

The WSST Documents

1. The Constitution

The constitution should be a concise and lasting document. Changing the constitution should require a vote by the full membership of WSST.

2. The By-laws

The bylaws will be a guide to direction of policy. Changing the bylaws should require a vote by the Board of Directors of WSST.

3. The Policies

The policies will be the actions of committees, task forces and ad hoc committees. Policies are set by budget considerations. Policies shall be considered valid unless changed by majority vote of a subgroup of WSST with the consent of the officers.

4. The Operational Procedures

The operational procedures will be suggestions for day-to-day operations of WSST. These suggestions are subject to change when necessary. Records of operational procedures should be kept by each committee chairperson and officer of WSST. These records shall be passed on to appropriate persons in a timely fashion.

WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF SCIENCE TEACHERS

CONSTITUTION (4/2005)

Article 1 Name

The name of the organization will be the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers, Incorporated, hereafter to be known as WSST.

Article 2 Purpose

The purpose of the organization shall be the advancement, stimulation, extension, improvement and coordination of science education in all fields of science at all educational levels. The organization will attempt to fulfill this purpose primarily through the promotion of individual growth of science educators. As a secondary focus, the organization will strive to be involved in decision making at the state level, assist in decision making at the local level as it affects science education and to promote public understanding and appreciation of science education in the state of Wisconsin. Whenever possible, these activities will be carried out in cooperation with other organizations.

Article 3 Membership

The bylaws of the Society shall determine the qualifications, rights, and privileges of members. No person shall be denied membership on the grounds of age, sex, race, creed, handicap, color or national origin.

Article 4 Board of Directors

- 4.1 The Board of Directors shall be empowered to act on behalf of the membership of the Society in all matters other than the election of officers and the changing of the constitution. The Board of Directors shall have the authority and responsibility to:
 - 4.11 Take action as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of the Society and formulate the bylaws of the Society.
 - 4.12 Exercise all other powers not specifically assigned to officers and including, without limitations, the right to delegate its functions to the Executive Committee.
- 4.2 The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers and the elected district directors.
- 4.3 All members of the Board of Directors shall serve until their successors are selected and take office.

Article 5 Executive Committee

- 5.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the four (4) elected officers of the Society.
- 5.2 The Executive Committee at the direction of the president shall:
 - 5.21 Give direction to the Executive Director in the interim between Board of Directors meetings.
 - 5.22 Act on behalf of the Board of Directors within the limitations set by the bylaws and the constitution.

Article 6 Advisory Council

The advisory council shall consist of non-elected members of the Society who represent groups associated with the Society or areas of special interest to the Society.

Article 7 Elected Officers and District Directors

- 7.1 The elected officers of the Society shall be the Retiring President, the President, the President-elect and the Secretary. The officers will be elected at large by the members of the Society.
- 7.2 The six (6) District Directors of the Society shall be elected from the WSST voting district in which they reside.
- 7.3 All officers and District Directors must be regular members in good standing of the Society for two consecutive years preceding the time of nomination.
- 7.4 Elections for President-elect will occur every two years. The President-elect shall, after one year, succeed to the position of president. The President shall, after two years, succeed to the position of Retiring President.

Article 8 Executive Director

The administrative officer of the Society shall be the Executive Director and shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Article 9 Committees

- 9.1 An Executive Committee shall exist as described in Article 5 of this Constitution.
- 9.2 The Society shall have standing committees and may have task forces and ad hoc committees.

Article 10 Meetings and Quorums

- 10.1 The Society shall hold an annual meeting of the membership at a time and place in the state of Wisconsin, as designated by the Board of Directors. Special meetings of the members of the Society may be called by the Board of Directors.
- 10.2 The number of voting members present at any annual or special meeting of the Society shall constitute a quorum.
- 10.3 A quorum of the Board of Directors will consist of six (6) of the nine (9) members of the Board of Directors.
- 10.4 A quorum of the Executive Committee will consist of three (3) of the four (4) members of the Executive Committee.

Article 11 Publications

Publications of the Society will be a newsletter and such other publications as the Board of Directors may determine.

Article 12 Funds

- 12.1 Funds of the Society will be classified either as Operating or Restricted.
- 12.11 The Operating Fund shall consist of all membership dues and all monies received and not allocated to the Restricted Funds.
- 12.12 The Restricted Fund shall consist of all monies received subject to specific restrictions precluding their allotment to the Operating Fund.
- 12.2 The Board shall set limits on the financial commitments which can be made on behalf of the Society by any individual officer, Board member or staff member.
- 12.3 No part of the receipts of the Society shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, Board members, officers or other private persons except that the Board of Directors shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 2 of this constitution. No substantial part of the activities of the Society shall be for the purpose of propaganda, lobbying, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Society shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- 12.4 In the event of termination or dissolution of the Society, the Board of Directors shall distribute the remaining assets of the Society to an agency or organization which is interested in science education and is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or successor provision thereto)

Article 13 Affiliated Organizations

Any organization having objectives embraced by the Society and meeting the criteria for affiliation which are established by the Board of Directors may be nominated for affiliate status. The Society's relationship with affiliated organizations will be one of mutual cooperation for fulfillment of the purposes of each group.

Article 14 Amendments

- 14.1 Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by at least ten (10) members of the Society, two of whom must be members of the Board of Directors.
- 14.2 A proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be approved for recommendation to the membership, upon an affirmative vote of six (6) members of the Board of Directors.
- 14.3 Notice of a proposed amendment to the constitution shall be delivered to the membership via the mail, prior to the next general membership meeting.
- 14.4 A proposed amendment to the constitution shall be adopted upon a majority vote of the membership present at any annual or special membership meeting of the Society.
- 14.5 An amendment to the constitution shall become effective upon its adoption. Notice of an amendment change to the constitution shall be published in the next issue of the WSST Newsletter.

8/95

as amended 4/1999: Art. 5.21, 8

As amended 3/2003: Art. 7.4

As amended 4/2005: Art. 10.3, 14.2