

Constitution
of the
Burlington County Retirees' Education
Association

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE ONE (1) - NAME

1. The name of the Association shall be the Burlington County Retirees' Education Association, Incorporated, hereafter referred to as the Association.
2. The Association shall be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under Title 15A, Sections 2 - 8 of the New Jersey Domestic Nonprofit Corporation Act.
3. The Association shall maintain tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code 501c (4) and govern itself in a manner that will not jeopardize its tax-exempt status.
4. The Association shall be an affiliate of the New Jersey Retirees' Education Association (NJREA), the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), the National Education Association-Retired (NEA-R), and the National Education Association (NEA). The Association shall abide by the New Jersey Retirees' Education Association's standards for affiliation and shall forward a copy of its constitution to the New Jersey Education Association. Affiliation shall not legally carry any liability for damages on the Association or the New Jersey Education Association due to actions taken independently by either.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE TWO (2) - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be:

1. To serve as a local unit of and to cooperate with the New Jersey Retirees' Education Association (NJREA), the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), the National

Education Association-Retired (NEA-R), and the National Education Association (NEA).

2. To help advance the interests and welfare of retired employees of New Jersey's public schools.
3. To help retired education employees maintain identity with public education issues and to further the cause of public education.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE THREE (3) - MEMBERSHIP

1. Persons in the following employee categories may become members of the Association by paying annual or lifetime dues.
 - a. Any retired educator who holds a certificate issued by the New Jersey Department of Education and who is enrolled in the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF).
 - b. Any retired educational support staff member who is enrolled in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).
 - c. Any person who retired from a public or state school, college, university, or other institution or agency operating under the education statutes and/or laws of the State of New Jersey.
2. Association members must maintain membership, where eligible, in the New Jersey Retirees' Education Association (NJREA), the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), the National Education Association-Retired (NEA-R), and the National Education Association. However, persons who meet the criteria below are not required to maintain membership in NJREA/NJEA/NEA-R/NEA as long as they maintain continuous membership in the Association.
 - a. Persons who were lifetime members of the Association prior to September 1, 2011 and who were not members of the New Jersey Retirees' Education Association (NJREA), the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), the National Education Association-Retired (NEA-R), and the National Education Association for 2010-2011.

- b. Persons who were active annual members of the Association on September 1, 2011 and were living out-of-state.
 - c. Persons who were active annual members of the Association on September 1, 2011 and were born in or before 1936.
3. Every member shall have equal rights and privileges within the Association to nominate candidates for office, vote in elections or on referenda of the Association, attend General Membership Meetings, and participate in the deliberations and voting upon the business of such meetings.
 4. Every member shall have the right to meet and assemble fully with other members to express any views, arguments, or opinions about any business properly brought before the Association and to express views about candidates in an election of the Association.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE FOUR (4) - OFFICERS

1. The Officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.
2. The President and Vice-President shall be elected for a two-year term or until their successors shall be elected.
3. The Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected for a two-year term or until their successors shall be elected.
4. Officers' terms shall begin at the start of the fiscal year (September 1st) of the year in which they are elected and end on August 31st of the second year of their term.
5. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President before his/her term is completed, the Vice President shall become President immediately. If a vacancy occurs in any other office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a successor until the next regular election can be held.
6. Prior to the end of their term, Officers shall make available to their successors all materials necessary for an orderly transfer of duties.
7. Self-Nominations for the election of Officers shall be received by the Nominations and Elections Chairperson in letter or email format prior to and including February 28 for the

current elections at the Spring General Membership meeting. The Election will be held under the direction of the Nominations and Elections committee during the Spring General Membership Meeting where all members in attendance may vote for Officers.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE FIVE (5) - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers, Chairpersons of Standing Committees, the Parliamentarian and the immediate Past President.
2. The Association shall establish an Executive Committee in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*: "The number of appointed voting members of the Executive Committee shall be one fewer than the number of elected positions on the Executive Committee. Additional members may be appointed without voting rights."
3. All motions shall be adopted by a majority vote of the entire Executive Committee Members present, not counting absentees/vacancies. Each of the 5 Elected Officers shall cast a weighted vote of (1.00) each on matters brought before the Committee. Each of the Appointed members including the immediate past President shall cast a weighted vote of (.25) each on matters brought before the Committee.
4. Any Association member may attend meetings of the Executive Committee. Attending members may not vote on matters brought before the Committee.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE SIX (6) - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The Board of Trustees shall be made up of five (5) members, and shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.
2. They shall serve as Trustees of the Association and the Association's Philanthropic Fund. The Philanthropic Fund is a separate corporation.
3. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for any legal matters involving the Association as directed by the Executive Committee.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE SEVEN (7) - STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The President shall appoint a Chairperson and/or Co-chairpersons and members to the following Standing Committees:
 - a. Audit
 - b. Budget
 - c. Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy
 - d. E-Communications
 - e. Government Relations
 - f. Member Services
 - g. Membership
 - h. Newsletter
 - i. Nominations and Elections
 - j. Outreach
 - k. Scholarship
 - l. Special Events
 - m. Website
2. The President may establish and appoint members to additional ad hoc committees as needed. The Chairperson(s) of these additional committees will not be members of the Executive Committee unless so deemed by the Executive Committee.
3. All Standing Committee appointments shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

**CONSTITUTION ARTICLE EIGHT (8) - ASSOCIATION
MEETINGS**

1. There shall be at least two (2) General Membership Meetings each year, one (1) in the fall and one (1) in the spring, preferably in October and May.
2. If circumstances require an additional/special General Membership Meeting, the Executive Committee may call such a meeting with two (2) weeks' notice to the membership.
3. An Officer of the New Jersey Retirees' Education Association (NJREA) shall be invited to attend at least one (1) of these meetings.
4. If a matter(s) requiring a vote is brought before the membership at these meetings, a majority vote of the members present will determine acceptance or rejection of the matter(s).
5. The Executive Committee will determine the format and conduct of all meetings to include but not be limited to the following:
 - a) In person or face to face representation
 - b) Virtual meeting via teleconference providing audio
 - c) Virtual meeting via internet using an audio and visual format
 - d) Email for votes on emergent issues

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE NINE (9) - ELECTIONS

Elections of Officers shall take place at the spring General Membership Meeting as follows:

1. In odd years, the President, Vice-President, and Recording Secretary shall be elected.
2. In even years, the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE TEN (10) - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at a regular or called General Membership Meeting of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present, provided that the proposed amendment(s) has been introduced, in writing, to the membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE ELEVEN (11) - ADOPTION
AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This Constitution shall become effective upon adoption at a General Membership Meeting of this Association.

Revised - May 17, 1973

Revised - May 3, 1984

Revised - October 14, 2004

Revised - October 11, 2012

Revised - May 10, 2018

Revised – October 6, 2020