

# Student Oklahoma Education Association Constitution and Bylaws

## Article I- Name

The name of this organization shall be the Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA).

## Article II- Objective

The objectives of the Association shall be to:

- A. advance the interests and welfare of students preparing for a career in education;
- B. stimulate the highest ideals of professional ethics, standards, and attitudes;
- C. develop in prospective educators an understanding of the educational profession;
- D. influence the conditions under which prospective educators are prepared;
- E. promote and protect human and civil rights.

## Article III- Members

- Section 1. Any person who is a student in an institution of higher learning enrolled in or preparing for a program of study that qualifies the student for a career in education is eligible for membership.
- Section 2. No person shall be admitted to or continued in membership in the Association who holds full certification, a teaching contract, or who receives payment for teaching duties, with the exception of graduate students receiving graduate teaching assistantships.
- Section 3. The Association shall not deny membership on the basis of race, creed, national origin, or gender.

#### Article IV- Dues

- Section 1. The fiscal year of the SOEA shall begin September first and end August thirty-first.
- Section 2. Members of college or university chapters whose dues in the National Education Association, OEA, and the local chapter have been paid for the current year are members of this Association.
- Section 3. The local dues shall be determined by each local chapter.
- Section 4. The annual State Association dues shall be a minimum of \$8.00.
- Section 5. The national dues shall be determined by the NEA.
- Section 6. The state and national dues shall be sent to the OEA Membership Department and upon receipt of said dues, the member is entitled to all benefits of membership.
- Section 7. The NEA-SP dues shall be transmitted to the NEA the first of each month by the OEA Membership Department.

#### Article V- Officers

- Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Legislative Representative, OEA Delegate, and NEA Delegates. The elected state officers shall constitute the SOEA Executive Committee.
- Section 2. Qualifications. Each candidate for any office of the SOEA must have served at least one term as a local officer and shall meet one of the following:
- A. they will have attended at least two Executive Committee meetings of the State Organization, or
  - B. they will have attended at least one State Convention or Leadership Conference.

Section 3. Term of Office. Officers shall be elected for a term of one year beginning July 15. No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 4. Duties of Officers. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association in addition to the duties listed in these bylaws. Additionally, each officer shall submit a report of their committee meeting to the State Student Organizer and all Executive Officers. Each officer will also be a membership promoter for the organization and assist the State Student Organizer by writing articles and news stories for publication.

- A. President: The President shall be a voting member on the OEA Board of Directors, serve on the OEA-PAC Committee, the OEA Budget Committee, represent SOEA at the OCEA quarterly meetings, attend the NEA-SP Leadership and Connections Conferences and shall be the first delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly and the OEA Delegate Assembly. (The OEA Board of Directors meets 6-7 times per year.)
- B. Vice-President: The Vice-President shall serve on the OEA Member Benefits Committee and shall be responsible for all membership programs, drives, and other membership activities. The Vice-President also shall be the chairman of the Bylaws Committee.
- C. Secretary: The Secretary shall serve on the OEA IPD Committee. The Secretary shall submit, within two weeks of any Executive meeting, copies of the minutes to the SOEA Student Organizer, and all SOEA Executive Officers. The Secretary will assist the State Student Organizer by writing articles and news stories for publication.
- D. Legislative Representative: The Legislative Representative shall serve on the OEA Legislative Committee. The Legislative Representative shall also organize any political activities that SOEA may be involved.
- E. OEA Delegates: The OEA Delegates shall represent the SOEA membership at the OEA Delegate Assembly that year. The OEA Delegate shall serve on the OEA Human and Civil Rights Committee.

- F. NEA Delegates: The NEA Delegates shall represent the SOEA membership at the NEA Representative Assembly (RA) that year. The SOEA President and President-Elect shall automatically serve as first and second delegates to the RA. The third NEA Delegate shall serve on the OEA Legal and Corporate Services Committee. The fourth NEA Delegate shall serve on the OEA Collective Bargaining Committee. Subsequent delegates will serve on the OEA Committees upon appointment by the OEA President.

- Section 5. Vacancy in Office. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice-President. The vacancy thus created in the office of Vice-President, and any other vacancy, shall be filled by the Executive Committee's appointee.

#### Article VI- Nominations and Elections

- Section 1. Nominations. Nomination forms will be mailed to local advisors and presidents with the State Convention mailings. Nominations for state offices must be received in the OEA Headquarters the Friday following the SOEA State Convention.
- Section 2. Election of Officers. The officers shall be elected by the one member- one vote rule. Ballots and local chapter membership rosters will be mailed to chapter presidents no later than March 31. Ballots will be due in the OEA Headquarters no later than April 20.
- Section 3. Verification of Election. Three K-12 OEA members will assist with the counting of ballots and will verify the election results.
- Section 4. Announcement of Winners. An announcement of the winners will be made by the State Student Organizer.

#### Article VII- Meetings

- Section 1. Leadership Training. The annual Summer Leadership Academy shall be held at times and places the OEA shall determine, for the purpose of exchanging information regarding leadership training and local development. All officers are required to attend.

- Section 2. Fall Conference. The annual Fall Conference shall be held at times and places the Executive Committee shall determine, for the purpose of exchanging information regarding leadership training and local development. All officers are required to attend.
- Section 3. SOEA State Convention
- A. An annual State Convention shall be held at a time and place the Executive Committee shall determine.
- B. Announcement of the SOEA State Convention giving the time and place of the meeting shall be submitted to each local chapter at least thirty days before the opening of the convention.
- Section 4. All newly elected officers are required to attend a new officers meeting held at the call of the President and State Student Organizer.
- Section 5. All officers are required to represent the SOEA at the OEA Convention by working at the SOEA Registration Booth.
- Section 6. Meeting Attendance. All executive officers must attend all scheduled meetings. Absences from 2 meetings shall result in the relinquishment of his/her office.

#### Article VIII- Executive Committee

- Section 1. Composition. The members of the Executive Committee shall be the Elected Officers.
- Section 2. Duties. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association between its annual conventions, make recommendations to the Association, and shall consider and act upon all matters brought before it. The Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Association and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Association.
- Section 3. Meetings. Meetings shall be held upon the call of the President with approval of the State Student Organizer.
- Section 4. Quorum. Four (4) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5. Terms of Office. The elected officers shall serve for one year and their term of office shall begin July 15.

#### Article IX- Committees

Section 1. Delegates. Delegates to the OEA Delegate Assembly and to the NEA Representative Assembly shall represent the membership of the SOEA. They shall discuss items of business to be introduced at these Assemblies with the membership when possible.

Section 2. Appointed Committees. Such committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the President as the Association or the Executive Board shall, from time to time, deem necessary to carry out the work of the Association.

Section 3. Ex officio Status. The President shall be an Ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

#### Article X- Affiliation

The SOEA shall be affiliated with the Oklahoma Education Association and with the National Education Association.

#### Article XI- Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and those of the OEA and the NEA and any special rules the Association may adopt.

#### Article XII- Amendments

The Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the votes cast by the chapter delegates at the annual State Convention or at any general assembly of the Student Oklahoma Education Association. All proposed changes will be published to the chapters thirty (30) days in advance of the assembly.

Article XIII

The State Executive Committee shall have the authority to interpret the Constitution and the Bylaws.

Adopted April 7, 1961  
Revised October 1, 2005  
Revised July 30, 2010