

Montana Science Teachers Association Bylaws

Adopted March 1982
Amended September 1991
Amended October 1995, September 2003

Article 1 Name

Section 1: The Name of this organization shall be the Montana Science Teachers Association.

Section 2: It is a chapter of the National Science Teachers Association.

Section 3: The Directors shall consist of six directors elected at large from the membership, one each from 6 geographical regions in Montana and the Newsletter editor. A council consisting of 2 elementary representatives elected by that associated group, a representative from each of the subject areas (earth science, biology, chemistry, physics) as elected by each associated subject area group and a representative from higher education to be appointed by the board of directors will meet once annually to provide input to the board of directors.

Article II Purpose

The purpose of the Montana Science Teachers Association shall be the advancement, stimulation, extension, improvement and coordination of science education in all fields of science at all educational levels. The Association shall not engage in any activity which would be inconsistent with the status of an educational, charitable and scientific organization as defined in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (or any successor provision thereof).

Article III Membership

Any person who is interested in the teaching of science in the state of Montana is eligible for a regular, student or lifetime membership.

Article IV Organization and Officers

Section 1: The Montana Science Teachers Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors.

Section 2: The officers of the organization shall be a President, Past President and/or President Elect, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers will constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 3: The Directors shall consist of six directors elected at large from the membership, one each from 6 geographical regions in Montana and the Newsletter editor. An Advisory Board consisting of one K-5 elementary representative and one 6-8 elementary representative elected by the elementary associated group, a representative from each of the subject areas (earth science, biology, chemistry, physics) as elected by each associated subject area group and a representative from higher education to be appointed by the board of directors will meet once annually to provide input to the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Only those members in good standing shall be eligible to hold office and serve as directors or serve as chairpersons of standing committees.

Section 5: The elected officers, directors and the Newsletter editor shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Article V Duties of Officers

Section 1: Except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws, the duties of the various officers shall be those which are customary for such positions.

Section 2: The President shall preside at all business sessions and all meetings of the board of Directors. Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the President shall have the general charge of the affairs of the Association.

Section 3: The President Elect and/or the Past President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence and shall serve as the chairperson of the Program Committee.

Section 4: The Secretary shall keep a current record of the proceedings of the Board of Directors and of the Annual Meeting of the Association. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the organization and shall send notices of regular and special meetings to the members concerned.

Section 5: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of all monies due the Association and shall maintain a current membership list of paid members. The Treasurer shall pay all bills authorized by the Board of Directors and shall serve as chairperson of the Budget Committee. The Treasurer shall supply membership lists and/or mailing label lists to board members and the Office of Public Instruction, Science Specialists, as needed.

Section 6: An Auditing Committee, consisting of three members appointed by the Board of Directors, shall audit the financial records annually.

Section 7: The Board of Directors shall transact the business, plan the overall program for the year, make recommendations regarding proposed amendments to the Bylaws, and devise and carry out measures for the growth and welfare of the Association.

Section 8: The Executive Committee shall have the power to act for the Board of Directors between meetings to carry out policies, and ratify appointments.

Article VI

Quorum

Section 1: At Board and Committee meetings, a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the members of these designated groups.

Section 2: At meetings of the Association, a quorum shall consist of the members present.

Article VII

Committees

Section 1: The standing committees shall be: Membership, Program, Finance, Nominating, Newsletter, and Public Relations. Unless otherwise specified, the committee chairpersons shall be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to promote, expand, and stabilize the membership of the Association, and keep an accurate list of all members.

Section 3: It shall be the duty of the Program Committee to initiate and implement well-coordinated programs in line with the purposes of the organization. The President Elect and/or the Past President shall serve as chairperson of this committee.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to prepare an annual budget for the organization, to have general supervision of all expenditures, and to assist the treasurer. The chairperson of the Finance Committee shall be a member ex officio, without vote, of all committees which disperse money.

Section 5: It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of nominees and present this to the Board of Directors prior to the Annual Meeting of the Association and shall prepare a ballot for the election to be used at that meeting.

Section 6: It shall be the duty of the Newsletter Committee to recruit and nominate for Board approval a Newsletter Editor and to assist the editor in obtaining material for and in publishing the Newsletter.

Section 7: It shall be the duty of the Public Relations Committee to promote the image and goals of the Association to the general public.

Section 8: Committee members and chairperson shall serve one-year terms unless directed by the Board of Directors.

Article VIII Nominations and Elections

Section 1: The election of officers and six directors at large shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting of the Association. The election of the grade level and subject matter directors shall be responsibility of each associated group. The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: All officers and directors shall hold office for two years.

Section 3: No officer or board member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms. An interval of two years shall elapse before a member is again eligible for re-election to the same office. The Newsletter Editor is exempt from this regulation.

Article IX Meetings

Section 1: There shall be one annual meeting of the Montana Science Teachers Association organization each year. Additional special meetings of the general membership shall be scheduled by the Board of Directors as need arises.

Section 2: A complete statement of activities of the Association shall be made by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting.

Article X Dues

Section 1: The annual dues, as determined by the Board of Directors and approved by the membership, will be payable prior to or at the annual meeting or December first, whichever occurs first.

Section 2: An attendance fee, amount to be set by the Board of Directors, will be required of all non-members in attendance at the meetings.

Article XI Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of this organization shall end as of the thirty-first of December each year.

Article XII Amendments

Section 1: These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the annual meeting providing a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been sent to every member at least 10 days prior to the vote. Publication in the MSTA Newsletter prior to the election shall constitute notification.

Section 2: These bylaws may be amended at any meeting without prior notice by a two-thirds vote of the total membership.

Section 3: A proposed amendment may be submitted by a signed petition from 25 members and then shall be submitted to the membership for adoption or rejection.

Article XIII Parliamentary Authority

In all questions of Parliamentary Law not covered by the Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall prevail.

Article XIV Dissolution of the Association

In the event of termination or dissolution of the Association, the Executive Board shall distribute the remaining assets of the Association to one or more of the following organizations or agencies: The National Foundation for the Improvement of Education, the National Science Foundation, any agency of the United State Government which is interested in science education, any organization which is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or successor provision thereof) and which is interested in science education.

I certify that these By-laws of the Montana Science Teachers Association are complete, current and the only organizing instrument of the organization.

Dr. John Graves, EdD
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1112 Hunters Way
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