

Bylaws of the Georgia School Public Relations Association

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Georgia School Public Relations Association.

Article II - Geographical Jurisdiction

The geographical jurisdiction of the Georgia School Public Relations Association shall be the state of Georgia. Within the state, four geographical regions shall be maintained, in accordance with considerations of geography and distribution of members. The four regions shall be reviewed periodically by the Executive Committee to ensure equity and balance of membership. Recommendations for changes in regional boundaries may be made by a majority of the members of any one region or by members of the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting or the annual business meeting. Changes in the boundaries shall be approved by the membership at the annual business meeting, or by mail ballot when deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

Article III - Purpose

The chapter is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes, as may qualify it as exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or any corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. More specifically, such purposes include, but are not limited to:

The primary purpose of the organization shall be to serve the citizenry of the state by promoting a better understanding of the objectives, accomplishments and needs of public education. The Association seeks to accomplish its purposes: 1) by establishing a clear philosophy of school-community relations; 2) by developing and promoting effective techniques for communication between the schools and their various publics represented in their communities; and 3) by promoting sound practices of school-community relations and public support of public education.

Article IV - Membership

4.1 Members

Any person who is actively interested in advancing the cause of public education shall be eligible to apply for membership.

4.2 Membership Year

The membership year shall be from conference to conference. If no annual conference is held, the membership year will be November 1 - October 31.

As soon as possible after the conference, the treasurer will notify all members who have not paid dues for the current year. In non-conference years, notification should be given as soon as

possible after October 31. Membership dues for those joining in the second, third, or fourth quarter of the membership year shall be assessed at two-thirds the rate of the current annual membership dues.

4.3 Membership Directory

The secretary shall maintain the official membership directory. Rosters will be provided to any active member upon request. Members will be notified periodically of the addition of new members. Membership directories may be shared with other non-profit organizations whose purpose is to support public education. The directories should not be provided to for-profit companies whose purpose is to use the membership list to solicit business. The president has the final authority to decide who may or may not receive a membership directory.

Article V - Annual Business Meeting

5.1 Order of Business

There shall be an annual business meeting of the Association. The time, place and proposed agenda shall be determined by the Association's Executive Committee. The membership in annual meeting shall elect officers, approve position statements of the Association, advise the Executive Committee on the control and management of the Association, receive reports on the state of the Association, and take action on items as determined by the Executive Committee.

5.2 Transaction of Business

Decisions made at the annual meeting shall be determined by majority vote of the members present.

5.3 Other Meetings

Other meetings of the Association shall be called at the discretion of the president or by three or more members of the Executive Committee.

Article VI – Officers

6.1 Election of Officers

Officers of the Association shall be elected at the annual business meeting. The positions of President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Region II Director, and Member Services Director shall be elected in even-number years. The positions of Region I Director, Region III Director, Region IV Director, Communications Director and Secretary shall be elected in odd-number years, beginning in 2003. For 2002 only, officers in these positions will serve for one year. The Professional Development Director shall be elected annually. The Secretary shall immediately report the name of the president to the National School Public Relations Association. Terms of office, with the exception of Professional Development Director, shall be for two years. Terms of office begin at the close of the annual conference, or in non-conference years, on November 1.

The President shall appoint a nominating committee to make recommendations for vacant positions. Its report shall be included in the agenda for the annual business meeting and shall

consist of at least one nominee for each vacant office. . Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual business meeting.

6.2 Duties of Officers

President

The president shall be the executive director of the Association and shall: preside at the meetings of the Association and Executive Committee; appoint all standing and special committees and designate the chairpersons; ; call meetings of the Executive Committee; submit an annual report of Association activities to the membership, and to the regional vice-president and national office of the National School Public Relations Association. The Association shall pay the president's dues for membership in the National School Public Relations Association in the event that the president's local system is not willing or able to do so.

President-Elect

The president-elect shall become president two years following the election as president-elect and shall perform all duties of the president in the event of the inability of the president to act.

Secretary

The secretary shall keep records of membership and meetings, assist in handling Association correspondence, notify the membership of new members, and promote membership in the organization.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep records of funds, provide financial statements annually to the membership, and disburse Association's funds as approved by the Executive Committee.

Communications Director

The Communications Director shall be responsible for producing electronic and printed materials , including, but not limited to, the Association's membership newsletter, web-based informational literature, and conference registration materials and program.

Regional Directors

There shall be four (4) regional directors, one (1) representing each of the Association's regions. The regional directors shall be elected at the annual business meeting by a majority of the members in attendance to serve a two-year term. .

Regional directors shall be responsible for recruiting new members of the Association in their respective regions, for originating and planning regional activities of benefit to Association members and to school public relations generally, for coordinating Association activities in their regions, and for other such activities as shall be initiated by them or requested by the Executive Committee, : including public relations accreditation and NSPRA liaison; statewide initiatives ; or regional drive-in conferences.

Membership Services Director

The Membership Services Director shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, and evaluating services provided to members.

Professional Development Director

The Professional Development Director shall be responsible for coordinating the annual conference and for other staff development activities.

6.3 Vacancies

Vacancies in the presidency shall be filled by the immediate succession of the president-elect. The new president shall fill the unexpired term of the previous president and then shall be entitled to serve a full term as president in the Association's next immediate membership year. The resulting vacancy in the office of president-elect shall be filled by vote of the membership at the next business meeting. Vacancies in all other positions shall be filled by majority vote of the Executive Committee until the next business meeting of the Association.

Article VII – Executive Committee

7.1 Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Association's officers. . Members who serve as officers or directors of the National School Public Relations Association shall serve as Executive Committee ex-officio members. .

7.2 Powers and Duties

The governing body of the Association shall be the Executive Committee. It shall be responsible for all policy decisions affecting the Association's operation. It shall approve disbursement of funds; recommend dues; fill vacancies as authorized in Article VI; set the time, place, and agenda for the annual business meeting; call other meetings of the Association; and carry out all directives as voted by the members. It shall be responsible for planning and coordinating professional development and in-service education sponsored by the Association.

7.3 Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet at least three times annually. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the president or any three members of the Executive Committee, and may be held in person, by phone, or through any other interactive medium deemed appropriate by the president. All actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be recorded by the secretary, or designee, and reported to the general membership as soon as possible following the meeting.

7.4 Quorum

A majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Article VIII – Dues

8.1 Recommendation of Dues

The establishment of dues, and all policies pertaining thereto, shall be on the recommendation of the Association's Executive Committee.

8.2 Approval of Dues

Changes in the dues shall be approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the annual business meeting.

Article IX – Amendments

At least 30 days notice in writing shall be given members of any proposed bylaws amendments. These bylaws may be amended by vote of a majority of the members present at the annual business meeting. When deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, members may vote on proposed amendments by mail. If by mail, the amendment(s) must be approved by vote of a majority of members returning the ballots. After Association approval, all amendments shall be submitted by the president to the Executive Board of the National School Public Relations Association for approval.

Article X – Affiliation

The Georgia School Public Relations Association shall be an affiliate of the National School Public Relations Association.

a. A chapter may be established by the NSPRA Executive Board on petition of 10 or more members in good standing in a given area. To continue in good standing, the chapter must continue to have at least 10 members who are also NSPRAmembers. The exact territory of chapter jurisdiction shall be determined by the NSPRA Executive Board.

The President, President-Elect, Treasurer, and at least one other member of the Executive Committee shall maintain membership in the National School Public Relations Association. All other chapter officers and members are encouraged to be members of the National Association.

c. Bylaws of each chapter shall be approved by the Executive Board of the Association before adoption by the chapter. Amendments to the bylaws of a chapter must be approved by the Executive Board of the national Association to become effective.

Article XI – Prohibited Activities

No part of the earnings of the chapter shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in these bylaws. Except as provided in Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or any corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law, no substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Chapter shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of campaign statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Upon dissolution of the Chapter, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Chapter, dispose of all the assets of the Chapter exclusively for the purposes of the Chapter, in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, as the Executive Board shall determine.