

CHSPA CONSTITUTION

(Revised January 2008)

ARTICLE I – Organization's Name

The name of this organization shall be the Colorado High School Press Association (CHSPA).

ARTICLE II – Purpose of Organization

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

- Encourage interest in journalism through participation in school publications.
- Promote high standards of school publications.
- Encourage the recognition of journalism as an important course of study – particularly as it reflects the ability of students to use the mass media in understanding their role as media consumers and citizens.
- Encourage school publications to accept responsibility as a vital means of communication in the school community.
- Foster students' interest in print, broadcast, and multi-media journalism.
- Encourage students to communicate accurately, concisely, ethically, aesthetically, and responsibly.
- Encourage knowledge of and appreciation for the rights and responsibilities stated in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and in Colorado state law.
- Encourage students to exercise their legal rights and uphold their ethical responsibilities as student journalists.
- Provide support for and encourage the professional growth of advisers.

ARTICLE III – Membership

Membership in the Colorado High School Press Association shall consist of the following classifications: active, patron, regional, retired, and honorary members. Active membership shall be by publication. All memberships shall require the payment of annual dues.

Active membership shall be open to school sponsored publications in senior high schools in the state of Colorado.

Patron membership shall consist of for-profit groups and individuals with an interest in scholastic journalism. Patron members are required to pay dues, the amount to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Regional members shall consist of publications in schools outside the state boundaries. Regional members are required to pay dues, the amount to be determined by the Board of Directors. For their membership fee, these schools will receive the Newsline, may participate in the CHSPA list-serve, and may attend events. Student contests sponsored by CHSPA are not available to regional members.

Retired members shall consist of teachers who have retired from the classroom and their duties as publication adviser. Retired members are required to pay dues, the amount to be determined by the Board of Directors. Retired members will receive Newsline, are encouraged to participate in the CHSPA list-serve, and may assist with events when needed. Retired advisers who are working past retirement in a business that fits the Patron Member, must join CHSPA as a patron rather than a retired adviser.

Honorary membership shall be granted to individuals devoted to the promotion of school journalism at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV – Board of Directors

The governing body shall consist of an Executive Board and a Board of Directors.

The Executive Board shall consist of elected officers (president, vice-president/president-elect, secretary, and treasurer), and the immediate past president, university liaisons, contest coordinators, event coordinator and outreach coordinator. Officers shall be elected from among member teachers of CHSPA.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Board, Executive Director, appointive positions, university representatives, and others appointed.

Three unexcused absences from regularly scheduled meetings in one academic year by any board member shall be grounds for dismissal.

All Board of Director positions shall have voting rights at Board meetings.

ARTICLE V – Election of Officers

The president, vice-president/president elect, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected in the following manner:

The president of CHSPA shall appoint a nominating committee of three members.

The nominating committee shall propose a slate of nominees.

Ballots shall be sent to active members in May and are due and tabulated by July 15.

A majority of all votes cast by active members shall be necessary to constitute election of officers. Election of officers shall be verified by the nominating committee.

All officers are elected for two-year terms.

Vacancies in Executive Board positions appointed by the president to serve until filled in the next regularly scheduled vote by the membership.

Presidential vacancies shall be filled by the current vice-president/president elect or another member appointed by the Executive Board. If the president-elect is unable to take over, the position will be permanently filled in the next regularly scheduled vote by the membership.

The vice-president shall be elected as a president-elect and will move to the president's position at the end of two years as vice-president.

Newly-elected officers shall assume duties at the first meeting of the Board of Directors after July 15. Election results will be announced to the membership in the next newsletter.

ARTICLE VI – Filling Appointive Positions

Appointive positions shall be selected in the following manner (with the exception of the university representatives):

The Executive Board, upon election, shall designate the appointive positions.

Vacancies for appointive positions shall be addressed by the president at the recommendation of the Board of Directors.

University representatives, one from each participating university, shall be designated by the journalism or communications department at that school.

The Executive Director shall be hired by the Executive Board and the contract reviewed each two years.

ARTICLE VII – Changes in the Constitution

Changes to the constitution can be proposed by any Board member and adopted by a majority of the Board of Directors.

Members must be notified in writing of proposed constitutional changes and may file a response to changes within a reasonable period to be designated by the Board.

CHSPA BY-LAWS

(Revised January 2008)

ARTICLE I – Annual Dues

The annual dues of CHSPA shall be for the current school year, payable to CHSPA. Dues are determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Invoices will be sent out in the spring with membership information packets. Dues shall be payable by a Board determined date in October of each year.

ARTICLE II – Organization Finances

The Board of Directors shall set a budget in the fall of each year.

The Board of Directors shall approve the payment of all bills.

All Board members are expected to stay within the limits of the budget unless the Board approves a budget item change.

The Board of Directors' designees shall be authorized to make proper reimbursement for expenses incurred on approved business.

A financial report shall be made following the close of each fiscal year (July 15) and presented to the membership in the next issue of the newsletter.

ARTICLE III – Meetings

Announcement of election results and a financial report shall be transacted at the annual CHSPA business meeting.

The Board of Directors shall meet as necessary.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at the discretion of the CHSPA president.

ARTICLE IV – Voting

Active members shall vote on the slate of executive officers.

The Board of Directors shall vote on motions brought before the Board. Passage requires a majority of votes cast, provided a quorum is present.

A quorum shall be defined as the majority of the Board of Directors (Executive Board and Board of Directors).

ARTICLE V – Changes in the Bylaws

Changes in the bylaws can be proposed by any Board member and adopted by a majority of the Board of Directors.

Members must be notified in writing of proposed Bylaw changes and may file a response to changes within a reasonable period to be designated by the Board.