executive coordinator, for three years, who shall record and distribute minutes of meetings, collect dues, make disbursements, keep the books and maintain membership; he or she shall also, with the president, supervise nominations and balloting. All three officers will consult with the executive board as needed.

In addition to the three officers, the executive committee shall consist of: two elected at-large members, for two years, who shall be program chair(s) of the ALA sessions; the editor of the journal, serving ex-officio; and the immediate past president, serving ex-officio. The executive committee will appoint the journal editor.

V. Meetings:

The president will convene an annual business meeting of the executive committee. This will normally be held at the American Literature Association conference; however, with the approval of the executive committee, may be held during a SSAG conference or symposium. If circumstances dictate, it may be held virtually.

VI. Panels, Symposia, and Conferences

SSAG will organize panels at the annual meeting of the American Literature Association and other appropriate groups, as well as sponsor its own symposia and conferences at regular intervals.

VII. Journal:

The official publication of SSAG, *American Gothic Studies*, is a refereed journal that publishes articles, interviews, short-form pieces, overviews of American Gothic scholarship, announcements of business meetings, reports of the annual meetings, and other material relevant to American Gothic studies. A portion of each member's dues shall be assigned to the journal to pay its cost. Each member shall receive access to journal issues published during the period of their membership.

All authors whose work is published in *American Gothic Studies* must be members of SSAG at the time of publication. The editor is selected by the executive committee for a three-year renewable term. The editor is free to select assistant or associate editors and to consult members of the executive committee. The editor will be assisted by an editorial board of six members. The executive committee will select members of the editorial board for four-year terms that may be renewed. All members of the editorial board must be SSAG members. The editor, in consultation with the executive committee, may replace a member of the editorial board if that member is not consistently responsive and thorough in his/her reviews.

VIII. Elections:

Elections of officers and committee members will be managed by the SSAG executive coordinator and accomplished by ballots submitted by email. Only current SSAG members who have paid their annual dues will be allowed to vote.

IX. Awards:

SSAG will give an annual award to recognize work of special distinction in the study of the American Gothic. The award will alternate by year between outstanding monograph and

outstanding journal article or book chapter. The award will be announced at the SSAG business meeting at the American Literature Association conference or at a SSAG conference or symposium.

The SSAG president will appoint an awards coordinator who will serve in the roll for a renewable three-year term. The coordinator will select a jury of at least three people, solicit nominations, and coordinate the selection process.

X. Dispersal of Funds:

Upon dissolution or final liquidation of the Society for the Study of the American Gothic, any remaining assets shall, after payment or the making of provision for payment of all the lawful debts and liabilities of the nonprofit, be distributed to other programs involving the furtherance of Gothic studies, and the exact ones will be determined by an absolute majority vote of the SSAG executive committee at a special meeting of that group, which can be held electronically.

XI. Amendment to Bylaws:

Amendment to the Bylaws will require a two-thirds majority of those voting. Balloting will be carried out by the executive coordinator. All amendments shall be circulated to the entire membership at least 14 days prior to the date ballots are to be cast.