

**Constitution of the
West Virginia Science Teachers Association
A Nonprofit Organization**

**ARTICLE I
Name and Affiliation**

Section 1: This organization shall be known as the West Virginia Science Teachers Association (WVSTA) and shall be a chapter of the National Science Teachers Association.

Section 2: The term "State Association" hereinafter used shall refer to the West Virginia Science Teachers Association while "National Association" shall refer to the National Science Teachers Association.

**ARTICLE II
Purpose and Goals**

Section 1: The purpose of the State Association shall be to encourage active interest and participation in science and science education at all levels, to provide a medium for the exchange of views regarding the teaching of science, and to promote the cooperative study of problems and challenges to the teaching of science.

Section 2: The goals of the State Association shall be as follows:

- a. To facilitate and cooperate in providing for national, regional, state, and local conferences on science education.
- b. To prepare and distribute articles, reports, and classroom materials which are appropriate and helpful to teachers of science.
- c. To disseminate information which promotes science and science education universally throughout the state at all levels, i.e. School, community, business and industry, non-profit organizations, and government.
- d. To encourage investigations, experimentation and research in science, and science education.
- e. To cooperate with the National Association in formulating plans and projects which advance the quality of science teaching and which promote a more widespread acceptance of science as a subject worthy of serious study from elementary school through college.

ARTICLE III
Membership, Dues, and Meetings

Section 1: Any person in agreement with one or more of the purposes of the State Association may become a member upon payment of the annual dues.

Section 2: Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors of the State Association subject to the approval of a majority of the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 3: The membership year shall run from October 1 through September 30.

Section 4: Meetings of the State Association shall be held at regular intervals to be determined by the Board of Directors. There shall be at least one meeting per year.

Section 5. The Board of Directors, by majority vote of all members, may suspend or expel any member for cause, as defined as actions or statements adverse to the mission and vision of the organization as determined by the Board of Directors. Any member who is suspended by the Board shall remain so until a majority vote of the membership. During any period of suspension, a member shall not be entitled to any rights of membership.

ARTICLE IV
Governance, Officers, and Duties

Section 1: The officers of the organization and Board of Directors will consist of the following:

- a. President
- b. President Elect
- c. Immediate Past President
- d. Membership Vice-President
- e. Secretary
- f. Treasurer
- g. Executive Director
- h. State Science Coordinator (ex officio member)
- i. PAEMST Coordinator
- j. Chairpersons of all standing committees
- k. Webmaster
- l. Higher Education Liaison

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Director and all elected officers.

Section 3: The positions of President, President Elect, Membership Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected offices. The Chairpersons of all standing committees, Higher Education Liaison, and Webmaster will be appointed positions by the President subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director and the PAEMST Coordinator will be decided by a vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 4: The Board of Directors shall have the power to set membership dues (subject to the approval of the general membership), plan meetings, review reports, approve standing committee reports and operations, direct the treasurer to disburse funds when appropriate, and collaborate and cooperate with other organizations promoting science education throughout the state. The Board of Directors has the responsibility to direct the State Association in an appropriate, productive, and sustained program specifically geared to promote the purpose and goals of the State Association as indicated by this constitution.

Section 5: Any office or position becoming vacant may be filled by appointment of the President subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Elections for that position will be held at the conclusion of that membership year as outlined in this constitution.

Section 6: The President shall have general charge of the State Association and shall chair the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The President shall appoint all committee chairpersons as necessary, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

The President Elect shall assist the President in the operation of the State Association. The President Elect will become familiar with the needs of the Association, so that, as officers change, the State Association will continue to run smoothly and efficiently. The President Elect shall also appoint and chair the nominating committee.

The Membership Vice President shall maintain and make available up-to-date records of current membership and work to foster new memberships in the State Association.

The Secretary shall keep all written records and minutes of the State Association. The Secretary shall also handle appropriate correspondence for the Executive Committee as directed by the President acting on behalf of the Executive Board.

The Treasurer shall keep all financial records of the State Association and disburse funds as directed by the President or Executive Secretary subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer may also disburse funds on a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Director shall maintain the historical records of the State Association and provide a semi-permanent address for continuity of conducting business of the State Association. The Executive Director shall also assist with

conference registration and bulk mailings of the State Association. The Executive Director may also direct the treasurer to disburse funds for the operations of the State Association subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

The Immediate Past President will coordinate the nomination, selection, and awarding of the WVSTA Fellows Award. The Past President will also assist the conference chair in identifying and contacting keynote speakers for the annual conference.

Article V Election of Officers

Section 1: Elections shall be conducted electronically by the State Association and results will be announced during the business meeting at the Annual Conference. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the general membership from a slate of candidates proposed by a nominating committee. The nominating committee shall be appointed and chaired by the President Elect. Nominations will be solicited from the general membership prior to the selection of a slate of candidates (who are members of the State Association in good standing). All voting members shall be restricted to active membership and be by secret ballot.

Section 2: Terms of office for the President, President Elect, Membership Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be for two years each. This will necessitate general elections be held each year with a President Elect and Secretary elected in even numbered years and Membership Vice-President and Treasurer elected in odd numbered years. Officers will assume their duties and responsibilities with the announcement of official results from the elections committee.

Section 3: Officers shall be eligible for re-election, but can only serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. All retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election after two years. Due to the nature of the non-profit organization and bank regulations, the office of Treasurer may be held for multiple terms as approved by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI Standing Committees and Responsibilities

Section 1: Standing Committees of the State Association shall be:

- a. Public Relation Committee
- b. Legislative Committee
- c. Conference Committee
- d. Publications Committee
- e. Technology Committee

Section 2: Committee responsibilities

Public Relations Committee. The responsibility of the Public Relations Committee is to promote the State Association through a variety of media including but not limited to the following:

- a. professional meetings
- b. print media
- c. radio
- d. TV
- e. Public displays

Legislative Committee. The responsibility of the Legislative Committee will be to monitor and inform the State Association on important legislative matters which have ramifications for the science community on both the state and national levels. It will further be the responsibility of the Legislative Committee to establish a list of political contacts from both the state and national levels and maintain an open dialogue keeping our representatives informed and knowledgeable about the position of the State Association on appropriate legislative issues that affect the science community.

Conference Committee. The responsibility of the Conference Committee will be to plan and execute the annual State Association meeting. A conference committee chair will be appointed by the President Elect and approved by the Executive Board. Committee members will be appointed by the conference committee chair. The Conference Committee reports to the President Elect.

Publications Committee. The responsibility of the Publications Committee will be to design and publish a quarterly newsletter for the membership. The Publications Committee Chair will be the Newsletter Editor appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee .

Technology Committee. The responsibilities of the Technology Committee will be to maintain the organization website, Listservs, questionnaire and polling software, and manage the process for electronic voting. The Chair of the Technology Committee will be the organization's webmaster and will be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII

Special Committees

Section 1: One special committee will be established by the State Association as necessary. This committee will be the Elections Committee charged with assembling a panel of candidates for offices of the State Association, and overseeing the elections process. .

Section 2: The Elections Committee will be chaired by the President Elect who will appoint members subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Ad hoc committees may be organized to accomplish specific tasks at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Adoption

Section 1: This constitution shall become effective after approval by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee and ratified by a majority vote of the active members.

Section 2: Amendments may be proposed by members of the Executive Committee or by a petition of 5 or more individuals in good standing of the State Association. Furthermore this constitution may be revised in any way by a majority of the Executive Committee followed by a majority vote of the active membership.

Section 3: Non-substantive changes to the by-laws may be made by Executive Committee action without membership balloting.

ARTICLE IX

Bylaws

Section 1: Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all business meetings of the State Association.

AMENDMENT I

Dissolution Clause

Upon the dissolution of the West Virginia Science Teachers Association, the West Virginia State Science Supervisor or the person assigned to the supervision of science education K-12 in West Virginia, shall determine the distribution of assets for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or any corresponding section of future federal tax codes. (10/97)

Revised and adopted _____