

Constitution and By-Laws for the South Carolina Council for the Social Studies

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this nondiscriminatory organization shall be the South Carolina Council for the Social Studies. The term "Social Studies" is used to include history, geography, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and all modifications or combinations of them.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this organization shall be:

1. To promote higher standards in social studies curriculum and instruction for the schools of South Carolina.
2. To promote a closer professional relationship among all disciplines of social studies in the state.
3. To represent the social studies profession at all levels.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Any person who is interested in social studies instruction in the private or public schools and colleges of South Carolina shall become a member of this organization on the payment of dues. The annual dues shall be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Council.

Section 2

Institutions may become members upon payment of a fee prescribed by the Executive Committee. Institutions should designate those individuals who compose their membership.

Section 3

Any business, corporation or organization interested in the advancement of social studies and social studies education in the state of South Carolina may become a Corporate Member of the South Carolina Council for the Social Studies upon payment of an annual membership fee to be set by the Executive Committee. Corporate Members shall enjoy the following rights and privileges:

1. Right to display materials at any state conference (where SCCSS is the sole sponsor) with one display set-up for the duration of the conference.
2. A subscription to *The Palmetto Focus* and any other publication produced by SCCSS.
3. Be listed as Corporate Members in publications of the SCCSS when such a listing is appropriate.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of the Council's Executive Committee shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and two other at-large members, chosen by the Board of Directors, whose term of office shall be for 2 years each.

Section 2

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to establish committees and to define their responsibilities. All committee members must be SCCSS members.

Section 3

Duties of the Officers

1. President

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
2. The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint all committees and advise them as to their duties and responsibilities.
3. The President shall bring to the body such proposals as he or she deems helpful in achieving the objectives of the Council.

2. President-Elect

1. The President- Elect shall act as President in the absence of the President or in the temporary inability of the President to serve.
2. The President- Elect shall assume the presidency in case of the removal or resignation of the President.
3. The President- Elect shall oversee the planning and implementation of the Annual Meeting(s).
4. The President- Elect shall assume the office of Presidency upon completion of the term of the President, except as provided under IV.8.3.

3. Vice President

1. The Vice President shall chair the membership committee and perform any other duties prescribed by the Executive Committee.

4. Secretary

1. The Secretary shall keep an accurate account of all organization proceedings including Executive Committee meetings and shall make the minutes available to the body at its next regular meeting.
2. The Secretary shall oversee elections, including nominations, distribution of ballots and verification of eligibility, and certification of results.

5. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall direct the disbursement of all funds, be responsible for the maintenance of appropriate records, and in those cases where the Executive Committee directs, appear as a signatory of record.
2. The Treasurer shall oversee the development of an annual budget to be approved by the Executive Committee.
3. The Treasurer shall conduct an annual audit of the financial records of the organization and include the results in an annual report to be distributed to the membership.
4. All monies collected onsite at the Annual Meeting(s) will be received and receipted under the Treasurer.

Section 4

Eligibility of Officers and Elected Board Members :

To be eligible for election to any office a member must:

1. Be in good standing with the Council.
2. Be a member of the National Council for the Social Studies.

Officers maybe elected to the same position for no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Section 5

Nomination Procedures:

A Nominations Committee consisting of the President-Elect, the Vice- President, the Secretary, and two (2) at- large members of the Council appointed by the Executive Committee.

1. A Call for Nominations for positions up for election shall be made by April 15 of each year.
2. The Nominations Committee shall compose a secure ballot of proposed nominees who meet all the requirements for office.
3. The ballot shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
4. The Vice-President shall chair the Nominations Committee.

Section 6

Elections Procedures

1. A ballot containing the names of nominees will be mailed to each member at least six weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Returned ballots must be postmarked no later than two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
2. All ballots will be counted on sight at the Annual Meeting under the supervision of the Secretary.
3. Election shall be by a majority of those voting. Should no candidate receive a majority, a runoff will be held at the Annual Meeting between the two candidates receiving the most votes. Announcement of new officers will be made at the Annual Meeting.

Section 7

Officers chosen in the prescribed manner shall assume duties at the Annual Meeting immediately following their election to office.

Section 8

Vacancies

1. Should the President resign or be removed from office, the President-Elect shall become President. The new President shall serve only the remaining portion of the term if there be more than one year remaining in the term. If there is less than one year, the new President shall have the option of serving the unexpired term and then a full two-year term. The new President must make that choice prior to assuming the Presidency.
2. Should both the President and President-Elect simultaneously be unable to carry out the duties of their positions, the Immediate Past President shall act as President until the next annual election.

3. Other vacancies may be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Those appointed shall serve only until the next annual election.

Section 9

Removals

1. Any officer or member of the Executive Committee may be removed for misfeasance or malfeasance by a three-quarters vote of the Executive Committee. Any three members of the Executive Committee may request an officer's removal. The vote shall be held over until the following meeting of the Executive Committee.
2. An officer may be considered for removal if a petition is presented to the Executive Committee signed by at least ten per cent of the Council. The officer shall be removed when two-thirds of the membership present at the next Annual Meeting vote for removal.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1

An Executive Committee meeting shall be held no less than twice a year: once in the spring and once at the annual fall conference.

Section 2

ROBERT 'S RULES OF ORDER REVISED shall be the parliamentary authority on all matters not covered by this Constitution or by the By-Laws of the Executive Board unless they conflict with specific rules, procedures, or precedents adopted by the SCCSS.

Section 3

A member of the Board of Directors who is absent from two (2) consecutive Board meetings without having requested a formal excuse that the Executive Committee has accepted, shall forfeit membership on the Board, shall be notified by the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee may appoint a successor to complete the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

Elected Members

The Board of Directors will consist of the following elected positions: Executive Committee, the immediate past president, who shall serve as Parliamentarian, one Elementary Representative, one Middle School Representative, one High School Representative, a member representing higher education, and a member representing school/school district administrators. The elected members of the Board of Directors members shall be nominated by the Nominations Committee in the same manner provided for Officer above. Elections shall be held annually with the Executive Committee and Board of Directors elected on alternate years. All elected members of the Board of Directors will be full voting members.

Section 2

Appointed Members

The Board of Directors may consist of, but not be limited to, the following appointed positions: Friend of Social Studies, representative(s) from the State Department of Education, Publications

Director, and Executive Director. The Executive Committee may appoint the following ex-officio members to its body in conjunction with election of the Executive Committee for the same two year term. All appointed members of the Board of Directors shall be in good standing with the Council and be full voting members of the Board of Directors. Sitting appointed members and any other members in good standing with the Council shall notify the President-Elect in writing at least six weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of an interest in serving in one of the appointed positions. The President -Elect will present all names to the Executive Committee for consideration. All names brought to the Executive Committee for consideration will be discussed by the Executive Committee and approved by two - thirds majority vote. Notification of appointment will be made at the Annual Meeting.

Section 3

The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the Council between Annual Meetings and shall meet at regular intervals between Annual Meetings to conduct the Council's business. A quorum for the transaction of official business shall consist of one half of the sitting Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall have all the powers of the Board of Directors when a quorum of the Board cannot be assembled. Both the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee may use e -mail as a means of conducting business between regularly scheduled meetings. Voting requirements as stipulated in Article VII.

Section 4

Duties of Appointed Members

1. Executive Director

The term of office shall be for two (2) years to coincide with the term of the President. At the end of the term, the appointment maybe renewed at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The functions and duties of the office shall be established by the Executive Committee.

2. Publications Director

A Publications Director may be appointed by the Executive Committee to edit, publish, and maintain Council publications and to perform such other duties as the Committee may prescribe.

Section 5

Members of the Board of Directors shall be encouraged to attend the NCSS annual meeting. The order for the NCSS delegates shall be as follows: President, President -Elect, and 2-3 other at large members from the Board. Delegates and Alternates sent to NCSS by SCCSS are expected to fully participate in conference sessions, meetings, House of Delegates, and any other such function that represents the SCCSS.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

Section 1

There shall be the following standing committees: Publications, Membership, Civic, Conference, Nominations, Awards, and Grants.

Section 2

Special committees and their chairpersons may be appointed by the President with consent of the Board of Directors. Those chairpersons shall not be entitled to a vote on the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII. COUNCIL MEETINGS

Section 1

There shall be at least one Annual Meeting of the Council at a time and place appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2

The Board of Directors shall be empowered to call other meetings as deemed necessary, upon a thirty-day notification of the membership.

Section 3

A quorum of the Council shall consist of the number of members present.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1

Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Council but must be submitted in writing by the secretary to the Executive Committee at least thirty days prior to the election in which the amendment would be considered and approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 2

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those members voting on the amendment during the election in which it is considered.

Section 3

Amendments are effective immediately upon passage unless otherwise provided in their enactment. Members serving on the Executive Committee or Board of Directors will finish their unexpired term in the transition to the reorganized governing structure of SCCSS.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION OF COUNCIL

In the event of the dissolution of the Council, all assets of this 501(c)(3) organization of the United States Internal Revenue Code will be transferred to an appropriate non-profit organization or organizations as determined by the Executive Committee.

September 2006

September 2001

September 1998