

# HASP

## HOPE ACADEMY OF SENIOR PROFESSIONALS

*“HASP programs foster good listening,  
learning, reading and sharing the  
pleasure of discussion.”*

*– Dr. John Hollenbach  
HASP Founder*

Founded in 1988 as the Branch of Hope College  
for Learning in Retirement



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## **An Overview of HASP and the HASP – Hope College Relationship**

The Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP) was founded with 38 members in 1988 by Dr. John Hollenbach, Hope College Professor Emeritus of English with the support of Dr. John Jacobson, President of Hope College.

HASP was conceived as an association of retired individuals having intellectual vitality and inquisitiveness. Its continuing goal is to broaden the members' intellectual horizons and to enhance their cultural and social lives.

The Academy offers opportunities for retirees to pursue avenues of study and to exchange ideas with their peers through lectures, study groups, and cultural events. It shapes its own programs and relies on its members to provide leadership.

HASP is a branch of Hope College, a nationally recognized undergraduate college. HASP is considered a voluntary, continuing education arm and is part of the Alumni and Family Engagement division of the college.

Through organization-generated service activities, the HASP retired professionals share their skills and knowledge with the rest of the community placing particular emphasis on helping the students and faculty of Hope College.

College resources such as the VanWylen Library, DePree Art Center, concerts, plays, art exhibits and lectures are available to HASP members.

## **General Information regarding HASP**

Programs designed for members are educational, cultural, and social. A monthly program for the entire membership occurs on the first Tuesday of each month, typically at the Haworth Conference Center on the Hope College campus. Coffee time begins at 9:00 a.m. with general announcements and the program from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Programs are selected from a wide variety of topics: social, economic problems, aspects of the arts, environmental situations, etc. Our monthly newsletter informs members of the program topic and location.

To provide stimulus for more focused inquiry, there are special topic discussion courses and groups offered to members. These are the heart of the HASP program. A new series of courses is offered each term – fall, winter/spring and summer. Courses can run from one to eight sessions on topics reflecting stated interests of members. Classes are coordinated by HASP members and emphasize group discussion. Courses are typically held in our HASP classroom at 100 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 270 unless otherwise noted.

HASP's social/cultural events are enthusiastically attended. These include a variety of events: dinner-theatre evening, museum excursions, concerts, industry tours, mystery trips, field trips, and overnight tours each year.

Service is a vital part of HASP's program. The membership is a reservoir of human resources with rich and varied experience and professional and human insights. HASP members may be called upon by the college faculty to support lectures in college courses, serve on panels in classes and society programs, act as discussants in college courses, serve as mentors or respondents for students involved in research, advise on career directions, or act as judges for contests.

The Academy is open to other requests of service, not only within the college but in the community. Members serve as historical Trolley Guides during Tulip Time, give their expertise as tutors in literacy programs, assist with ushering for the Grand Rapids Symphony concerts, and lend a hand in many other ways.

# **Organizational Structure of HASP**

## **Permanent Committees**

### **Executive Committee:**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the HASP President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Director of HASP, and two At-Large Members elected by the membership whose terms of office will expire at the end of that year.

The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of HASP between meetings of the Board of Directors, subject to the right of the Board of Directors to ratify or nullify Executive Committee action at the next Board of Directors meeting.

### **Nominating Committee:**

The Nominating Committee shall be formed in the first half of each HASP fiscal year. It shall consist of the Director of HASP, who shall serve as Chairperson, the two At-Large Members elected by the membership whose terms expire at the end of that year, and three persons appointed from the HASP membership by the President.

### **Personnel Committee:**

The Personnel Committee shall review the organizational operations, personnel needs and compensation for the hired staff according to the guidelines approved by the Board of Directors and in partnership with the Executive Director of Alumni Engagement.

### **Audit Committee:**

The Audit Committee will serve as a standing sub-committee of the Board of Directors and consists of the treasurer and two other board members, one of whom is the committee chairperson, appointed by the HASP President.

## Standing Committees

Currently six standing committees plan and direct the activities of HASP. The chairpersons are designated and approved each year by the Board and the members are volunteers from the HASP membership. Their duties are as follows:

1.     **Communications Committee:**
  - To solicit, edit and publish literary and artistic offerings by HASP members in the HASP Review.
  
2.     **Curriculum Committee:**
  - To conceive, initiate, promote and supervise courses and study and discussion groups which address membership interests and needs.
  - There are four sub-committees involved in planning curriculum: Humanities, Social Sciences, Fine Arts, and Science, Medicine and Technology.
  
3.     **Membership Committee:**
  - To process & review applications for new members.
  - To help orient new members to the purposes and procedures of HASP and the privileges of membership.
  - To help new members become better acquainted with their Academy colleagues.
  
4.     **Monthly Program Committee:**
  - To plan and implement programs for monthly membership meetings, assessing periodically the interests of the members and utilizing when possible the special capabilities of members in presenting such programs.
  
5.     **Special Events Committee:**
  - To plan and administer special social, cultural, educational and recreational events each month, with the objective in part to further acquaintance and fellowship among members.

6. Service Committee:
- To identify, from the College and community sources, needs and opportunities to achieve intellectual, social and cultural growth among members of the Hope College and area communities.
  - To ascertain the special competencies of HASP members and their readiness to be a resource to help others, especially Hope students.
  - To publicize the requests and the resources, and to facilitate converting them into actual programs of service.

### **The Board of Directors**

- ❖ The makeup of the Board is as follows:
  - Six at-large members elected by the Academy membership for three year terms on a rotating system.
  - The President, Vice-President, Director, Treasurer and the Chairpersons of the six Standing Committees are ex officio voting members while holding office.
  - Two persons from the Hope College professional staff, appointed annually by the President of the College, are voting members.
- ❖ The Board meets regularly four times a year and on special call.
- ❖ The Board is vested with leadership in establishing policies and instituting programs of the Academy “responsive to the wishes and needs of the members.”

### **The Director**

- ❖ The Director, appointed by the Executive Director of Alumni Engagement with the input and concurrence of the HASP Board of Directors and President of Hope College, is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day business of the Academy and insuring that the decisions of the Board of Directors and the standing committees are carried out.

## Membership Information

Membership requirements:

- Applicant shall be of retirement or semi-retirement status.
- Applicant shall show evidence of broad, humane interest, intellectual vitality and inquisitiveness, and a willingness to contribute to the enrichment of the lives of fellow members, Hope College students, faculty and staff, and members of the local community.
- Applicant shall participate actively in HASP programs and classes.

Becoming a New Member:

1. **BEFORE** applying for membership, an applicant must attend a HASP monthly program as a guest. The applicant should sign the guest registration list at the membership table in the lobby (and the name of the member they came with—if applicable) and receive a name tag. Guests will be introduced at the meeting from the podium by a HASP officer.
2. If interested in applying for membership, the applicant should obtain an application from the membership table at the monthly meeting or from the HASP office.
3. The completed application form, with your mentor/sponsor listed and check written to HASP for the proper amount of dues, should be returned to the HASP office. If you don't know any current HASP members, a HASP mentor will be assigned to you. Once these items have been received, the application will be processed and the new member will receive their membership information in the mail. The mentor will be notified of the new member's acceptance and sent a list of their responsibilities. A date for recognition of the new member at a monthly meeting will be scheduled. New members will receive a permanent name badge that is to be worn to all HASP meetings and classes.

Membership:

- The HASP fiscal year is July 1 to June 30.
- Annual dues are due and payable by July 15 of each fiscal year.
- Annual dues are \$100.00 per person and cover the cost of operation (office staff, supplies, printing, refreshments, etc.).
- New members joining January - April pay pro-rated dues of \$50.
- Membership begins on the date of acceptance. No applications processed April 11 - June 10. A letter of welcome from the

HASP President containing a copy of the HASP Constitution, a membership directory, a course catalog, a Hope College map, current bulletin and HASP parking tag will be sent via mail.

- If there are further questions, please contact:  
HASP Office- Kim Mendels, Director or  
Amy Berarducci, Office and Project Manager  
100 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 270, Holland, MI 49423  
(616) 395-7919                      E-mail: [hasp@hope.edu](mailto:hasp@hope.edu)

#### Responsibilities of HASP membership:

- Participation in HASP programs by attendance at the monthly program and annual business meetings.
- Enrollment in curricular offerings and special event offerings.
- Sharing insights and experiences in HASP programs designed to benefit members as well as others in the college and community.
- Serving on a HASP committee when asked to do so.

#### Opportunities and Privileges of Members:

- VanWynen Library: Library privileges are extended to HASP members. Show your HASP membership card at the front desk to receive a library card. There is no charge.
- College Cultural Activities: Members are invited to attend special lectures, concerts and programs open to the college family as well as those open to the public. The monthly bulletin and emails from the HASP office alert members of such events.
- Access to all course offerings and special events via enrollment/registration process.
- Monthly Program at Haworth Conference Center, Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon.





# Hope COLLEGE

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616. 395.7919 | [hope.edu/hasp](http://hope.edu/hasp) | [hasp@hope.edu](mailto:hasp@hope.edu)