

CHSPA CONSTITUTION

(Revised December 2011)

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 student media.
- Promote high standards for student media.
- 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 their role as media consumers and citizens.
- Encourage student media to accept responsibility as a vital means of communication in the school community.
- Foster student interest in print, broadcast, and online 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. All memberships shall require the payment of annual dues, with the exception of honorary.

Active membership shall be by school medium, with the media adviser acting as the official representative for each medium. In the event of a change in adviser during a school year, the new adviser becomes the official representative. Active membership shall be open to school sponsored student media in secondary schools in the state of Colorado. Active member dues include all CHSPA-sponsored contest fees.

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, and will receive all relevant organization communication.

Regional members shall consist of student media 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 may participate in the CHSPA listserv or other online communications, 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 student media advisers. Retired members are required to pay dues, the amount to be determined by the Board of Directors. Retired members will receive all relevant organization communication, are encouraged to participate in the CHSPA listserv, and may assist with events when needed. Retired advisers who are working past retirement in a business that fits the patron category 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. Honorary memberships may be elected to lifetime membership by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV – Officers and Board of Directors

The elected officers shall comprise the Executive Board, consisting of: President, Vice-President/President-Elect, Secretary, Immediate Past President, Advocacy Coordinator, Education Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, Middle School Coordinator and Western Slope Coordinator.

Officers shall be elected from among active and retired members of CHSPA.

Elected officers may only serve in one position per term.

Only Executive Board members shall have voting rights at Board meetings.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Board, Executive Director, Events Coordinator, university and professional liaisons, Standing Committee Chairs, and Special Committee Chairs.

Three unexcused absences from regularly scheduled meetings in one academic year by any board member shall be grounds for dismissal. A majority vote of the Executive Board is required to remove a board member.

ARTICLE V – Election of Officers

All Executive Board officers shall be elected in the following manner:

The president of CHSPA shall appoint a nominating committee of three members, with the immediate past president acting as chair.

The nominating committee shall propose a slate of nominees. Ballots shall be sent to active and retired members in May and are due and tabulated by June 1.

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 will be filled through appointment 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 June 1. Election results will be announced to the membership by email and through the CHSPA website.

ARTICLE VI – Filling Staff Positions and Appointive Chair Positions for Standing and Special Committees

Appointive positions shall be selected in the following manner:

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

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

University representatives shall be designated by the journalism or communications department at that school and professional representatives shall be designated by the professional organization.

The Executive Director and the Events Coordinator shall be hired by the Executive Board and the contracts 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 Executive Board.

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 Executive Board.

CHSPA BY-LAWS

(Revised December 2011)

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 October 1 of each year.

ARTICLE II – Organization Finances

The Executive Board shall set a budget in the summer of each year.

The executive director shall be responsible for all day-to-day financial activity, including payments and deposits.

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' designee (normally the executive director) 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 (June 30) and presented to the membership on the CHSPA website.

ARTICLE III – Meetings

Announcement of election results and a preliminary financial report shall be part of the annual CHSPA summer Board meeting.

The Board of Directors shall meet as necessary beyond the General Membership Meeting, which will be held annually during the state conference.

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

ARTICLE IV – Voting

Active and retired members shall vote on the slate of executive officers.

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

A quorum shall be defined as the majority of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V – Standing and Special Committees

Chairs of Standing and Special Committees are non-voting members of the Board of Directors, serving two-year terms concurrent with each election cycle.

Committee Chairs may make motions and contribute to Board discussions.

Standing Committees will be chaired by Executive Board members, assisted by the Executive Director, and include: Honors and Awards (Advocacy Coordinator), Public Relations (Secretary), Summer Adviser Workshop (Immediate Past President), Mentoring (Outreach Coordinator), All-Colorado (Education Coordinator), and Best of Colorado (Education Coordinator).

Standing Committee Chairs may create sub-committees for recurring activities and initiatives that come under their responsibilities.

Special Committees address specific issues or for limited ad hoc occasions. Special Committee Chairs are appointed by the President, who defines the goals and end point of each Special Committee.

ARTICLE VI – Job Descriptions

The Board of Directors will review all CHSPA job descriptions during the summer Board meeting each year. Those detailed job descriptions will be adopted/renewed each year by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII – Changes in the Bylaws

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

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 Executive Board.