

BYLAWS
LATIN AMERICA SPECIALTY GROUP
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

Article I: Purpose

The purpose of the Latin America Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (hereafter LASG and AAG) is to promote education, research, and other activity relating to Latin American geography and to advance communication among geographers and others with an interest in this region.

Article II: Activities

The purpose of LASG is to be advanced primarily through (1) the organization of Latin American interest sessions and other activities to be held at the annual meeting of the AAG; and (2) the awarding of financial prizes in support of graduate student research and scholarship in Latin American geography.

Article III: Meetings

LASG shall conduct an annual business meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the AAG.

Article IV: Membership

Membership in LASG is open to any active member of the AAG who chooses to request affiliation and pays the relevant published specialty group membership fee.

Article V: Officers

The officers shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and up to three directors (optional). These officers shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Article VI: Duties of Officers

The duties of the officers are:

Chair: (1) To preside at the annual meeting and other such business meetings as may be held by the organization. (2) To assist in liaison between the AAG and other interest groups in geography or other disciplines. (3) To coordinate the organization and scheduling of LASG sponsored activities at the annual meeting of the AAG. (4) To facilitate the preparation and distribution of a newsletter at least once a year. (5) To coordinate the LASG graduate student awards process.

Vice Chair: To assist the Chair.

Secretary-Treasurer: (1) To record minutes of business meetings and distribute them to the officers of the organization and, if requested, the general membership. (2) To maintain files of minutes, programs, papers, and other materials of potential interest to the membership of LASG. (3) To maintain up-to-date files of the LASG membership in coordination with AAG staff. (4) To maintain the financial accounts in coordination with AAG staff.

Directors: (1) To work with other officers to develop policy governing the operation of LASG. Generally such policy should be subject to final approval of the membership of the organization (defined as voting members present at the annual meeting). (2) To organize sessions at the annual meeting of the AAG. (3) To assist the Chair and Vice-Chair as needed.

Article VII: Terms of Office

Terms of office will be three years, with one year in each officer position (year 1 – Secretary-Treasurer; year 2 – Vice-Chair; year 3 – Chair). Terms shall begin on July 1st following LASG elections, to be held before or during the annual meeting of the AAG.

Article VIII: Nominations and Elections

Nominations for offices being vacated will be made either virtually (through a secure online platform) or from the floor at the annual business meeting. Elections should be held either virtually (through a secure online platform) or at the annual business meeting.

Article IX: Vacancies

In the event that the Chair is unable to complete a term of office, the Vice Chair will assume the Chair. If the Secretary-Treasurer is unable to complete a term of office the Vice Chair will assume the Secretary-Treasurer's duties.

Article X: Amendments

Amendments to or revisions of the Bylaws may be proposed by presentation of a written petition to the Chair at least 30 days prior to the annual business meeting. A two-thirds majority of the members present at the business meeting must vote to change the Bylaws.

The original Bylaws were approved by voice at the annual business meeting of April 14, 1980, in Louisville, Kentucky. A revision was approved at the meeting of March 20, 1989, in Baltimore, Maryland. Another revision was approved at the annual business meeting in Chicago, IL, on April 23, 2015. This current version was approved at the business meeting in New York, NY (held virtually) on February 26, 2022.