

CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE SOCIAL STUDIES SPECIALISTS

ARTICLE I - THE ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Council of State Social Studies Specialists, hereinafter referred to in this constitution as the Council.

Section 2 - Purpose

The purpose of the Council shall be to study, strengthen, and promote the leadership role of the state social studies specialists through such means as:

- (1) The exchange of ideas and the dissemination of information among the membership in matters regarding state programs, experimental studies, consultative or supervisory practices and services, and other items of general concern to the membership.
- (2) Cooperative study of problems pertaining to the work of the state social studies specialists.
- (3) Cooperation with organizations professionally interested in the extension and improvement of social studies instruction.

Section 3 - Membership

(1) There shall be five classes of members--regular members, associate members, organization members affiliate members, and honorary member.

- a) **Regular member** - a current state department of education official with significant responsibilities for social studies. These members may vote: participate in Council meetings; hold office; serve on National Council for the Social Studies committees representing the Council; and receive publications and other services of the Council.
- b) **Associate member** - a former state department of education official and former regular member. These members may participate in Council meetings; serve on National Council for the Social Studies committees representing the Council; and receive publications and other services of the Council.
- c) **Organizational member** - a representative of an organization which is related to social studies at the national level. Such an organization is entitled to one member. If that representative leaves the position with the national organization, his or her membership would not continue, but the organization could designate a new representative for membership in the Council. When such an organization has within it an associate member, the associate member will serve as the organization's "organization member." These members may participate in Council meetings and receive publications and other services of the Council.
- d) **Affiliate member** - a representative from an organization with a special program related to social studies. Such an organization is entitled to one member for the duration of the special program. If that representative leaves the position with the organization, his or her membership would not continue, but the organization could designate a new representative for membership in the Council. When such an organization has within it an associate member, the associate member will serve as the organizations "affiliate member. These members may participate in Council meetings and receive publications and other services of the Council.

e) **Honorary member** - a person who has contributed significantly to the work of the Council and is not otherwise eligible for membership. These members may participate in Council meetings and receive publication and other services of the Council.

(2) State department officials with significant responsibilities for social studies and those eligible for associate membership may apply for membership and join the Council by paying membership dues. Persons may be elected to organization, affiliate, and honorary memberships upon recommendation of the Executive Committee and majority vote of the Council at the annual meeting. All such members, except honorary members shall pay membership dues.

(3) Decisions relative to eligibility for membership shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee and applications for membership shall be made to them.

(4) The period of membership of each person who joins the Council and pays the annual dues and/or fees shall begin the initial day of the annual meeting and shall end one year later on the day before the annual meeting.

(5) Membership in the National Council for the Social Studies is a requirement of regular membership in the Council.

ARTICLE II - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section I - Officers

The officers of the Council shall be President, a President-elect, a Secretary-treasurer, and Member-at-Large. The officers of the Council shall be President, a President-elect, a Secretary-treasurer, and Member-at-Large.

Section 2 - President

The President and/or President-elect shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee, the annual meeting, and all special meetings of the Council; shall appoint all committees not otherwise provide for in the constitution or by a vote of the Council; shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Council; and shall represent and act in the name of the Council when it is not in session. The term of office for President shall be one year

Section 3 - President-elect

The President-elect shall assume the office of President if this office is vacated during the term of office; shall preside over the meetings in the absence of the President; and shall assist the President in the administrative work of the Council. The President-elect shall assume the office of President at the close of the annual meeting, which follows the elections as President-elect. In addition the President-elect shall, at the discretion of the President, preside over the annual meeting. The term of office for President-elect shall be for one year.

Section 4 – Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary shall take and keep minutes of all Council and Executive Committee meetings; preserve all documents and records of the and transmit them to the successor; keep a record of membership; receive all monies of the Council and provide for their safekeeping; pay all authorized bills and keep an accurate and current record of all receipts and expenditures of Council funds; make reports at the annual meetings; and shall perform other duties given by the President and/or the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary shall be an appointed paid position, shall be an ex-officio nonvoting member of the Executive Committee, and shall be either a regular or associate member of the Council.

Section 5 - Members-at- Large

The Member-at-Large shall serve on the Executive Committee. The term of office of the Member-at-Large shall be for three years.

Section 6 - Directors

Two Directors will serve on the Executive Committee. One Director will be elected each year and the term of office for each Director shall be two years.

Section 7 - Resignations

Resignations shall be made by written statement and submitted to the remaining members of the Executive Committee. The ranking officer shall, with the approval of the Executive Committee, make an interim appointment to serve the balance of the unexpired term.

ARTICLE III - COMMITTEES

Section 1 - Executive Committee

(1) The Executive Committee shall consist of officers of the Council, the two Directors, and the immediate past President.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to carry out the general policies of the Council and the directions of the regular membership as expressed at the annual and special meetings. The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint officers and executive members-at-large to fill unexpired terms when vacancies occur. The Executive Committee shall keep the membership informed of its actions through expeditious delivery of copies of the minutes of each meeting.

(3) At the time of their election, members of the Executive Committee shall be regular members of the Council. If, during his/her term of office, a member of the Executive Committee becomes ineligible for regular membership, he/she shall continue to serve in his/her elected capacity until the next annual meeting, when a successor regular member shall be elected to complete the term of office.

Section 2 - Nominating Committee

(1) The Nominating Committee shall consist of regular members appointed from three of the five regional areas as follows: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Mountain States, and Far West. The President at the annual meeting shall appoint them. The ranking officer shall appoint the three members of the Nominating Committee in the event the President is absent.

(2) The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for nominating the officers and Directors to the membership of the Council either at the annual meeting or by a mail ballot, as directed by the Executive Committee or the membership during a duty authorized meeting.

Section 3 - Publications Committee

The President with the approval of the Executive Committee shall appoint the Publications Committee. The chairman of the Publications Committee shall be the editor of the Newsletter for the Council. The Publications Committee shall also arrange for the publication of such other material as directed by the Executive Committee.

Section 4 - Program Committee

The President with the approval of the Executive Committee shall appoint the Program Committee. The President-elect shall be the chairman of this committee. The Program Committee shall be responsible for the planning of programs for the annual and special meetings of the Council.

Section 5 - Other Committees

The President shall appoint such other committees as are required to further the purpose of the Council.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

Section 1 - Annual Meeting

(1) A meeting of the Council shall be held prior to, or in connection with, the Annual Convention of the National Council for the Social Studies or such other professional organizational meetings agreeable to the Council of the State Social Studies Specialists by vote of the Council at the annual meeting, and shall be held in the approximate area of the chosen meeting.

(2) The Council for the State Social Studies Specialists shall make provisions for the meeting room at the chosen convention and assume the financial obligations accruing there from.

Section 2 - Special Meetings

Special meetings shall be at the call of the Executive Committee.

Section 3 - Quorum

One third of the regular members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4 - Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised shall govern the meetings of the Council in all cases to which they are applicable.

ARTICLE V MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1 - By-Laws

The By-Laws of the Council are to be made, altered, or rescinded by a majority vote of those regular members present at an official meeting or by a mail ballot.

Section 2 - Amendments

Amendments to the constitution may be proposed and adopted by a majority vote of those regular members present at an official meeting or by a mail ballot.

Section 3 - Mail Ballots

Any action which may be taken by the Council, Executive Committee, or any committee or subcommittee of the Council at an official meeting which requires formal voting by the regular membership may be taken by a fifteen-day mail ballot.

Section 4 - Dues and Fees

Dues and/or fees may be required of members with the amount of such dues and/or fees subject to the majority vote of the regular members at an official meeting or by a mail ballot.

Section 5 - Election of Directors

The Directors of the corporation, Council of State Social Studies Specialists, will be elected by majority vote of the regular members.