CONSTITUTION

TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING INSPECTORS, INC.

PREAMBLE

Texas State Association of Plumbing Inspectors, Inc. is organized to promote closer cooperation between the Plumbing Inspector, property owner, builder, craftsman and the municipality; to lend every possible aid to the improvement and protection of safe plumbing installations in the community; and to impress upon the public the vital necessity of proper sanitation, safe drinking water, safe fuel gas installations, proper venting of gas fired appliances and proper installations of combustion air. The missions of the Association include:

* To urge upon our members the importance of scientific research and the dissemination of the knowledge thus obtained so that all Plumbing Inspectors shall be qualified to advise and recommend in matters pertaining to water purification, sewage and sewage disposal, and safe fuel gas installations.
* To encourage the use of proper materials and methods for the installation of sanitary plumbing, safe drinking water, and safe fuel gas installations; further, to recognize the responsibility of protecting life and health in the State of Texas.
* To actively participate with legislation for better laws and conditions pertaining to safe plumbing installations for the entire population of the State of Texas.
* To actively support all current Laws and Rules of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners.

ARTICLE I

TITLE

This Association shall be known as: TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING INSPECTORS, INC., or TSAPI.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTS AND PURPOSES

Objects and purposes of this Association shall be:

1. To protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Texas by ensuring quality inspections of our drinking water, sanitary sewers, medical gases and vacuum systems, and fuel gas systems that we may live safe under all conditions.

2. To facilitate the exchange of views concerning plumbing problems and the enforcement and/or administration of recognized plumbing codes for the State of Texas.

3. To improve existing regulations and to champion the enactment of legislation to improve the health of the community.

4. To evaluate the latest and most improved methods as related to all plumbing, including sanitary plumbing and water piping systems, fuel gas systems, etc.

5. To promote standardization and uniformity in the enforcement and administration of all relevant laws and ordinances.

6. To promote harmony and cooperation between property owners, builders, craftsmen and officials.

7. To promulgate a harmonious atmosphere for the mutual benefit of the members.

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS

Section 1. This Association shall convene in regular Annual Short School and Educational Seminars in the city selected by the Executive Board and Site Selection Committee and presented to the membership during the Annual Short School.

Section 2. Special sessions, only for the transaction of specified extraordinary business, may be called by the President, or by resolution adopted by a majority of the Board of Governors and not less than fifteen (15) days notice shall be given each member prior to such sessions.

Section 3. Quorum: No meeting or session of the general membership shall be opened unless a quorum, which consists of four (4) Executive Board members and ten (10) active members, is present.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICE

The principal office of the Association shall be located in the city in which the Treasurer is

located.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Active membership in the Association shall be limited to those persons employed by any political subdivision, in the capacity of Plumbing Inspector, and must carry a current Plumbing Inspector’s license issued by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners or hold a current but not issued Plumbing Inspector’s license issued by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiner’s. The Secretary shall qualify membership after payment of annual dues. Active Members in the Association shall comply with current License Law, and Board Rules as in effect by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiner’s (“TSBPE”) and definitions apply from the Occupations Code of the State of Texas, Title 8: Regulation of Environmental and Industrial Trades. If for any reason, a person should cease holding a current TSBPE Plumbing Inspector’s license, Active membership in this organization will automatically expire after 90 days.

Section 2. Associate membership to this Association may be issued to persons who are allies to the plumbing industry. Associate members shall have a voice, but not a vote, in the Association. Associate members shall not hold any office or participate on any committee with the exception to the associate member representing the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials and/or the International Code Council may participate with the Scholarship Committee when requested.

Section 3. Retired (Active) Membership – Retired membership shall be restricted to former Active members in retired status and shall retain the same privileges afforded an Active Member.

Section 4. Retired (Associate) Membership – Retired (Associate) membership shall be restricted to former associate members in retired status and shall retain the same privileges, “a voice but not a vote”, afforded an Associate Member.

Section 5. Honorary Life Membership shall be granted to those distinguished members who by their dedication and hard work have made outstanding contributions to this organization. This type of membership shall be granted by a resolution passed at an annual meeting by a majority vote. An Honorary Member shall retain the same privileges afforded by their original membership designation.

Section 6. An Active, Retired, or Honorary Life membership may be suspended by the Executive Board with a unanimous vote for failure to comply with the Association’s Constitution and Bylaws. If a membership is suspended the member may in writing appeal the decision of the Executive Board at the annual general business meeting for reinstatement. If a unanimous vote is not obtained, the membership in question may be presented to the membership at the annual business meeting for a vote to suspend or revoke. A majority vote of attending members shall be required to suspend or revoke membership.

Section 7. An Associate member that takes any adverse action against any Active member or their designated political subdivision shall have their membership suspended by the Executive Board with a majority vote and not allowed to participate at any TSAPI conference, function, event or meeting. If an Associate member is suspended by the Executive Board, the member may in writing appeal the decision of the Executive Board at the annual general business meeting for reinstatement. A majority vote of attending members shall be required to reinstate, suspend or revoke membership.

ARTICLES VI

DUES

Section 1. Membership Dues shall be set by the Executive Board and approved by a majority vote of voting members at the Annual Short School and Educational Seminars.

Section 2. Dues are as follows:

1. Active member…………………………………………. TBD

2. Associate member……………………………………… TBD

3. Retired member………………………………………… TBD

4. Honorary membership…………………………………. NO DUES

Section 3. Members whose dues are delinquent for six months shall forfeit their right to vote and may (after due notification) be dropped from the roll by the Secretary. The Board of Governors has the authority to remove any member not complying with the Association’s Constitution and Bylaws with a majority vote by the Board.

ARTICLES VII

OFFICERS

The EXECUTIVE BOARD shall consist of the President, the Vice Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

The elected officer’s duties and responsibilities are as follows:

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, enforce the By Laws and Constitution, and perform other duties belonging to this office. The President shall be the chief executive officer, yet all decisions made by the President on the questions of order, law or otherwise shall be subject to appeal by the Association’s membership. Persons holding this office shall give the deciding vote in cases where the vote is equally divided, except in election of officers.

Section 2. Vice Presidents: There shall be three Vice Presidents. During the Annual Short School & Educational Seminars, the First Vice President shall chair the Nominating Committee, the Second Vice President shall chair the Finance Committee, and the Third Vice President shall chair the Resolution Committee and be liaison to all the Governors. They shall perform all duties pertaining to their designated office.

Section 3. The elected Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings and shall also keep a complete list of members and committees. The Secretary shall assist in organizing the Annual Short School and Educational Seminars.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall collect all monies due the Association and pay out the same as ordered by the Association or Board of Governors. The Treasurer shall present to the Association a financial statement at the end of each year. The Treasurer shall sign all checks for the Association and shall assist in organizing the Annual Short School and Educational Seminars.

Section 5. The Chaplain shall see all meetings are opened with a prayer and shall install the officers each year.

Section 6. The Sergeant At Arms shall maintain order at all meetings of this Association.

Section 7. The Photographer shall adequately document the Annual Short School and Educational Seminars, keeping all photos in binders according to year. The Photographer shall have the photo binders of the past 2 consecutive years available to the Association for viewing at each Annual Short School and Educational Seminars.

Section 8. The Board of Governors shall act as agents for the Active Membership as heretofore classified. The Board of Governors shall consist of one elected member for each zone. See attached map.

Section 9. The President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer are ex-officio members of the Board of Governors.

Section 10. Absence: In the absence of any officer from any meeting, the offices shall be filled as follows:

• First Vice President for President

• Second Vice President for First Vice President

• Third Vice President for Second Vice President

• Secretary for the Treasurer and vice versa - Treasurer for the Secretary

• If any office cannot be fulfilled, the President shall call a special Executive Board meeting to provide a list of potential active members in good standing. The President shall call all potential candidates for the position to ascertain their willingness to serve on the Executive Board. The findings shall be presented to the Executive Board and an interview with the prospective candidates shall be conducted by the Executive Board and a vote amongst the Executive Board shall be taken to fill the vacated seat on the board for the remainder of the vacated term. The President shall have a vote.

ARTICLE VIII

ELECTION

Section 1. The nomination and election of officers for this Association shall be held at the Annual Short School and Educational Seminars.

Section 2. Nomination for all offices shall be made by the nominating committee and/or from the floor prior to balloting. The election by majority vote of attending members by written or via voice ballot, shall be exercised at the discretion of the President as approved by the Association.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall be Active Members whose dues are fully paid and shall be installed into office near the close of the last day of the session of each Annual Short School and Education Seminars and shall continue to serve in each respective office until the installation of their successor.

Section 4. Vacancy of any office shall be filled as prescribed in Article VII, Section 10, above.

ARTICLE IX

VOTING

Section 1. Each active member or retired member, except the presiding President, is entitled to one vote. All members shall be privileged to serve on special committees when appointed by the President. Only Active members are eligible to Chair a committee or hold office.

Section 2. All motions for elections of officers of the Association and changes or additions to the By-Laws shall be decided by a majority vote of attending members. Any motions for amendments to the Constitution of the Association shall follow Article XIII unless otherwise provided in this Constitution.

Section 3. A vote by “ayes” and “nays” shall be taken and recorded in the minutes.

ARTICLE X

REGULAR COMMITTEES

Section 1. On the first day of the Annual Short School and Educational Seminars, the President shall appoint, from among the membership, committees including, but not limited to the following.

1. Committee of Finance

2. Committee of Plumbing Codes and Legislation

3. Committee of Resolutions

4. Committee on Nomination

5. Membership Committee

6. Scholarship Committee

Section 2. Each said regular committee, except the Membership Committee and the Scholarship Committee, shall consist of at least three members. The Membership Committee shall consist of the Board of Governors. All matters of business shall be submitted to the appropriate committee. Upon receipt of such matter, the committee, after due consideration, shall prepare its report and submit said report with their recommendation at the Annual Short School and Educational Seminars for vote of necessary action thereon.

Section 3. Duties of Committees

1. The Finance committee shall examine the Treasurer’s accounts annually, ascertain the amount of funds on hand and submit their report at each annual session together with an estimate of expenses for the ensuing year. This committee may suggest such measures of finance, as they may deem expedient.

2. Plumbing Code and Legislation Committee, if or when appointed, shall examine and report on all proposed amendments of the Constitution, Laws and Rules of Order, all proposed State Plumbing Codes, and all State recognized Codes and such other matters as may be referred to them by the President or by other Officers.

3. Resolutions Committee shall report its findings and determinations on such resolutions as may be herein specifically classified and are regularly referred to them for consideration.

4. Nominations Committee shall submit a list of nominees for the various offices prior to the annual election.

5. Membership Committee shall endeavor to enroll every Plumbing Inspector in the State of Texas as a member of this Association.

6. Scholarship Committee shall consist of the Executive Officers along with a Chair, which shall be appointed by the President. This Committee shall oversee the criteria for qualifying applicants and the disbursement of funds for the **Charlie Peebles Academic Scholarship Award and the Charlie Hall Vocational Scholarship Award**. Each of these Scholarship Awards shall be $1000.00 and shall be awarded individually or combined as one award of $2,000.00. The funds shall be issued directly to the educational institute in the name of the recipient.

ARTICLE XI

RULES OF ORDER

The provisions in this Constitution shall govern this Association and the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall guide its parliamentary procedure.

ARTICLE XII

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business of the annual business sessions shall be as follows:

1. Reading and Approval of Minutes

2. Financial Report

3. Report of Committees

4. Old Business

5. New Business

6. Election of Officers

7. Installation of Officers

8. Adjourn

ARTICLE XIII

AMENDMENTS

Any amendment to this Constitution shall be presented to the President before the January meeting. All Constitutional amendments shall be posted on the association website for viewing and comments no later than April 1. Constitutional amendments shall be presented at the annual business meeting. Amendments shall be approved by two-thirds vote of all voting members present and absent at the business meeting. All absentee ballots must be emailed to the Secretary by Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. of the week of the conference and shall be counted by the Treasurer and Secretary prior to the General Business meeting.

BY LAWS

1. Any member traveling on official business in an official capacity on behalf of the association shall be reimbursed for their expenses, provided that the member obtain preapproval with the Board for all travel expenses. The Association shall make reimbursement for all reasonable travel expenses when proper receipts are submitted to the Treasurer

2. The President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and a Representative from the Host City shall serve as Program Committee for the Annual Short School and Educational Seminars.

3. The fiscal year for this Association shall be January 1 through December 31.

4. A Certified Public Accountant shall audit the books whenever the Association has a majority vote to do so or bi-annually, whichever comes first.

5. In addition to the Elected Officers, the President may appoint a Booth Coordinator. The Booth Coordinator shall serve at the discretion of the President to ensure adequate vendor and associate participation at the Annual Short School and Educational Seminars by assisting the 2nd Vice President with their duties. The Booth Coordinator shall either be a past officer of this Association or a current member and an individual with extensive experience within the plumbing industry.