

**CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DRIVER AND TRAFFIC
SAFETY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

PREAMBLE

We the instructors of driver and traffic safety in the state of South Carolina, in order that an association may serve as spokesperson for Driver and Traffic Safety Education, advance the cause of safety and education for all individuals; promote professional excellence among driver and traffic safety educators; gain recognition of the basic importance of the safety educator in the learning process; protect the rights of safety educators and advance their interests and welfare; hereby affirm and establish this constitution in order to fulfill an important need: to provide an organization whereby the ideals of good citizenship, driver and traffic safety education consciousness may be developed.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. Name and Address

Section 1 This organization shall be known as the South Carolina Driver and Traffic Safety Education. The Association shall be incorporated as a non-profit organization under South Carolina laws.

Section 2 The mailing address of the Association shall be designated as is on letterhead.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

Section 1 The purpose of this organization shall be:

- (a) To promote and advance all phases of driver and traffic safety education in K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and the general public in South Carolina.**
- (b) To promote solutions to the problems that are associated with the teaching of driver and traffic safety education.**
- (c) To promote cooperation with agencies in the interest of the teaching of driver and traffic safety to students in the state South Carolina.**
- (d) To stimulate general interest in the total problem of the conservation of human life, particularly as related to vehicular and pedestrian safety.**

Section 2 The Association shall endeavor to achieve its purpose through the rational use of such materials, conferences, and dissemination of materials as are necessary to improve teaching in this field, and other activities as may be deemed essential and appropriate.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 1 Membership in this Association shall be Active, Student, Corporate, and Honorary.

Section 2 Active members shall be individuals who are teaching or supervising driver and traffic safety education in high schools; commercial driver training school instructors licensed by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; safety education teachers and supervisors; safety patrol sponsors; safety club sponsors; and college, university, or state personnel working directly with driver and traffic safety education in the state of South Carolina. Only Active members and members who have retired may vote and hold office.

Section 3 Associate members shall include school administrators and all other persons actively interested in Driver and Traffic Safety Education and specifically related activities in Traffic Safety Education.

Section 4 Student members shall be students who are studying the problems and methods of driver and traffic safety education in high school, college/university, in-state or out-of-state.

Section 5 Corporate members shall be those organizations and individuals who wish to support the purposes of the Association and who help sustain the Association. Granting a Corporate membership shall in no way bind this Association to support philosophies or policies of any Corporate member, nor to support or participate in projects of said Corporate members.

Section 6 Individuals who have made outstanding contributions to driver and traffic safety education may be granted Honorary membership upon action of the President with the approval of the Executive Board or upon (3/4) majority vote by Active members present at any Association meeting.

ARTICLE IV. Officers

Section 1 The elected offices of the Association shall be a President, President-Elect, Secretary, Website/Newsletter Editor, Historian and three board members. The President will appoint a Chaplain who will also have full voting privileges on the Executive Board.

- Section 2** The election of officers of the Association shall be by ballot at the fall meeting, and the newly elected officers shall take office immediately following the meeting.
- Section 3** The term of office shall be for one year except two years for President, President-Elect and Historian offices.
- Section 4** The Nominating Committee, nor no individual member, shall nominate anyone for office who has not consented to stand for election and serve if elected.
- Section 5** All nominees at the time of their nomination shall be active members of the Association.
- Section 6** The SCDTSEA Board will consist of the elected officers, the immediate Past President, and three board members elected at-large.
- Section 7** The immediate Past President will have full voting privileges on the SCDTSEA Board. He/she will also serve as adviser to the President.

ARTICLE V. Duties of Officers

- Section 1** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Board. In addition, he/she shall
- (a) be an ex-officio member of all standing and temporary committees.
 - (b) appoint Chairpersons for any standing or temporary committee and committees as provided for in the Constitution.
 - (c) administer all business of the Association.
 - (d) represent the Association or delegate authority in all contracts with other organizations.
 - (e) keep a President's file for term of office.
 - (f) to pass on copies of the President's file to the incoming Secretary at the end of his/her office.
- Section 2** The President-Elect shall serve as Chairperson of the Program Committee and shall preside at all meetings which the President is unable to attend
- (a) The President-Elect will serve as the next President of the Association.
 - (b) A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the President-Elect.
 - (c) The President-Elect will serve as advisor to and Executive Director of any South Carolina Student Safety Association.

Section 3 The Secretary shall take minutes of all Executive Board meetings, or any other called meeting. In addition, he/she shall:

- (a) distribute copies of all minutes to all officers and Board members.
- (b) pass the records on to his successor at the end of his/her office.
- (c) prepare and transmit correspondences as requested by the Association.

Section 4 The Treasurer shall have charge of all monies of the Association and shall pay all debts of the Association at the direction of the President and Executive Board. In addition, he/she shall

- (a) dispense funds for approved Association business in an amount predetermined by the board for each cash transaction.
- (b) authorize another member of the Executive Board to disburse funds for payment of Association debts, when so directed, but such disbursements are to be clearly defined and limited by the President or Executive Board.
- (c) keep all funds in the Association account, collect dues, and issue membership cards.
- (d) serve with the Chairperson of the Membership Committee and in so doing shall maintain an up-to-date list of all members and their mailing addresses.
- (e) make a report at the annual meeting and Auditing Committee for their approval.

Section 5 At-large Board members (three). The Board members elected shall serve with the elected officers of the Executive Board.

Section 6 The Chaplain appointed by the President will give a 5-10 minute devotional challenge at the annual meeting or any other called meeting. He/she will be in charge of invocations.

Section 7 All officers shall keep correspondence in relation to the Association and make copies for the Secretary of any letters for or because of the Association.

Section 8 The Historian will:

- (a) keep any and all records pertaining to the history of the Association.
- (b) work with the officers, board members, other members of the Association, and members of the general public to procure information in order to keep the traditions of the Association recorded.
- (c) submit an annual report to the President and general membership for their approval.

Section 9 The Website/Newsletter Officer will:

- (a) do a newsletter if directed by the President and/or Executive Board.
- (b) supervise the editing, publishing, and monthly maintenance of an on-line newsletter.
- (c) work with the Association's Website designer.
- (d) submit all website or newsletter content to President and/or Executive Board for approval before publication.

ARTICLE VI. Executive Board

Section 1 The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Board, which consists of the elected officers of the Association, three elected members at large, the immediate Past President and the Chaplain selected by the President.

Section 2 Elected or appointed members of the Executive Board who fail to meet the responsibilities of their offices may be replaced by majority selection of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII. Committees

- Section 1** Immediately following his/her election, the President shall have the option of appointing the following standing committees:
- (a) Auditing Committee to audit the books of the Treasurer at the time of the meeting and file a report with the Executive Board.
 - (b) Constitution and Bylaws Committee to review the constitution and bylaws and to recommend changes to the Executive Board.
 - (c) Legislative Committee to assist in formulating a legislative program for the Association and to keep the Executive Board informed of the activities on state and local levels.
 - (d) Membership Committee to attempt to secure desirable members.
 - (e) Nominating Committee to have a slate of officers to be voted on at the annual meeting, in time for newsletter publication or to be put on the Association Website.
 - (f) Professional Problem/Resolution Committee to consider professional problems concerning driver and traffic safety education. The committee is to report to officers and members.
 - (g) Public Relations Committee to assist in promoting favorable public relations in all activities of the Association.

Section 2 Each standing committee is directly responsible to the President. Written reports of all formal and/or informal meetings of all committees shall be promptly submitted to the Secretary to be forwarded to the President, and reports shall be made at the

following Executive Board meeting.

Section 3 The President shall be empowered to appoint any other committees which may be needed to conduct studies or carry on any other business of the Association.

Section 4 Two or four members will be appointed to all committees. The Chairperson of each committee may select additional committee members with the approval of the Executive Board.

(a) The Chairperson will select an uneven (odd) number, including himself/herself, in order to secure a voting majority.

(b) The Chairperson will vote to break all committee voting ties.

ARTICLE VIII. Publications

Section 1 The Association shall disseminate (or prepare) information concerning driver and traffic safety education and specifically related activities in safety education as authorized by the Executive Board.

Section 2 The Association Newsletter/Website officer will do a newsletter if directed by the President and/or Executive Board.

Section 3 The Association Newsletter/Website officer will submit all website or newsletter content to President and/or Executive Board for approval before publication.

Section 4 Any additional issues seen fit to be published by the Executive Board will be released.

ARTICLE IX. Meetings

Section 1 There shall be an attempt to have semi-annual meetings (Fall and Spring). The time and place shall be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Board, and the members of the Association shall be notified at least 30 days prior to any meeting.

(a) Special meetings may be called by majority vote of the Executive Board.

(b) Special meetings may be called by petition of 10 percent of the Active members of the Association.

Section 2 Executive Board meetings shall be scheduled at least twice, or more if needed.

ARTICLE 10. Ratification

Section 1 This constitution became effective upon ratification by two-thirds majority of the Active members present for the first general meeting after July 30, 1978.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. Parliamentary Authority

Section 1 In all matters not governed by the Constitution and Bylaws, this Association shall be governed by the provisions of Robert's Rules of Order, revised, except with regard to elections.

ARTICLE II. Membership Dues

Section 1 The dues of this Association shall be \$20 per year. The fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

Section 2 Associate membership dues are the same as those of the regular membership (\$20).

Section 3 Student dues will be \$2.00 per year.

Section 4 Corporate dues shall be \$100.00 per year.

Section 5 There are no honorary membership dues.

Section 6 Conference fees will be determined by the Executive Board as necessary.

ARTICLE 3. Quorum

Section 1 The majority vote of the elected officers and board members in attendance shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board. A majority of the elected officers and board members and seven members in good standing will constitute a quorum for a general meeting.

ARTICLE 4. Cooperating Organizations

Section 1 The Association will provide the framework to enable interested groups to contribute to the effectiveness of Driver Education/Training and specifically related activities in safety education programs in schools and colleges. All relationships between the Association and non-education professional organizations interested in Driver Education/Training shall be guided by fundamental educational principles. The Association will encourage this kind of cooperation but not become affiliated with non-education professional groups on a continuing basis or in other ways which would permit such groups to speak for the Association.

Section 2 The Association shall encourage the unity of other educational associations, such as the American Driver & Traffic Safety Education

Association, the South Carolina Education Association, and the National Education Association, local education associations, and the United Teaching Profession, but the Association will not demand its members to have membership in such organizations.

ARTICLE 5. District Representatives

Section 1 Ten (10) District Representatives can be appointed by the SCDTSEA President.

Section 2 The ten (10) District Representatives will assist the President in nominations, dissemination of information, corporate memberships, and in other ways agreed by the SCDTSEA Board.

Section 3 The ten (10) District Representatives will be non-voting members of the SCDTSEA Board.

ARTICLE 6. Meetings

Section 1 If possible there shall be semi-annual state meetings (Fall & Spring), the time and place shall be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Board, and the members of the Association shall be notified at least 30 days prior to any meeting.

(a) Special meetings may be called by majority vote of the Executive Board.

(b) Special meetings may be called by petition of 10% of the Active members of the Association.

Section 2 Executive Board meetings shall be scheduled when needed and at the discretion of the President.

ARTICLE 7. Amendments

Section 1 An amendment to the Constitution may be introduced at any general meeting of the Association provided it has been submitted to the Secretary at least 60 days prior to a general meeting. The Secretary in turn must submit the said amendment to the President for review and notify the general membership at least 30 days prior to the general meeting.

Section 2 Nothing in the proposed amendment will conflict with the Act of incorporation.

Section 3 An amendment will be voted upon by ballot and ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) of the Active members present for any general meeting, provided the terms for presentation have been met.

ARTICLE 8. Bylaws

Section 1 Details regarding organization and activities of the Association shall be regulated by the Bylaws.

Section 2 The Bylaws may be amended

- (a) at any official business meeting of the Association by a majority vote of the Active members present or**
- (b) by a mail vote of majority of the Active members voting, provided that notice of the proposed change has been given to all Active members at least 30 days before the date of the official business meeting or the taking of the mail ballot.**

ARTICLE 8. Amending the Bylaws

Section 1 The Bylaws to the SCDTSEA Constitution can be amended with a two-thirds majority vote by the Executive Board via mail ballot or documented e-mail with a two-thirds majority vote.

Section 2 Thy Bylaws to the SCDTSEA Constitution can be amended by the general membership at any general meeting or by mail ballot or documented e-mail majority vote (51 percent or better).

ARTICLE 9. Dissolution

Section 1 The Association shall be dissolved only upon the vote of two-thirds\ (2/3) of the membership upon one year's notice.

Section 2 In the event of dissolution all assets of the Association shall be donated to another organization or institution within discretion of Executive Board, to be used for the purposes set forth in ARTICLE II of the Constitution. None of the assets of the Association shall ever revert to the individuals or organizations comprising its membership, nor shall any donor be given preferential consideration in the disposition of the assets.

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