BY-LAWS

of

The Society for the Study of Rebecca Harding Davis and Her World

I. NAME: The official name of the organization will be The Society for the Study of Rebecca Harding Davis and Her World, but the organization also will be known as The Rebecca Harding Davis Society.

II. PURPOSE: The purpose of The Society for the Study of Rebecca Harding Davis and Her World is to encourage interest in Rebecca Harding Davis, the people and places she wrote about, the people she knew, and the issues she explored. The society shall foster the formal presentation of ideas about Davis and her work as well as the informal exchange of information among society members. That is, The Rebecca Harding Davis Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes. Annual meetings, sponsorship of conference sessions, special seminars, and the published society newsletter will provide the most obvious ways of achieving the society’s intended purpose.

III. MEMBERSHIP: Membership is open to anyone who supports the purpose of the society. Membership dues will be $5.00 annually. Lifetime membership is $75.00. The membership year will run from June 1 through May 31.

IV. OFFICERS: Officers of The Rebecca Harding Davis Society will consist of a president, an executive director, a newsletter editor, a conference activities coordinator, and a website administrator. The president and executive director will each serve a two-year term, with the option of a second two-year term for each. The newsletter editor will serve a four-year term with the option of one two-year renewal. The website administrator and conference activities coordinator will be appointed by the president and will serve indefinite terms. To provide administrative continuity, the president and executive director will always serve staggered terms. No elected officer may serve more than two consecutive terms.

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The president or the executive director will solicit nominations in the fall for any elected terms ending in that year. The president or the executive director will then put the nominations up for vote electronically before the membership in the spring of each year. Only dues-paying members will be eligible to vote. A simple majority of members voting is sufficient for election. Results will be announced at the annual business meeting held at the ALA. Officers will begin serving their terms at the meeting at which election results are announced.

VI. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS:

   A. THE PRESIDENT: The president shall arrange for and preside over the annual business meeting of the society and shall work with the executive director to promote the activities of the organization.
B. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: The executive director shall receive dues and maintain the membership and financial records of the society. The executive director shall work with the president to promote the activities of the society. The executive director will also prepare and maintain the minutes of the annual business meeting.

C. THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR: The editor of the newsletter shall be responsible for the periodic publication of the newsletter as described in article no. IX below. For financial purposes, the newsletter will be sent electronically to all members with an e-mail address; members can request a paper copy of the newsletter by contacting the president of the society. After one year from publication, the newsletter will be posted on the website.

D. THE CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR: The conference activities coordinator will work with the president to coordinate the conference activities of the society. The conference activities coordinator will appoint a society member or members to chair the annual Davis session(s) to be held at the ALA Conference and will oversee the organization of the panel(s).

E. THE WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR: The website administrator will be responsible for designing and maintaining the society’s website, which should be updated quarterly or more often if needed.

VII. USE OF FUNDS: Funds belonging to the society shall be used only to support the educational and informational purposes that define it. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall benefit any officer or member.

VIII. MEETINGS: The Rebecca Harding Davis Society will meet annually at the American Literature Association Conference. In consultation with the organizer of the ALA Conference, the conference activities coordinator will determine the time and place of the annual meeting. The election of officers will normally take place at this meeting. Other business may also be introduced. A majority vote of those present will be required to pass all votes. Legislation that falls outside of the routine business of the group shall be submitted to the president at least seven days before the meeting so that it may be placed on the agenda.

IX. NEWSLETTER: The newsletter will provide information on conferences, calls for papers, short articles, news, recent publications on Davis, and the like.

X. SPONSORSHIP OF CONFERENCES: The Society for the Study of Rebecca Harding Davis and Her World regularly will host or co-host a conference, ideally every four years. The president, executive director, and conference activities coordinator will consult with society members to determine the dates, locations, and coordination of the conferences. Only paid society members may present on society-sponsored panels and at society conferences. The conference activities coordinator, in consultation with the executive director, will confirm that all participants are paid members.
XI. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS: Changes to the by-laws may be made by a simple majority of the members present at any regularly scheduled meeting of the society. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the president of the society in writing at least seven days before the meeting at which they are to be considered.

Last updated June 1, 2011.