

TSOMAA

Syndicate of Artists and Media Professionals

State of Kuwait

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Official Bylaws — English Edition

Established Monday, 28 May 2007 — pursuant to Law No. 38 of 1964

CHAPTER ONE

Formation of the Syndicate

Article (1)

Established on Monday, 28 May 2007, pursuant to Law No. 38 of 1964, as an organized body named the Syndicate of Artists and Media Professionals working in the arts and media in the State of Kuwait.

Article (2)

Headquarters of the Syndicate: State of Kuwait.

CHAPTER TWO

Objectives

Article (3)

To care for the interests of artists and media professionals, defend their rights, work to improve their material and social conditions, and represent them in all matters related to their affairs (Article 70 of the Labor Law).

CHAPTER THREE

Admission, Withdrawal and Dismissal of Members

Article (4)

Membership is open to every artist and media professional working in the disciplines of art and media, listed under six creative fields:

1. Theatre

Directing • Playwriting • Script adaptation • Acting • Scenography • Lighting
• Sound effects • Make-up • Costumes • Movement • Choreography • Ballet
• Production • Distribution • Criticism

2. Drama (TV & Radio)

TV directing • Radio directing • Drama writing & screenwriting • Lighting •
TV set design • Cinematography • TV & radio acting • Distribution • Editing •
Drama criticism • TV & radio production • Sound engineering

3. Media

TV presenting • Radio presenting • TV & radio programming • TV & radio
directing • TV editing • Set design • Media distribution • Media production •
Underwater filming • TV & radio criticism

4. Cinema

Directing • Writing & screenwriting • Acting • Criticism • Lighting • Cinematography • Make-up • Set design • Special effects • Editing • Production • Distribution

5. Music

Solo singing • Chanting • Arrangement • Composition • Performance • Choir • Orchestra conducting • Eastern ensemble conducting • Composition • Sound engineering • Lyrics • Music criticism • Music production

6. Visual & Applied Arts

Modern contemporary art • Sculpture • Ceramics • Drawing • Painting • Caricature • Arabic calligraphy • Ornamental script • Art criticism • Interior design • Decoration • Crafts • Printmaking • Fashion • Jewellery • Accessories • Computer graphics • Photography

Legal conditions for membership:

- 1 Must be at least eighteen years of age.
- 2 Must be of good conduct, evidenced by a certificate from the competent authority.
- 3 Must hold an academic qualification in one of the recognized professions from an accredited institute, or have acquired equivalent expertise endorsed by a recognized body.
- 4 Must not be a member of another syndicate.
- 5 Non-Kuwaiti applicants must have resided in Kuwait for at least five years.

Article (5)

Applicants must submit a request to the Board of Directors. The Board may accept or reject the request; rejection requires a two-thirds majority with stated reasons. Rejected applicants may appeal to the General Assembly at its first meeting, whose decision is final. Membership applications close one month before the opening of nominations for Board elections and reopen after the elections.

Article (6)

Any member may withdraw from the Syndicate at any time. The Syndicate may only claim outstanding dues up to the end of the year of withdrawal.

Article (7)

A member shall be dismissed for: (1) failure to pay annual dues without acceptable excuse; (2) damaging the reputation of the Syndicate or inciting members to withdraw; (3) embezzling Syndicate funds or committing an offense against public order or morals.

Article (8)

No member may be dismissed without an investigation by the Board, and dismissal requires a two-thirds majority. The dismissed member may appeal to the General Assembly at its first meeting; its decision is final.

CHAPTER FOUR

Subscriptions and Fees

Article (9)

The annual membership subscription is 12 KD.

Article (10)

The membership joining fee is 5 KD.

Article (11)

The Board may propose additional fees; their application requires approval of the General Assembly.

CHAPTER FIVE

Services and Assistance

Article (12)

Every member is entitled to social, cultural, professional and cooperative services, including:

Core assistance. Insurance against unemployment, illness and disability; other insurance schemes; establishment of savings funds.

Emergency assistance. Aid and grants for marriage, disasters and similar circumstances.

Cultural & recreational services. Publications; workshops and courses in arts, general culture and syndicate culture; clubs; trips; leisure programs.

Professional services. Joint production contracts, legal consultation, and individual and collective dispute resolution.

CHAPTER SIX

Finances of the Syndicate

Article (13)

The Syndicate's funds consist of: (1) annual member subscriptions; (2) revenues from Syndicate events approved by competent authorities; (3) profits from publications; (4) gifts and donations accepted by the Board and approved by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

Article (14)

Funds are deposited in a Kuwaiti bank in the name of the Syndicate of Artists and Media Professionals, with withdrawals governed by these bylaws.

Article (15)

The fiscal year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December.

CHAPTER SEVEN

The General Assembly

Article (16)

The General Assembly is the supreme authority over the Syndicate's affairs. It is composed of all Kuwaiti members who have paid their annual subscriptions up to the date of convening.

Article (17)

The General Assembly meets in ordinary session in January or February every two years.

Article (18)

Extraordinary sessions may be convened at the request of one-fifth of members or by a majority of the Board. The Board must convene the meeting within two weeks; otherwise it convenes automatically.

Article (19)

An Assembly is valid if half of members attend; if quorum is not reached, the meeting is postponed by half an hour and is then valid regardless of attendance.

Article (20)

Decisions of the General Assembly are final so long as they do not contravene these bylaws or Labor Law No. 38/1964. Decisions are made by majority of attending members, except where a special majority is required.

Article (21)

Only members may attend Assembly meetings; the Syndicate may invite technical experts in a consultative capacity.

Article (22)

The ordinary General Assembly considers in particular: (1) the Board's annual report; (2) approval of the certified balance sheet and final accounts and approval of the next year's budget; (3) election of Board members by secret ballot; (4) reports and proposals submitted by members at least one week before the meeting; (5) appeals from artists and media professionals whose applications were rejected or who were dismissed.

Article (23)

The extraordinary General Assembly considers: (1) amendments to the bylaws (two-thirds of attending members; filed with the Ministry); (2) dissolution of the Board or removal of one of its members; (3) voluntary dissolution or merger of the Syndicate (two-thirds majority of attendees).

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Board of Directors

Article (24)

The Board consists of seven members elected by the General Assembly for a term of four years.

Article (25)

Nominations from Kuwaiti members with paid subscriptions open three weeks before the General Assembly and close one week before. Candidates must: (1) not hold a senior management position directly responsible for the arts and media in government institutions; (2) hold a university

degree; (3) have completed syndicate training courses.

Article (26)

The Board is the executive authority for legitimate decisions of the General Assembly. Its responsibilities include: managing internal Syndicate relations; handling members' production relations (collective bargaining, joint contracts, conciliation, arbitration, joint committees); running cooperative, cultural and social projects; preparing the annual activity report; reviewing membership applications; investigating member complaints; signing contracts and representing the Syndicate in federations; convening the General Assembly and preparing final accounts; reviewing member proposals.

Article (27)

At its first meeting the Board elects an Executive Bureau: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Director, Cultural & Artistic Director, Media Director, and Director of Public & External Relations.

Article (28)

The President chairs the General Assembly and Board, represents the Syndicate before all parties, signs contracts and agreements, co-signs disbursements and cheques with the Financial Director, and signs official correspondence. The Vice-President acts in the President's absence.

Article (29)

The Secretary implements Syndicate regulations and Board decisions; supervises technical and administrative committees; keeps publications, correspondence and records; co-signs Assembly and Board minutes with the President; receives candidacy applications; convenes members for Assembly meetings; and reports annually on Syndicate operations.

Article (30)

The Financial Director collects subscriptions and other funds; implements Board financial decisions; processes payments and salaries; supervises accounts and safeguards records; maintains a permanent advance of 1,000 KD for urgent matters; prepares the final accounts and next year's budget with the Secretary.

Article (31)

The Board meets every two months. Quorum is more than half the members; if not reached, the meeting is postponed for one week, then valid with at least half present.

Article (32)

Board decisions are taken by absolute majority; the President holds the casting vote.

Article (33)

An extraordinary Board meeting may be convened at the request of the President or a majority of members.

Article (34)

Any Board member who is absent from three consecutive meetings without acceptable excuse is considered resigned.

Article (35)

A vacant Board seat is filled by the next member from the last election, or by Board appointment in case of unopposed election. The new member completes the predecessor's term.

Article (36)

If at least half the Board members resign at once, the Board is dissolved and the General Assembly convenes within two weeks to elect a new Board for the remaining term.

Article (37)

Board members do not receive salaries for their duties.

Article (38)

The Board may form committees (cultural, social, advisory, etc.) involving one or more of its members; the Board sets each committee's size, scope and procedures, and reviews its findings.

CHAPTER NINE

Accounts

Article (39)

The Syndicate maintains at minimum the following books: a register for income and expenses; a bank-accounts ledger recording deposits and withdrawals by date; a permanent-advance ledger; a numbered, stamped receipts book; a subscriptions ledger ordered by member; a per-member accounts ledger recording dues paid and amounts disbursed; and a register of real estate, movables and other permanent assets with brief descriptions, valuations and custodians, recording any changes.

— End of Bylaws —