



## Texas Rural Education Association

### Bylaws

#### ARTICLE I NAME

##### 1.1 NAME

The name of this non-profit organization shall be the **Texas Rural Education Association (TREA)**. Affiliate organization is the **National Rural Education Association (NREA)**.

#### ARTICLE II MISSION and GOALS

##### 2.1 MISSION

**TREA** is a statewide organization with a formal affiliation with the National Rural Education Association. **TREA** promotes quality educational opportunities and experiences for all children from rural public schools which will enable them to live and compete in a global society.

##### 2.2 GOALS

- 2.2.1 To pursue the quality of excellence in education; to give identity, voice and exposure to the particular quality of rural schools; to enhance the quality of life unique in the rural community.
- 2.2.2 To inform the legislature, state board of education, other such groups or agencies of the concerns, needs, and research of the association so as to effectively influence legislation, rules, regulations, and policy makers at the state and national levels.
- 2.2.3 To formulate and promote plans, proposals, subsidies, in service, and curricula which will be in best interests of the membership.
- 2.2.5 To inform and solicit the support of the membership in promoting the goals of the organization.
- 2.2.6 To develop partnerships with other professional organizations, state leaders, community leaders, business, school administrators and board members.
- 2.2.7 To support the quality of education in rural school districts.
- 2.2.8 To support provide scholarships and other benefits to students of Texas public schools which have a current District Membership.
- 2.3.0 To acknowledge outstanding rural school teachers through the **Texas Rural Education Association (TREA)** Teacher of the Year Program.

**ARTICLE III**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

**3.1 CATEGORIES AND MEMBERSHIP**

**3.1.1 VOTING MEMBERSHIPS**

**3.1.1.1 District Membership**

Texas public school districts who consider themselves to be rural, institutions of higher education, and Regional Education Service Centers shall be eligible for a district membership. Each member [which includes all employees of a district and board members] of a District Membership shall have one vote for TREA purposes. Each District Membership will receive One (1) National Rural Education Association (NREA) Membership for the District Superintendent or his/her designee. [Additional NREA Memberships may be purchased by choice.]

**3.1.1.2 Individual Membership**

Individuals employed by an organization eligible for district membership shall be eligible for an individual membership. All individual members shall have one vote for TREA purposes. [NREA Memberships may be purchased by choice.]

**3.1.1.3 Teacher Membership**

Teachers at institutions with a paid TREA District Membership will be eligible for membership at the Teacher Membership Level. Teacher membership shall have one vote for TREA purposes. [NREA Memberships may be purchased by choice.]

**3.1.1.4 Retired Membership**

Educators retired from institutions eligible for district membership or from institutions of higher education or education service centers shall be eligible for TREA retired membership. [NREA Memberships may be purchased by choice.]

**3.1.2 NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIPS**

**3.1.2.1 Studentship**

Students enrolled in education or related fields at institutions of higher learning shall be eligible for student membership.

**3.1.2.2 Associate Membership and Business Associate Membership**

Any individual or business interested in the betterment of rural education and who is not eligible for any other TREA Membership. [i.e. legislator, state representative, vendor, sponsor, etc.]

**3.1.2.3 Honorary Membership**

TREA may from time to time award honorary membership without payment of dues to individuals or entities who have performed outstanding services to the cause of rural education or TREA.

**3.1.2.4 Life Membership**

TREA may from time to time award life time membership for performing outstanding service to rural education or the TREA or may establish a one-time fee for such life time membership.

**3.1.2.6 Library Membership**

Institutions of higher education and research libraries are eligible for a TREA Library Membership.

### **3.2 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Membership dues shall be a condition for acceptance into the organization and officer or director position nomination. The membership dues will be recommended annually by the Board of Directors and approved by the general membership. [See **TREA** Membership Dues attached].

**TREA** will purchase annually NREA Memberships for individuals serving *as Executive Committee Members, Board of Directors and Regional Liaisons*. These memberships will be purchased in a timely fashion to insure **TREA** representation in the National (NREA) Organization

### **3.2 ADDENDUM TO MEMBERSHIP DUES**

All membership dues received from Education Service Centers shall be deposited into the **TREA** Foundation account and those funds shall be used exclusively for the operation of The Foundation and its activities.

### **3.3 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**

The organization shall keep a current roster of the names, telephone numbers, fax numbers, email addresses and postal addresses of members of the organization. Membership information and members will be posted on the **TREA** website.

### **3.4 VOTING**

Each **TREA** member with voting privileges shall have the right to one **TREA** vote on any matter which requires a vote of the general membership. No proxy voting or representation is allowed.

### **3.5 REPRESENTATIVE**

The representative of the member district will be the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

### **3.6 MEMBERSHIP YEAR**

For organizational purposes, the membership and fiscal year shall extend from August 1 through July 31 of the following year.

## **ARTICLE IV** **MEETINGS**

### **4.1 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**4.1.1** The Annual General Membership Meeting will be held each-year during the Summer Conference.

**4.1.2** Other General Membership Meetings shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the Executive Committee. Meeting site for a such a called meeting will be determined by the Executive Committee upon consult with CEO and Advisors.

## **ARTICLE 5** **GOVERNANCE**

### **5.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The *Executive Committee* will be the *President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary* (appointed), and *Immediate Past President* in consultation with the *Chief Executive Officer (CEO)* and advisors. Advisors will be the *Executive Director (or designee)* from the *Regional Education Service Center of the President and President-Elect*.

## 5.2 GENERAL POWERS

Affairs of the organization will be managed by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and advisors. In addition to the powers and authority expressly conferred by these by laws, the Executive Committee will perform the requests of the total membership. The Executive Committee will have the power to employ and set compensation for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

## 5.3 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

*Officers* of the organization shall be members of the **Executive Committee** and will serve one (1) year terms in each position beginning with **Treasurer**. These Officers shall be **President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary** (appointed).

*Directors of the organization shall be elected to (2) year terms as outlined in 5.4.2.*

### 5.3.1 President

The President, in consultation with CEO, has the responsibility to see that all orders and Resolutions of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors are placed into effect.

### 5.3.2 Chief Executive Officer

The CEO will be selected and employed by the Executive Committee to conduct **TREA** matters as directed. [Refer to CEO Job Description].

## 5.4 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**5.4.1** Directors of the organization shall be elected for staggered two-year terms. Directors must attend at least 2 Board Meetings to continue as director the second year of the two-year term, unless extenuating circumstances are justified to the President.

**5.4.2** Vacancies of a Director or Officer may be appointed by the Executive Committee for the unexpired portion of the term.

**5.4.3** Nominations may be accepted from the floor during the annual membership meeting if written notification was received by TREA President at least 10 working days prior to the membership meeting. Floor nominees must be present at the membership meeting. To be nominated for an officer position, the candidate must be currently a member in good standing; be a current director or member of the Executive Committee and be willing to accept the position.

## 5.5 MEETINGS

### 5.5.1 Board of Directors' Meetings

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of three (3) times per year. Other meetings may be called at the President's discretion.

### 5.5.2 Annual Meeting

Elections of officers and directors shall occur at the annual membership meeting. Any other necessary business as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee will be brought before the general membership during the annual meeting.

### 5.5.3 Meeting Quorums

A quorum for the general membership meeting(s) shall consist of those members present including at least a majority of the Board of Directors. A quorum of the Board of Directors present shall consist of a majority of the Board.

**5.5.4 Nominating Committee**

The President in consultation with CEO shall appoint a nominating committee. No member of the nominating shall be eligible for nomination to any office.

**5.5.5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Executive Committee Meetings will be called at the discretion of the President in consultation with CEO and Advisors.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**COMMITTEES**

**6.1 COMMITTEES**

Committees shall be established as needed by the President and Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**AMENDMENTS**

**7.1 AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the general membership present and voting at a general membership meeting. Each member must be provided with a written (email is acceptable) copy of the proposed amendments at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**AUDIT**

**8.1 AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

The Board of Directors shall make provision for the auditing of the accounts, reports and records of the association annually.

**Adopted at the General Membership Meeting**

January 1993  
James Hesson, President

**1<sup>st</sup> Revision Adopted**

January 1998  
Franklin Wray, President

**2<sup>nd</sup> Revision Adopted**

January 1999  
Ronnie Stanley, President

**3<sup>rd</sup> Revision Adopted**

January 2002  
Ronnie Stanley, President

**4<sup>th</sup> Revision Adopted**

January 2004  
Seth Adams, President

**5<sup>th</sup> Revision Adopted**

January 2006  
James Morton, President

**6<sup>th</sup> Revision Adopted**

June 2007  
Byron Shelley, President

**7<sup>th</sup> Revision Adopted**

June 2014  
Andrew Seigrist, President