

**CONSTITUTION OF
Coachella Unified Chapter No. 109, CSEA
Adopted November 24, 1993
Latest Revision March 24, 2022**

This Constitution is the local operating document for this Chapter as formulated under Article III, Section 8 of the Association Constitution.

Where used throughout this document, "Association" means the California School Employees Association, the statewide governing body for this organization; "organization" and "Chapter" are interchangeable and mean Coachella Unified Chapter No. 109, CSEA.

APPROVED

California School Employees Association

Date: August 19, 2022

By: *Deana M. Craig*, Executive Coordinator

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ARTICLE I NAME AND OBJECTS

Section 1. Name: The name of this organization shall be Coachella Unified Chapter No.109 of the California School Employees Association.

Section 2. Objects: The objects of this organization shall be to promote the good and welfare of the members of this organization under the available labor relations system, and to secure for them reasonable hours, fair wages and improved working conditions; to establish a spirit of cooperation, good faith and fair dealings with the employer; to safeguard, advance and promote the principle of free collective bargaining in a democratic society; to promote such legislation as may be in the best interests of the members of this organization; to promote the efficiency and raise the standards of service of its members and other public service workers; to instill confidence, good will and understanding among the members and their employers; to promote the economic and social welfare of the members of the Association through unity of action and mutual cooperation.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this Chapter shall be as follows:

(a) **Active:** "Active" membership, which carries with it the privilege of full participation in Chapter activities, including the right to vote and to hold elected or appointed offices, shall be extended to any person employed in a bargaining unit represented by this Chapter, without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation or political belief. Active membership status shall cease at such time as the member becomes eligible for any other category of membership defined herein, except as follows:

(1) Active members who are laid off may continue in Active status until expiration of their 39-month reemployment period or until reemployed, whichever comes first, upon continued payment of the established dues in effect at the time of layoff.

(2) Active members who are appealing an involuntary termination action by the employer may continue in Active status until the appeal(s) process has been terminated and the status of their employment has been finally decided, upon continued payment of the established dues in effect at the time of the involuntary termination.

(3) Nothing herein shall be construed to require continued Active status of members under paragraphs (1) and (2) above for the purpose of continued CSEA representation regarding their employment/reemployment rights. However, retention of Active status shall be required for such employees to continue to be eligible to hold appointed or elective offices within the Association and Chapter and to have voice and vote and otherwise participate in Chapter and Association affairs.

(4) Active members of this Chapter must also be Active members of the Association as defined in the Association's Constitution.

(b) **Inactive:** Any Active member of this Chapter who (1) is granted an unpaid leave of absence by the employer, or (2) is placed on a reemployment list for reasons other than layoff and is not otherwise in a paid status with the employer, or (3) is laid off and elects not to continue as an Active member under provisions of paragraph (a)(1) above, may continue membership in an "Inactive" status until expiration of the approved leave of absence or reemployment list, or until returned to paid employment status in an eligible position [as defined by paragraph (a) above], whichever occurs first, upon continued payment of dues at half (1/2) the rate required of them as an Active member at the time the leave or placement on the reemployment list occurred. Such dues shall be paid annually in advance, or for the number of months of the approved leave if less than one (1) year. Such members shall be eligible to continue to receive such membership benefits as are generally made available to the Active membership, unless specifically excluded by contract. They shall not, however, be accorded voice or vote in Chapter or Association affairs.

Section 2. Active membership shall be effective upon the completion, dating, and signing of an official CSEA application form as provided by the Association, and execution of a valid authorization for payroll deduction of dues or payment of at least one (1) year's dues in advance. The application shall be immediately forwarded, together with advance dues received if any, to the Association. The Association shall send payroll deduction authorizations to the appropriate district office.

Section 3. Membership "In Good Standing"

(a) Membership "in good standing" shall be effective and shall continue upon receipt of the required dues for the current month. For purposes of establishing voting rights and eligibility to hold an elected or appointed office, Active members whose dues are paid via payroll deduction shall not be deemed to be in good standing until the first of the month following the month in which the first dues are deducted, unless s/he pays dues in cash for the interim period.

(b) Membership shall terminate with:

(1) The effective date of layoff for members who are laid off and who choose not to continue in either an Active or Inactive status under provisions of Sections 1(a)(1) or 1(b) above.

(2) The effective date of an unpaid leave of absence or placement on a reemployment list for reasons other than layoff, for such members who choose not to continue in an Inactive status under provisions of Section 1(b) above.

(3) The date of termination of their 39-month reemployment rights or approved leave of absence for members who have continued in an Active or Inactive status, if such members have not been returned to active employment.

(4) The date of execution of a document terminating payroll deduction of dues, unless arrangements have been made with the Chapter Treasurer for advance cash payment. However, the dues authorization signed by a member is a contract which by law is not terminable without reasonable advance written notice being provided to the appropriate CSEA Field Office. CSEA views the minimum notice that is reasonable as being five (5) days.

(5) The effective date of removal from the bargaining unit, or voluntary termination of employment.

(6) The effective date of involuntary termination of employment, unless the member is eligible to continue and elects to retain Active status as permitted under provisions of Section 1(a)(2) above.

(7) Actions pursuant to Sections 4 or 5 below.

Section 4. Delinquency & Resignation:

(a) Members who no longer wish to retain that status may resign CSEA membership by providing a five (5) day advance written notification to the Area's assigned CSEA Field Office. Such notification must include the member's name, address, employer's name or Chapter name, the last four (4) digits of his/her social security number, and his/her CSEA ID number or Employee ID number.

(b) Any member failing to pay all dues owed for the current month shall be deemed delinquent and shall not be considered to be in good standing until such delinquency has been remitted.

(c) Members who have resigned shall, upon reapplication, be admitted as new members.

Section 5. Expulsion, Suspension, Discipline:

(a) No member may be involuntarily removed from the membership rolls except as provided for in Sections 3 and 4 above, or in accordance with the procedures for expulsion, suspension and discipline of members as specified in the Association Constitution.

(b) All matters for proposed disciplinary action against members shall be referred to the Association for action, except that members may be recalled from office in accordance with provisions of Article XI of this Constitution.

ARTICLE III DUES and ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. Association Per Capita Dues

(a) Per capita dues to the Association for Active members shall be assessed at the rate of 1.5% of the first \$3,150 of monthly gross salary (*excluding overtime*, but *including* longevity, professional growth and anniversary increments), but not to exceed a maximum of \$472.50 for the 12-month period commencing each September 1st and continuing through the following August 31st. Said dues shall be payable by payroll deduction or annually in advance direct to the Association.

(1) Payroll deduction shall commence in September of each year and continue through the following August for each month the member is in a paid status, or until the maximum of \$472.50 has been deducted, whichever comes first.

(2) Annual in advance payments must be remitted direct to the Association's accounting office no later than September 30, or within thirty (30) days following membership application for new members after September. Such annual payments shall be as calculated by the Association's Accounting Office in accordance with the Association's Bylaws.

Section 2. Chapter Dues. Local Chapter dues for Active members of this Chapter shall be \$50.00 per year, payable in equal monthly payroll deductions during each of the months September through June in which the member is in regular paid status; or payable annually in advance to the Chapter Treasurer.

(a) Chapter dues of \$1.00 per month or \$10.00 annually per members shall be allocated to Coachella Unified Chapter 109 scholarship fund.

Section 3. The local Chapter dues plus the Association per capita dues equals the member's total dues requirement.

Section 4. Assessments: No assessments shall be levied in this Chapter other than those approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the Chapter membership present and voting on the question by secret ballot, provided that each member has been notified in writing at least ten (10) days in advance of the nature of the proposal and the time, date and place where the matter will be voted on.

Section 5. Fund Solicitation: No funds shall be solicited in the name of the Chapter without authorization of the Executive Board. All funds collected (together with an accounting of source) shall be delivered to the Chapter Treasurer within five (5) working days of receipt, for deposit in the Chapter's account.

ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD/ELECTION PROCEDURES

Section 1. Officers: The following officers shall be elected by and from among the total Active membership of the Chapter, regardless of the location of their employment: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer, Chief Union Steward.

Section 2. Executive Board: The elected officers designated in Section 1, plus the Junior Past President, shall constitute the Executive Board of this Chapter. To be eligible, the Past President must have completed at least one (1) full term in office as Chapter President.

Section 3. Eligibility to Hold Office: Officers shall be elected from among the Active members of the Chapter who are in good standing.

(a) Nominees for the elective offices of President and Vice President must have attended a majority of the Chapter meetings held in the two (2) year period prior to the nomination.

(b) Nominees for the elective office of Chief Union Steward must have completed levels 1 through 3 of the CSEA Union Steward Certification Program.

(c) Nominees for elected office shall be Active members of the Chapter in good standing at the time of nomination and can only accept nomination for one (1) Executive Board office.

Section 4. Nominating and Election Procedures:

(a) Nominations to fill the elective offices listed in Section 1 shall be accepted in the even-numbered years.

(b) Nominations for these offices shall be accepted from the floor at the October and November Chapter meetings.

(c) If, after nominations are closed at the November Chapter meeting there is only one (1) nomination for an office, the single nominee shall be declared elected to the office, and no balloting or other action shall be required. The Chapter President shall so notify the membership in writing as soon thereafter as possible.

(d) When there is more than one (1) nominee for an office, an election shall be conducted at the December Chapter meeting by secret ballot vote of Active members in good standing present at said meeting. It shall require a plurality vote to elect any officer. Write-in votes shall not be accepted. If a tie exists, the election shall be determined by lot (draw) between the tied candidates.

(e) Notices of the time, date, and place for nominations and balloting, and all other procedural matters relating to conducting these elections, shall be in accordance with provisions of Association Policy 618.

(f) All candidates shall be provided an opportunity to address the members present at the election meeting prior to the balloting, and they or their designated representative shall be accorded the right to observe the ballot tally process.

(g) All ballots, including used, unused, invalid and challenged ballots, tally sheets and related election documents, including notices of nomination and election procedures, shall be retained by the Chapter Secretary for one (1) year, or until any and all challenges to the election or charges of misconduct in the running of the election have been resolved, whichever is the longer period.

Section 5. Terms of Office: Elected officers shall take office and assume their duties on the January 1 following their election and shall continue to serve for two (2) years or until their successors are elected, provided that any officer shall automatically forfeit such office if they cease to be an Active member in good standing.

Section 6. Vacancies:

(a) A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President.

(b) For vacancies in any other elected office, the Executive Board shall submit its recommendation to fill the office in writing to the Chapter membership at least five (5) working days in advance of a designated Chapter meeting. Nominations from the floor shall also be accepted at said meeting. If there are no nominations from the floor, the Executive Board's candidate shall be declared elected. If nominations from the floor are made, a secret ballot election shall be conducted among the Active members in good standing present.

ARTICLE V
AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE BOARD/DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Board: The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Chapter between the general membership meetings. It shall transact the routine business of the Chapter as authorized and required herein, prioritize and determine recommendations on matters requiring discussion and action by the general membership, and perform such other duties as are specified in this constitution. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Chapter membership, and none of its actions shall conflict with actions taken by the Chapter membership.

A report on all actions taken by the Executive Board shall be made to the membership at the next regular or special Chapter meeting, with such actions subject to membership ratification if appropriate.

Minutes of Chapter and Executive Board meetings shall be kept on file for at least five (5) years. Chapter financial records shall be kept on file for at least five (5) years.

1 The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the President or at such times and
2 places designated by it; the President shall call a special meeting upon the written
3 request of a majority of the Board.

4
5 A majority of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.
6

7 **Section 2. Duties of Officers, General:** Upon separation from office, an
8 officer shall immediately turn over to his/her successor or other properly designated
9 CSEA official all books, records, money and other effects of the Chapter in his/her
10 possession.

11
12 **Section 3. President:** The President shall:
13

14 (a) Be chairperson of the Executive Board, call and preside over all meetings
15 of the Chapter and Executive Board at which s/he is in attendance.
16

17 (b) Appoint the various committees, standing or special, required by this
18 Constitution or established by the Executive Board or ordered by vote of the
19 membership, except as otherwise provided herein.
20

21 (c) Attend all Regional Presidents' Meetings and such other meetings as
22 required by the Association, and report back to the membership at the next chapter
23 meeting or as otherwise required.
24

25 (d) Fix the time and place of meetings except as otherwise directed by the
26 membership.
27

28 (e) Set the agenda for Chapter meetings, as noted in Article VI.
29

30 (f) Perform such other duties as normally pertain to the office of President or
31 ordered by this constitution and/or the membership.
32

33 **Section 4. Vice President:** The Vice President shall:
34

35 (a) In the absence or disability of the President, possess all of the powers and
36 perform all of the duties in his/her stead.
37

38 (b) At all times assist the President in the performance of his/her duties.
39

40 (c) Assume the office of President if a vacancy occurs.
41

42 (d) Coordinate and direct the activities of the Standing Committees.
43

44 (e) Compile a report on the activities and achievements of the chapter and
45 forward a copy of same to each member in January.
46

47 (f) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President/Executive
48 Board or ordered by this constitution and/or the membership.
49

Section 5. Secretary: The Secretary shall:

(a) In the absences or disability of the President and Vice President possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the office President.

(b) Keep an accurate record of all proceedings of Chapter and Executive Board meetings, including an accurate roll of members and officers in attendance.

(c) Keep an accurate roster of the officers of the Chapter and see that such information is forwarded to the Association as required.

(d) Issue notices of all meetings of the Executive Board and Chapter meetings, which shall include notice of matters for discussion at same.

(e) Notify members of all committees of their appointment/election.

(f) Have custody of all correspondence, official documents and historical records of the Chapter, which shall be open at all times for the inspection of the President or his/her agent and members of the Executive Board.

(g) Maintain up-to-date copies of the Constitution & Bylaws and Policy of the Association and the constitution of this Chapter and see that copies of same are available for reference at all Executive Board and Chapter meetings, and available for inspection by the general membership upon request.

(h) Perform such other duties as normally pertain to the office of Secretary or as may be assigned by the President/Executive Board or ordered by this constitution.

Section 6. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall:

(a) Receive all funds of the Chapter and keep and disburse same under the direction of the President and as required by the Constitution & Bylaws of the Association and this Chapter.

(b) Keep or cause to be kept regular books and full accounts which shall be open at all times to inspection of the President and the Auditing Committee.

(c) Report at each meeting of the Executive Board and Chapter as to the financial condition of the treasury with a detailed statement of receipts and expenditures and accounts payable, to include per capita dues/fees paid and owed to the Association if any. The report to the Executive Board should also include copies of the bank statement(s)/reconciliation(s).

(e) Prepare the annual financial report to include the last day of the fiscal year, and immediately submit same to the President for review and forwarding to the Association, and the membership.

1 (f) Promptly forward membership applications and dues payments to the
2 Association. The Association shall send payroll deduction authorizations to the
3 appropriate district office for processing.
4

5 (g) Maintain an accurate record of members in good standing, and prepare
6 such monthly reports and remittances as may be required by the Association and
7 promptly forward to CSEA Headquarters within thirty (30) days of request.
8

9 (h) Assist in preparation of the Chapter budget.
10

11 (i) Arrange for bond coverage under the Association's blanket bond in such
12 amount as determined by the Executive Board. Premium for said bond shall be at the
13 expense of the chapter and through the Association.
14

15 (j) Upon leaving office, turn over all records, vouchers, statements and other
16 documents, to the newly elected Treasurer, and sign such bank signature cards or other
17 documents necessary for the transfer of all Chapter accounts to the new Treasurer by
18 January 10th.
19

20 (k) Perform such other duties as may be directed by the President or required
21 by the Association's Constitution & Bylaws and/or the membership.
22

23 **Section 7. Communications Officer:** The Communications Officer shall:
24

25 (a) Edit and distribute a newsletter or similar publication as may be authorized
26 by the Executive Board and the Chapter membership.
27

28 (b) Write articles of interest pertaining to Chapter affairs for local newspapers
29 and official publications of the Association.
30

31 (c) Perform such other duties as normally pertain to the Communications
32 Officer or as may be assigned by the President/Executive Board or ordered by this
33 constitution.
34

35 **Section 8. Chief Union Steward:** The Chief Union Steward shall:
36

37 (a) Attend training sessions for Chief Union Stewards provided by the
38 Association and/or other appropriate training as directed by the President.
39

40 (b) Ensure that the Union Steward program of the Chapter functions
41 according to the requirements set forth in this constitution; ensure that all grievances
42 are handled properly in their investigation and filing, and consistent in their resolution.
43

44 (c) Maintain the necessary records on matters of contract enforcement to
45 permit the Chapter to effectively represent bargaining unit employees.
46

47 (d) Process all grievances not settled at the immediate-supervisory level,
48 unless CSEA staff assistance is required. If staff assistance is required, the President
49 shall be notified.

(e) Keep the Executive Board informed on all grievance activity.

(f) Review all grievances being considered for arbitration and recommend to the Executive Board whether each particular case should be arbitrated.

Section 9. Junior Past President: The Junior Past President shall be a member of the Executive Board and perform such duties as may be assigned by the President and/or the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular business meetings of this Chapter shall be held during the months of September through June, inclusive. The schedule of such meetings shall be established in January of each year for the succeeding twelve (12) month period and shall be provided to the membership.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Chapter may be called by the Chapter President as deemed necessary, or shall be called by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Board or upon petition to the President of twenty percent (20%) of the Chapter membership.

Section 3. Meeting Notices:

(a) **Regular Meetings.** Unless otherwise specified herein, a meeting notice shall precede all Chapter meetings at least five (5) days in advance to allow members a reasonable opportunity to attend. Said notice shall include a summary of the business to be acted upon, and the time, date and place of the meeting.

(b) **Special Meetings.** Notice for special meetings shall include the specific topic(s) for discussion/action at said meeting, and unless otherwise required herein, a notice of less than five (5) days, but not less than twenty-four (24) hours in advance, may be given in an emergency situation.

Section 4. Electronic Meeting. Meetings of the Chapter may be conducted through use of Internet meeting services designated by the President that support voting, support visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those seeking recognition to speak, showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending motions, and showing the results of votes.

Meetings of the Chapter may be held electronically when the Chapter President has obtained consent from two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Board; or, in the case of Special Meetings, when so directed by those calling the special meeting. Meetings held electronically shall be subject to the following rules:

(a) **Meeting notices.** Appropriate login information necessary to connect to the meeting and information on how to participate in the meeting shall be included in the meeting notice including phone login information to participate aurally by telephone. Members joining by phone should announce themselves at the direction of the chair at the first opportunity.

(b) **Voting.** Votes shall be taken by the voting feature of the Internet meeting service, unless a different method such as a roll call or raised hand vote is approved by the members. Members participating by phone only shall vote by roll call at the direction of the chair. Internet meeting service shall not be used for secret ballot votes.

(c) **Obtaining the floor or interrupting a member.** A member has the floor and may unmute once recognized by the chair. A member may only interrupt a speaker for a specific motion or request which under the rules permits a member to do so. A member who intends to make such a motion or request shall so indicate to the chair and then shall wait a reasonable time for the chair's instructions before attempting to interrupt the speaker by voice.

(d) **Member participation and forced disconnections.** All chapter members in attendance have the right to participate in the meeting including making motions and speaking in debate. However, the chair may cause or direct the muting or disconnection of a member's connection if it is causing interference with the meeting (such as interrupting other members when not permitted by the rules or when not recognized by the chair or if there is repeated, disruptive background noise). The chair's decision to do so must be announced to all participants prior to any action taken and is subject only to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member present. To be in order, the appeal must be made immediately, before business moves onto the next subject. If appealed, a majority vote of members present is required to overturn the decision of the chair.

(e) **Technical requirements.** Each member is responsible for their own audio and Internet connections. No action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.

Section 5. Unless otherwise ordered by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, the order of business at regular Chapter meetings shall be:

- (1) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- (2) Roll Call of Officers
- (3) Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- (4) Report of Executive Board Actions
- (5) Communications
- (6) Treasurer's Report
- (7) Recognition of New Members/Introduction of Guests
- (8) Committee Reports
 - (a) Report of the Negotiating Committee
 - (b) Union Steward/Site Representative Reports
 - (c) Other Committees as Required

- (9) Unfinished Business
- (10) New Business
- (11) Good of the Order
- (12) Adjournment

Section 6. Quorum for Meetings: It shall require at least ten (10) members in good standing in attendance at any Chapter meeting for business to be conducted.

ARTICLE VII CONTROL OF FUNDS / BUDGET

Section 1. All funds received shall be deposited in the name of Coachella Unified Chapter No. 109, CSEA, in such bank or other financial institution as approved by the Executive Board. The use of chapter debit cards is strictly prohibited. No funds shall be disbursed except by check, duly authorized and signed by the Treasurer and the President. In the event of absence of, inability to act by, or vacancy in the office of Treasurer, funds shall only be disbursed upon signature of the President and one (1) of the following: Vice President, Secretary.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall prepare an annual budget for approval of the Chapter membership no later than January of each year, which shall contain itemized estimated receipts and expenditures, and amounts to be set aside as a reserve fund, if any. The approved budget shall then regulate the expenditures of the Chapter. Expenditures in excess of those approved in the budget must have prior approval of the Chapter membership, except that expenditures under \$100 may be approved by the Executive Board and reported to the Chapter membership at the next Chapter Meeting.

Section 3. Mileage. Elected chapter officers and other chapter members who are authorized to travel on official chapter business, as determined by the Chapter President or vote of the members in good standing of the chapter present at a chapter meeting, shall be reimbursed for such travel at a rate consistent with allowable mileage expense deductions as determined by Internal Revenue Service regulations for travel by personal auto. The President/Executive Board may require coordination of travel when more than one (1) member is authorized travel to the same function. Travel by means other than by auto shall be only as approved by the executive board and/or in accordance with authorized Conference expenditures approved by the chapter. Payment for reimbursement of such mileage/travel expense shall be made by the Chapter Treasurer upon receipt of an appropriate travel claim form which identify the purpose of the travel and show the approval of the Chapter President. Claims for mileage expense shall only be paid to the authorized driver, and claims for travel by means other than personal auto shall be accompanied by the appropriate receipts. All claims shall be submitted within one (1) week of the approval travel.

Section 4. Meals. Elected chapter officers and other chapter members shall be reimbursed for meals when attendance is required at conferences, workshops, negotiations, or any meeting at which a CSEA representative is required to be in attendance for more than three (3) hours. The appropriate chapter expense reimbursement form and/or receipt shall be submitted to the Chapter President/Chapter Treasurer within two (2) weeks after the conclusion of such event, and reimbursement shall be based on the original meal receipt submitted with such claims form, but not to exceed the following amounts: Breakfast - \$12.00; Lunch \$15.00; Dinner \$23.00. All approved reimbursement(s) will be disbursed to the member within two (2) weeks.

Section 5. Gifts.

(a) Upon the death of any member of the chapter or his/her spouse, a floral arrangement of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or the same amount to be sent to some worthy institution shall be made in the name of the Chapter.

(b) A gift or special recognition will be given to a member in good standing upon his/her retirement. In addition, if there should be a district event honoring retirees, having a cost, Chapter No. 109 will pay the cost for the retiring member and his/her guest.

(c) The above gifts are subject to available funds and chapter approval.

**ARTICLE VIII
COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Standing Committees: The following shall be the standing committees of the Chapter: Auditing, Elections, Negotiating, Political Action, Scholarship. Unless otherwise specified herein, the President shall, as soon as possible after January 1 of each year, appoint the chairpersons and members of the standing committees, which appointment shall be subject to the ratification of the Executive Board. The President shall determine the number of members to be appointed to each, except as otherwise provided herein.

(a) The President shall not appoint any member to more than two (2) Chapter standing committees.

Section 2. Ad Hoc Committees: Such other committees as the President or the Chapter membership may deem necessary to perform a specified task for the welfare of the Chapter may be appointed. The President shall determine the composition of such committees and the timelines for completion of their assigned duties. Such ad hoc committees shall cease to function upon completion of their specified task.

Section 3. Joint Chapter/Employer Committees: Unless otherwise specified within this document or a collectively bargained agreement, the President shall appoint representatives to joint Chapter/employer committees, such as the Insurance Committee.

1 **Section 4.** The Vice President shall act as coordinator of all appointed
2 committees.

3
4 **Section 5.** The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees,
5 except the Auditing and Elections Committees.

6
7 **Section 6. Quorum:** A majority of the members of any committee must be
8 present at any meeting to constitute a quorum.

9
10 **Section 7. Terms:** Unless otherwise provided herein, the term of office for all
11 committees shall be from January 1 until the end of the Chapter and fiscal year or until
12 their successors are appointed, provided that any committee member shall
13 automatically forfeit the office if they cease to be an Active member in good standing.

14
15 **Section 8. Auditing Committee:** It shall be the duty of this committee to
16 receive and audit the books and records of the Treasurer immediately after the close of
17 each fiscal year, and at such other times as may be directed by the President, and
18 report its findings to the Chapter membership.

19
20 **Section 9. Elections Committee:** It shall be the duty of this committee to
21 supervise and assist in the preparation, distribution, and counting of the ballots in all
22 elections (including contract ratifications) within the Chapter, and certify the results to
23 the Chapter President. In addition, the committee shall ensure that election procedures
24 are in accordance with applicable provisions of the Association's Constitution & Bylaws
25 and Policy, and this constitution.

26
27 **Section 10. Negotiating Committee (Team):**

28
29 (a) The Negotiating Committee shall consist of a chairperson as designated
30 by the Chapter President, plus six (6) representatives. The President shall take the
31 appropriate steps to ensure that different job groupings are represented on the
32 Negotiating Team.

33
34 (b) The committee members shall be appointed by the President from among
35 the members in good standing.

36
37 (c) Term of office for the appointed members shall commence upon their
38 appointment and continue for one (1) year or until their successors are appointed.

39
40 (d) Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the President for the
41 remainder of the original term only.

42
43 (e) **Duties:** It shall be the duty of the Negotiating Committee to:

44
45 (1) Research issues and prepare and submit initial bargaining
46 proposals (including proposals on re-openers) for review and approval of members in
47 good standing of the bargaining unit(s) prior to commencement of negotiations.

48
49

(2) Negotiate the contract (including re-openers and modifications) for and on behalf of the Chapter with assistance from CSEA field staff.

(3) Ensure that all bargained agreements are submitted for ratification of the bargaining unit(s) in accordance with Article XIII of this constitution.

Section 12. Political Action Committee: It shall be the duty of this committee to:

(a) Develop and implement a Chapter alert system designed for emergency contact of the membership when immediate Chapter action is necessary on contract matters, legislative and political issues, and other items of importance to the Association and Chapter.

(b) Keep the members informed about the legislative program of the Association, and may recommend to the Chapter membership legislative proposals it deems desirable for submission to the Association's Legislative Committee for consideration and inclusion in the Association's legislative program.

(c) Work cooperatively with the Political Action Coordinator (PAC), appropriate staff and PACE and Legislative Committee area representatives in furtherance of the Association's legislative and political goals, rendering regular reports at Chapter meetings regarding the same and recommending any Chapter support or activity it considers appropriate.

(d) Encourage all members to financially support PACE of CSEA and the Victory Club, and educate the membership regarding the necessity for active participation in the political process in accordance with Association and Chapter goals.

(e) Make recommendations to the Chapter membership regarding endorsement of candidates for school board, in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) The committee shall conduct a pre-screening of candidates to be recommended for endorsement, through direct interviews or questionnaires sent to the candidates. Following the pre-screening process, the committee shall present its recommendations for endorsement at a designated Chapter meeting for action by the Chapter membership. A majority vote shall be required for endorsement.

(2) Whenever possible, the committee shall arrange for a candidates' forum to provide Chapter members an opportunity to hear and question the candidates on relevant issues prior to hearing the committee's recommendation and the endorsement vote being taken.

(f) The committee shall determine the amount of financial support, if any, to be requested from PACE of CSEA, and shall submit said request to PACE of CSEA on such forms as may be required.

(g) The committee shall solicit volunteer activity by the Chapter membership on behalf of endorsed candidates, and shall be responsible for coordinating and directing such member activities.

Section 13. Scholarship Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to do a fundraising drive once a year, and to send notices and screen applications. The award of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) shall upon receiving verification of enrollment be mailed to the recipient. Scholarships shall be awarded to high school seniors whose parent is a CSEA member in "good standing".

ARTICLE IX UNION STEWARDS

Section 1. Appointment: The Chapter President shall appoint Union Stewards, subject to the ratification of the Executive Board. The President shall determine the number of Stewards to be appointed.

Section 2. Term of Office: Term of office for Union Stewards shall be from his/her appointment to the end of the Chapter fiscal year, or until their successors are appointed, provided that any Union Steward shall automatically forfeit such office if they cease to be an Active member in good standing employed within the designated service area. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the President, ratified by the Executive Board, from among the qualified members in good standing employed within the affected service area, for the remainder of the original term only.

Section 3. Union Steward(s): The Union Steward(s) shall:

(a) Attend annual training sessions for Union Stewards provided by the Association and/or other appropriate training as directed by the President.

(b) Educate bargaining unit employees about their rights under the contract and determine how problems arising under the contract can best be handled.

(c) Act as the basic channel of communication between the employees and the Chapter and relay specific member concerns to the Chapter's Negotiating Committee for incorporation into the bargaining proposals.

(d) Investigate and prepare grievances for processing and handle grievances at the immediate-supervisory level, and be present as required during other steps of the grievance procedure.

(e) Immediately inform the Chief Union Steward of all grievances received; immediately report to the Chief Union Steward the settlement of grievances processed or the failure to settle within contractual timelines.

(f) **Preserve the confidentiality** of personal grievances, resolve differences among the membership in grievance handling; maintain a file on all grievances handled which shall be turned over to the Chief Union Steward upon completion.

ARTICLE X
SITE REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. Site Representatives to serve each worksite shall be appointed by the President and ratified by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Site Representative duties shall be to:

(a) Recruit employees into CSEA membership and educate employees about CSEA.

(b) Distribute Chapter newsletter, bulletins, and other CSEA information at the worksite; keep CSEA bulletin boards up-to-date and clear of non-CSEA material.

(c) Conduct periodic site-level meetings to keep the members informed of actions taken at Chapter meetings, to explain CSEA benefit plans and services, and to keep members informed of Association and/or Chapter activity regarding grievances, PERB decisions, contract negotiations, legislative and political activity, and other matters of importance.

(d) Relay member concerns to the appropriate Union Steward or other Chapter officer.

(e) Attend Chapter meetings; attend training workshops and other seminars as directed and approved by the Chapter President; attend joint Union Steward/Site Representative (site council) meetings as may be called by the Chief Union Steward and/or the Vice President.

ARTICLE XI
RECALL OR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1. Recall of Elected Offices

(a) Any member of the Executive Board, and conference delegates and alternates, may be recalled from office upon a two-thirds (2/3) secret ballot vote of Active members of the Chapter in good standing present and voting at a meeting called for the purpose of a recall action.

(b) Recall may be initiated by a petition of two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Board or thirty percent (30%) of the members in good standing eligible to vote on the individual being recalled. The petition shall state the specific reasons in support of the recall, and the petition shall be presented to the Executive Board and to the individual.

(c) Upon receipt of the petition, the Executive Board shall arrange for a special meeting to be held not less than fifteen (15) days nor more than thirty (30) days following its receipt, at which the charged person shall be afforded opportunity to rebut the charges, including presentation and cross-examination of witnesses as may be appropriate, and the secret ballot vote shall be conducted. Attendance at said meeting shall be restricted to members of the Executive Board and members of the Chapter in good standing who are eligible to vote on the particular recall action, authorized representatives of the Association, and such witnesses as may be pertinent to the action. Notice specifying time, date, and place and the specific nature/purpose of the meeting shall be issued to those eligible for attendance at least ten (10) days in advance.

Section 2. Removal of Appointed Offices

(a) Any appointee of the President/Executive Board may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board, a quorum being present, provided such person shall be provided at least five (5) days advance notice of the reasons for removal and the time, date and place where the Board will meet to vote on the matter. At said meeting the member shall be afforded an opportunity to provide rebuttal argument prior to the vote being taken.

(b) Any appointed committee chairperson or member failing to attend three (3) consecutive committee meetings, unless excused for cause, shall be automatically removed from the committee.

Section 3. Resignation from Office

(a) A resignation by an elected officer is not effective until accepted by the Active members in good standing present at a Chapter meeting.

(b) A resignation by any appointee of the President/Executive Board is not effective until accepted by the President/Executive Board.

ARTICLE XII DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE

Section 1. Delegates: Voting delegates to an annual conference of the Association (and their alternates) shall be designated from among the Active members in good standing as follows:

(a) The Chapter President.

(b) Additional delegates in such number as may be authorized by the Chapter for attendance, but not to exceed the total number authorized by the Bylaws of the Association, shall be elected as provided in Section 2 below.

Section 2. Eligibility: Delegates/alternates shall be elected from among the Active members in good standing of the Chapter who have attended more than fifty percent (50%) of the Chapter meetings held in the one-year period prior to nomination.

Section 3. Election:

(a) Nominations for the authorized delegate positions, other than the President, shall be taken at the regular Chapter meeting in March, and election shall be by secret ballot at the regular Chapter meeting in April. Alternates in sufficient numbers for each of the authorized delegates, to include an alternate for the President, shall also be elected.

(b) Notification of nominations and election and all other procedural matters relating to delegate and alternate election shall conform to Association Policy 618 and shall be conducted under the supervision of the Elections Committee.

(c) In the event a delegate cannot attend, the Executive Board shall determine which alternate shall replace the authorized delegate.

Section 4. Responsibilities: Delegates shall attend all conference business and other sessions of importance to the Chapter. In addition, the delegates shall:

(a) Attend at least one (1) orientation meeting at the regional or area level of the Association concerning the resolutions to the upcoming conference.

(b) Submit a written report on conference activities and expenses to the President within three (3) weeks after conclusion of the conference.

(c) Render a written and/or oral report and expenses to the chapter membership at the September meeting which shall be distributed to all members.

Section 5. Expenses: Estimated Conference expenses shall be approved by the chapter membership. Any advancement on expenses to delegates for housing, meals and travel that is not actually used or accounted for shall be reimbursed to the Chapter within thirty (30) days following the last day of Conference.

**ARTICLE XIII
CONTRACT RATIFICATION**

Section 1. Contract ratification procedures will comply with the provisions of Association Policy 610.

Section 2. Initial Proposals:

(a) The initial bargaining proposal will be determined by a vote of the membership.

(b) Copies of the Chapter's initial proposal and the employer's initial proposal shall be submitted to the Field Director and Labor Relations Representative for review.

Section 3. Negotiated Agreement:

(a) When the Negotiating Committee has negotiated a contract, tentative agreement, or modifications to an existing contract, it shall immediately submit one (1) copy to the CSEA Labor Relations Representative assigned to service the Chapter, for review by the Association prior to membership ratification.

(1) All contract modifications shall be submitted to the Labor Relations Representative for review by the Association. However, membership ratification shall not be required for those items listed as exceptions to the definition of "modifications" within the provisions of Association Policy 610, unless they are included as part of contract re-opener negotiations.

Section 4. Ratification Procedures:

(a) A copy of the tentative agreement or a summary of the tentative agreement shall be provided each CSEA member of the bargaining unit(s) prior to the ratification meeting. The Negotiating Committee shall include a statement recommending ratification of the agreement. If a summary only is provided, copies of the tentative agreement containing the exact language of the proposal shall be provided at the meeting.

(b) The Chapter President shall set the date, time and place for the ratification meeting, which shall be open to attendance by all employees within the bargaining unit(s), whether or not they are CSEA members.

(c) Notice of the ratification meeting shall be issued to all bargaining unit employees no later than five (5) working days in advance of the scheduled date. Distribution of said meeting notice shall be at the discretion of the Chapter President, utilizing any of the following methods which s/he determines to be most efficient:

- (1) To individual bargaining unit employees utilizing the U.S. mail or the employer's mail system;
- (2) Distribution by Site Representatives or others;
- (3) Posting in prominent locations at each worksite.

Exception to the above: The Association's Executive Director, or designee, may approve a notice period of less than five (5) working days upon request of the Chapter President, if it is determined that an immediate ratification meeting would be advisable.

(d) Conduct of Informational Meeting(s) and Vote:

(1) The Negotiating Committee shall review the provisions of the tentative agreement and indicate its recommendations for ratification.

(2) If the Association recommends rejection of the tentative agreement, an Association representative shall be in attendance at the ratification meeting and shall be provided ample opportunity to outline the recommendation for rejection and the reasons therefore.

(3) Polls for voting shall not be opened until the period for discussion, debate, and answering of questions has begun. Non-CSEA members of the bargaining unit(s) in attendance shall be granted the right to participate in the discussion and debate. **They shall not, however, have the right to make motions or vote.**

(4) The ratification vote shall be by secret ballot conducted at the ratification meeting under the supervision of the Elections Committee and in accordance with procedures required by Association Policy 610. Only Active CSEA members of the bargaining unit(s) who are in good standing and present at the ratification meeting shall be entitled to vote on the ratification or rejection of the agreement. Absentee or proxy votes shall not be permitted.

(5) Ballots shall be tallied and results announced prior to close of the meeting. A majority vote shall ratify.

Section 5. Executed Agreement: Every collective bargaining agreement shall be executed by both the Association and appropriate representatives of this Chapter. No contract shall be valid which has not been ratified by the Chapter membership.

ARTICLE XIV CONCERTED ACTIVITIES

Section 1. No concerted withholding of service shall be instituted by this Chapter unless such concerted action has been approved at a regular or special membership meeting, advance notice having been given, by secret ballot vote of not less than sixty-five percent (65%) of the Active members in good standing present and voting; and approval for such concerted activity has been granted by the Association's Board of Directors.

Section 2. If the dispute relates to contract negotiations, no concerted withholding of service shall be instituted unless the last offer of the employer has been submitted to the Chapter membership in accordance with Article XIII of this constitution and has been rejected, and the requirements of Section 1 above shall have been met.

ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Section 1. This Constitution shall at all times conform to all provisions of the Association Constitution & Bylaws and Policy, and where any conflict should occur, the Association Constitution & Bylaws and/or Policy shall prevail.

Section 2. Any member in good standing of the Chapter (or the Executive Board) may submit a written proposal to amend this constitution (containing the exact text of the proposed change) at any Chapter meeting, which shall constitute a first reading. The Chapter President shall then cause the proposed amendment(s) to be placed on the agenda of the next regular or a special Chapter meeting where the matter will be read a second time and acted upon, and shall cause written notification of the proposed amendment(s) and the date, time, and place of the designated Chapter meeting to be issued to all members in good standing at least ten (10) days in advance of said meeting. Said notification shall include at least a written summary of the proposed changes. The exact text of the proposed changes shall be made available for review by members upon request prior to the second reading if not provided with said notification, and shall be distributed to all members in attendance at the second reading.

Section 3. Approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the Active members in good standing present and voting at the second reading shall be required to adopt the amendment(s). If the amendment relates to a revision of Chapter dues, the vote shall be conducted by secret ballot.

Section 4. All amendments shall be submitted to the Association's Executive Director immediately following their adoption by the Chapter. **No amendment shall become operative until approved by the Executive Director, or designee, or action of the Association's Board of Directors in accordance with Article III, Section 8 of the Association's Constitution.**

ARTICLE XVI DISBANDMENT OF CHAPTER

Section 1. Should the Chapter disband for any reason, all financial accounts shall be transferred to the control of the Association, and a final audit of the financial books and records of the Chapter shall be made in conjunction with the Association's Financial Analyst/Auditor. Upon conclusion and certification of such audit, final distribution of funds shall be as follows:

- (a) All outstanding obligations of the Chapter shall be promptly paid.
- (b) All funds due and owing the Association shall be promptly remitted to the Association's general fund.
- (c) Funds then remaining shall then be distributed for purposes as appropriate and authorized in accordance with provisions contained in Association Policy 612.

ARTICLE XVII
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the Chapter in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution, the Constitution & Bylaws or Policy of the Association, and any special rules the Chapter may adopt.

ARTICLE XVIII
FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this Chapter shall extend from January 1 through December 31, inclusive.

ARTICLE XIX
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Section 1. Appointment: The Chapter President shall appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms.

Section 2. Duties: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

- (a) See that the flag of our country is properly displayed at all Chapter meetings.
- (b) Lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- (c) Assist the Chair in maintaining order at all meetings.
- (d) Assist the President with securing facilities for meetings and other events.