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STUDENT COUNCIL



***Constitution
and
By-Laws
of the
Illinois Association
of Junior High
Student Councils***

It is the mission of the IAJHSC to develop skills in middle level students through leadership and service to school and community in order to train tomorrow's leaders today.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT COUNCILS

Article I. Name

- Section 1** The name of this organization shall be the Illinois Association of Junior High Student Councils.
- Section 2** This organization shall also be known as the IAJHSC.

Article II. General Purposes

The general purposes of the IAJHSC shall be to:

- Section 1** develop and promote the leadership qualities of junior high and middle school students.
- Section 2** develop and promote the citizenship qualities of junior high and middle school students.
- Section 3** provide junior high and middle school students with the knowledge and skills of a student council organization.
- Section 4** provide an avenue for student council advisors and students to exchange ideas and solve problems by sharing experiences and information.
- Section 5** provide the opportunity for leadership training and skills development for student council advisors and students.
- Section 6** provide the opportunity for the membership of the IAJHSC to gather annually at a state convention to conduct IAJHSC business.

Article III. Powers Vested

- Section 1** The IAJHSC shall be governed by an Executive Board.
- Section 2** The Executive Board shall be empowered to establish all policies and by-laws deemed necessary to serve the purposes of the IAJHSC.
- Section 3** The Executive Board shall consist of elected and appointed members.
- Section 4** The election process of board members shall be governed by the by-laws of this organization.
- Section 5** The appointment of board members shall be done by the Executive Director with the approval of three-fourths of the voting members of the board at a regularly scheduled and official meeting in accordance with Article VI.

Section 6 The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected members:

- [1] Executive Director - the chief executive officer of the IAJHSC
- [2] Executive Treasurer
- [3] Adult Directors
- [4] Student District Representatives

Section 7 The Executive Board shall consist of appointed members as outlined in the by-laws.

Section 8 The Adult Directors and the Student District Representatives are the voting members of the Executive Board. They shall each have one vote. The Executive Director or designee shall vote only to break a tie vote.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1 Membership in the IAJHSC shall be open to all public, private, parochial, elementary, middle, and junior high schools in the state of Illinois that have a student council organization that includes the seventh and/or eighth grades.

Section 2 Membership shall be granted to any qualifying school upon payment of the annual dues as set forth in the by-laws.

Section 3 Paid dues shall entitle a student council to membership beginning on January 1st and ending on December 31st.

Article V. Elections/Qualifications

Section 1 Elections of the Executive Director and Executive Treasurer shall be conducted at the Advisors' Meeting during State Convention. The election procedures shall be set forth in the by-laws of the association.

Section 2 Executive Director

- [1] Any adult who is or has been a student council advisor of a member school of the IAJHSC for a period of not less than five years shall be eligible to hold the position of Executive Director.
- [2] The Executive Director shall be elected by a majority vote of the advisors present at the Advisors' Meeting during the annual State Convention. Each school represented shall have one vote.

- [3] The term of office for the Executive Director shall be for three years. The term of office begins at the conclusion of the Fall board meeting following election and continues until the conclusion of the Fall board meeting three years hence. During the transition period, the Executive Director-elect will work with the outgoing Executive Director to provide for a smooth transition.

Section 3 Executive Treasurer

- [1] Any adult who is or has been a student council advisor of a member school of the IAJHSC for a period of not less than three years shall be eligible to hold the position of Executive Treasurer.
- [2] The Executive Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the advisors present at the Advisors' Meeting held during the annual State Convention. Each school represented shall have one vote.
- [3] The term of office for the Executive Treasurer shall be for three years. The term of office begins at the conclusion of the Fall board meeting following election and continues until the conclusion of the Fall board meeting three years hence. During the transition period, the Executive Treasurer-elect will work with the outgoing Executive Treasurer to provide for a smooth transition.

Section 4 District Adult Directors

- [1] Any adult who is a current or past advisor of a member student council shall be eligible to hold the position of District Adult Director. If there is a vacancy in the position due to the fact that no one has the previously mentioned qualifications, the Executive Director may appoint someone with the approval of the Executive Board.
- [2] The District Adult Director shall be elected during a district caucus meeting at the annual State Convention by the adult student council advisors of the district who are present. Each school represented shall have one vote. The election procedure shall be set forth in the by-laws of the association.
- [3] The term of the office for a District Adult Director shall be for two years. The term of office begins immediately following the conclusion of the State Convention at which the election was held and continue until the conclusion of the State Convention two years hence.

Section 5 District Representatives

- [1] Any student in a member school who will enter either the 7th or 8th grade in the school year following his/her election and who can attend the IAJHSC Leadership Camp in the summer following his/her election shall be eligible to become a candidate for District Representative. A candidate for District Representative must have the approval of his/her parent/guardian, advisor, and principal.
- [2] During his/her term in office, a District Representative shall be a member of a student council from a school that is a member of the IAJHSC.
- [3] During his/her term of office, a District Representative must live within the boundaries of the district in which he/she is elected.

- [4] The District Representative for each district shall be elected at the annual State Convention during a district caucus meeting. The election procedure shall be set forth in the by-laws of the association.
- [5] The term of office for a District Representative shall be for one year. The term of office begins immediately following the conclusion of the State Convention and continues until the conclusion of the next State Convention.
- [6] A District Representative shall serve only one term and shall not be eligible for re-election the following year.

Section 6 In the event of a vacancy in the office of Executive Director, the Assistant Executive Director shall serve as the Executive Director until the next annual state convention.

- [1] The interim Executive Director shall appoint a new Assistant Executive Director in accordance with the by-laws.
- [2] The election of a new Executive Director shall be held at the next annual state convention in accordance with the by-laws.

Section 7 In the event of a vacancy in the office of Executive Treasurer, or in an appointed position on the Executive Board, or in the position of a District Adult Director, the Executive Director shall make an interim appointment in accordance with the by-laws.

Section 8 In the event of a vacancy in the office of District Representative the position will remain vacant for the remainder of the term.

Section 9 Any member of the Executive Board shall be subject to recall for failure to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office or for conduct unbecoming a member of the Executive Board.

Section 10 Any adult member of the Executive Board or any adult advisor of a member school may request a special meeting of the adult members of the Executive Board for the purpose of recall. The meeting shall be held within one month of the request.

- [1] Just cause for the recall must be clearly presented at the recall meeting.
- [2] The Executive Director shall be empowered to take any additional steps as are needed.
- [3] The recall of any member of the Executive Board shall require a three-fourths vote of all the adult members of the Executive Board. All adult members of the Executive Board shall have one vote.
- [4] A decision to recall a member of the Executive Board shall be effective immediately.
- [5] The vacancy created by the recall shall be filled as soon as possible according to the procedures outlined in Article V.
- [6] The membership of the IAJHSC shall be informed of the vacancy. Details relating to the recall inquiry shall be considered confidential.

Article VI. Meetings

- Section 1** The IAJHSC Executive Board shall conduct the business of the association at a minimum of two meetings per year.
- [1] These meetings will be held during the fall of one calendar year and the winter of the next calendar year before the annual State Convention.
 - [2] A quorum shall exist when more than one-half the voting members are present. No meeting shall be held unless a quorum shall exist.
- Section 2** The IAJHSC Executive Director shall have the authority to convene special meetings of the Executive Board as are deemed necessary.
- Section 3** All Executive Board meetings shall be conducted using Parliamentary Procedure.
- [1] Actions of the Executive Board require a majority vote of the members present.
 - [2] Passage of changes of the by-laws shall require a three-fourths vote of all the voting members on the Executive Board. The vote shall be conducted within two weeks of the proposal.
- Section 4** An annual IAJHSC State Convention shall be held.
- [1] The time and place of the annual State Convention shall be determined by the Executive Board.
 - [2] The Executive Board and the Convention Coordinator shall make the final decisions in all matters concerning the annual State Convention.

Article VII. Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Board

- Section 1** The Executive Director shall function as the chief executive officer and perform all duties expected of that office in accordance with the by-laws.
- Section 2** The Executive Treasurer shall function as the chief financial officer and perform all duties expected of that office in accordance with the by-laws.
- Section 3** The District Adult Directors and the District Representatives shall function as the liaisons between their districts and the Executive Board and perform all duties expected of their offices in accordance with the by-laws.

Article VIII. Committees

The Executive Director shall create committees as are needed to conduct the business of the association.

Article IX. Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority used for conducting association meetings.

Article X. Ratification

- Section 1** This constitution shall become valid and binding upon acceptance by a three-fourths vote of the entire IAJHSC membership.
- Section 2** Each member school shall have one vote.
- Section 3** The ratification vote shall be conducted using the most convenient method as determined by the Executive Board.

Article XI. Amendments

- Section 1** Any member school or member of the Executive Board may make a proposal for an amendment at any time.
- Section 2** The proposed amendment shall be sent to the membership in writing no less than one month before the annual State Convention.
- Section 3** The proposed amendment shall be discussed at the Advisors' Meeting at the annual State Convention.
- Section 4** A vote of the entire IAJHSC membership shall be conducted on a proposed amendment no later than two weeks following the annual State Convention.
- Section 5** An amendment to the constitution shall be valid and binding upon a three-fourths vote of the membership.
- Section 6** The Executive Director shall publish the results of the vote on an amendment at the conclusion of the voting period.

<< Ratified by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of IAJHSC membership ~ May, 2009 >>