

CONSTITUTION
Of the
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-NEW MEXICO RETIRED
Revised and Adopted 10/27/2017

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the National Education Association-New Mexico Retired, in order to be the voice for educational retirees, work to preserve and improve retirement and health care, provide necessary training, be dedicated to the principle of retirement with dignity, work for the general benefit of our members and public education, do hereby adopt this Constitution. **ARTICLE 1.**

Name, Goals, Objectives, Authorities for Governance, and Affiliations

Section 1. Name.

The name of this organization shall be the National Education Association-New Mexico Retired (NEA-NMR) and shall be herein also referred to as the Association.

Section 2. Goals and Objectives.

The goals of the Association shall be as stated in the Preamble. The Association shall have all power necessary and proper to take action for the attainment of these goals. Nothing in this Constitution or in the Bylaws shall be construed to prevent the Association from pursuing objectives that are consistent with the stated goals of the Association.

Section 3. Governance.

National Education Association-New Mexico Retired shall be governed by the Constitution, the Bylaws, the Standing Rules, and such other actions as the membership and the Board of Directors may take consistent therewith.

Section 4. NEA Affiliation.

National Education Association-New Mexico Retired is an affiliation of NEA-New Mexico and the National Education Association.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. Membership and Eligibility.

NEA-New Mexico Retired membership shall be open to any retired educational employee. All members of NEA-New Mexico Retired shall be members of local associations or regional associations where available and the National Education Association-Retired.

Section 2. Membership Rights and Privileges.

Each member shall have equal rights and privileges within the organization, including but not limited to the right to vote and to hold elective/appointive positions.

Section 3. Property Interest of Members.

All right, title, and interest, both legal and equitable, of a member in and to the property of the Association shall end upon the termination of such membership.

ARTICLE III. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

Section 1. Meetings.

The general membership shall meet annually. In case of an emergency, the Board of Directors may call or postpone the General Membership Meeting as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 2. Committees.

The term, committee, will be designated to all appointive bodies of the Association. A Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules shall be established at the General Membership Meeting. All other committees shall be established or discontinued as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 3. Purpose of Meeting.

The General Membership shall:

- a. Establish Association policies and objectives;
- b. Adopt the annual budget;
- c. Consider amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws;
- d. Adopt the rules governing its meetings;
- e. And enact such other measures as may be necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the Association that are not in conflict with this Constitution, or the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

Section 1. Executive Officers.

The executive officers of the Association shall be President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2. Qualifications for Executive Officers.

All candidates for executive office shall be NEA-New Mexico Retired members.

Section 3. Elections and Terms of Office.

- a. The candidates for the offices of President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected in accordance with the Bylaws and Standing Rules.
- b. The terms of the President, Vice President and Secretary Treasurer shall be three (3) years beginning July 15 following their election. Each executive officer shall remain in office through July 14 of the year in which a successor is elected, unless otherwise provided in this Constitution. An executive officer shall serve no more than two (2) full consecutive terms in the office to which elected.

Section 4. Vacancies and Succession.

Vacancies occurring by reason of death, resignation, incapacity, recall, or other disqualification shall be filled as follows:

- a. The Vice President shall fill a vacancy in the office of President and serve until the next general election.
- b. If the office of Vice President is vacant, the Board of Directors shall fill it within thirty (30) days, by electing a successor to serve until the next general election.
- c. If the offices of President and Vice President become vacant, the Board of Directors shall fill them within thirty (30) days, by electing successors to both offices to serve until the next general election.
- d. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Secretary/Treasurer, the Board of Directors shall choose one of its members within thirty (30) days to serve in that capacity until the next general election.
- e. The Board of Directors shall fill vacancies in the position of Region Director within thirty(30) days until the next general election.

Section 5. Recall.

Executive officers of the Association may be recalled for malfeasance or nonfeasance in the office.

- a. A recall proceeding against an officer shall be initiated by written petition submitted to the Board of Directors by at least twenty-five (25) percent of the Association membership; or seventy-five (75) percent of the Association Board of Directors.
- b. If, after a due process hearing, at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a Review Board as provided in the Bylaws shall sustain the charge, a recall vote of the entire Association membership by secret ballot shall be held. If the recall is sustained by two-thirds (2/3) of those voting, the office shall be vacant.

ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Section 1. Composition.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the NEA-NMR officers and directors who shall be elected as determined in the Bylaws. Ethnic minority membership on the Board of Directors shall be proportionate to the number that their members bear to the total membership. When necessary, an ethnic minority member(s) shall be elected at-large at the General Membership Meeting.

Section 2. Election and Terms of Office.

- a. The election of NEA-NMR directors shall be provided for in the Association Bylaws.
- b. NEA-NMR directors shall serve a term of three (3) years and shall serve no more than two (2) full consecutive terms.
- c. At-large directors shall serve for a one (1) year term and shall serve no more than six (6) full consecutive terms for the same office.

Section 3. Functions.

The Board of Directors shall carry out the program of the Association between General Membership Meetings.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. Amendment of Constitution and Bylaws.

An amendment to the Constitution or to the Bylaws may be submitted by any member in writing to any member of the Board of Directors ~~Secretary/Treasurer~~ at least thirty (30) days prior to the General Membership Meeting.

- a. All proposed amendments to the Constitution will be presented for approval to the Board of Directors and a majority vote will allow placement on a ballot for general membership voting.
- b. Amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted by secret ballot with at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members voting at a general or special election.
- c. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be adopted by a majority vote at the General Membership Meeting.

Section 2. Withdrawal of Proposed Amendments.

- a. The person(s) who submitted such amendment(s) shall submit requests for withdrawal of proposed amendments, in writing, to any member of the Board of Directors.
- b. Requests for withdrawal shall be effective upon approval of members voting at the General Membership Meeting.

Article VII: RETIRED ALTERNATES to ELECTIVE NEA-NM BODIES

Section 1: Purpose

NEA-NM Retired will elect alternates for the two NEA-NM elective bodies to which Retired members are elected - NEA-NM Board and NEA-NM EdPAC.

Section 2: Elections/Terms

Two NEA-NM alternates for retired members of NEA-NM Board and NEA-NM EdPAC shall be elected by open nominations and secret ballot conducted among all NEA-NM retired members.

Alternates for each elected, at-large, one year term position representing Retired on the NEA-NM Board will be elected annually by NEA-NM Retired. The two candidates for Alternate Board members with the highest vote total will be the alternates for the upcoming year.

Alternates for each elected three-year term position on NEA-NM EdPAC representing Retired will be elected for a three-year term by NEA-NM Retired in years when a Retired position on EdPAC becomes open for nominations. The candidate for Alternate EdPAC with the highest vote count will serve as Alternate EdPAC for that particular EdPAC position open for election.

Section 3: Function

Alternates will attend NEA-NM Board or EdPAC meetings when the regularly elected Retired representative(s) cannot attend. The regularly elected Retired representative(s) will notify their Alternate and NEA-NM at least 3 days prior to any scheduled meeting.