



CONSTITUTION

Mount Vernon Education Association

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1 The name of this organization shall be the Mount Vernon Education Association, herein referred to as the MVEA or Association.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Section 1 The purpose of the MVEA shall be to advance the interests of the profession of teaching and to promote the cause of education in the Mount Vernon School District and the State of Washington. The MVEA shall represent all members in bargaining, grievances, and in all matters relating to terms and conditions of employment with the Mount Vernon School District.

Section 2 As an affiliated unit of the Washington Education Association, herein referred to as the WEA, the MVEA shall endeavor to assist in all state-wide activities of the WEA.

Section 3 As an affiliated unit of the National Education Association, herein referred to as the NEA, the MVEA shall endeavor to assist in all activities (nation-wide) of the NEA. This shall include the implementation of the NEA Code of Ethics.

Section 4 As an affiliated unit of the WEA Fourth Corner UniServ Council, this organization shall endeavor to assist in all activities of the WEA Fourth Corner UniServ Council.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 The membership of the MVEA shall consist of teachers and other such professionals as may be provided in the Bylaws. The Constitution and Bylaws shall prescribe eligibility of membership.

Section 2 Membership shall be open, as provided by the Bylaws, to all persons who shall agree to: a.) abide by the Constitution and Bylaws; and b.) adhere to the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession.

Section 3 Membership shall not be denied to individuals on the basis of race,

creed, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or gender.

Section 4 Any person who transfers into the district during the current year, is a paid-up member in the local from which he/she transferred and meets the other WEA requirements, shall be given all rights and privileges until the end of the WEA membership year.

Section 5 Membership shall be permanent, or continuing from year to year, except on resignation, retirement, death, expulsion, suspension or discontinuance as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 6 Only active members shall have the right to vote and to seek and hold an elective position in the Association.

Section 7 Unless otherwise expressly provided by law, persons who tender agency shop fees shall have no rights or privileges within the MVEA.

ARTICLE IV DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1 The local annual dues of an active member shall not exceed 0.5 of one per cent of the average Mount Vernon School District teacher's salary for the preceding year as published by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Dues may be collected in installments as provided by the WEA Board and are prorated for mid-year hires based on the fraction of the school year worked, rounded to the nearest full month.

Section 2 The MVEA may levy special assessments on its members as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1 The elected officers of the MVEA shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair.

Section 2 The MVEA Executive Board shall include the elected officers, appointed officers and past president.

Section 3 It shall be the duty of the MVEA President to carry out the program and policies of the Representative Council and to exercise the general authority of the Representative Council between its meetings. The president shall be the chairperson of the MVEA Executive Board and Representative Council.

Other duties of elected officers shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

- Section 4 Meetings of the MVEA Executive Board shall be held monthly, on call of the president or on request of the majority of the MVEA Executive Board members.
- Section 5 Elected officers shall assume office as determined in Bylaws upon election for terms of one year with the exception of treasurer whose term shall be two years. There is no limitation on successive terms.
- Section 6 In the event that the president is unable to serve for a full term of office, the vice-president shall assume the office of president for the balance of the unexpired term. In the event that any elected officer is unable to serve a full term of office, it shall be the duty of the Representative Council to appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
- Section 7 The president and vice president shall serve as MVEA delegates to WEA Representative Assemblies during their term of office. Should the President or Vice-President not be able to represent MVEA as delegates at WEA, a substitute delegate may be elected as described by the Bylaws following open nominations.
- Section 8 Any elected officer may be recalled or removed, with or without cause, by the representative council, at any meeting called for that purpose, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all representative council members voting. In the event any office is vacated in this manner, the successor shall be installed as provided in Section 6 of this article.
- Section 9 For the purpose of incorporation, the elected officers of the MVEA shall act as trustees of the MVEA.
- Section 10 The MVEA Executive Board is authorized to make non-substantive housekeeping changes in the Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

- Section 1 The Representative Council of the MVEA shall consist of elected officers and at least one faculty representative from each faculty unit within the district for the first 20 members, such faculty unit shall be entitled to an additional representative for each 20 active members of the faculty unit or fraction thereof.
- Section 2 It shall be the duty of the Representative Council to meet upon the call of the president and as per adopted schedule to carry out the program and policies of the membership and to exercise the general authority of the membership between its meetings. The Representative Council shall have the authority to interpret the MVEA Constitution and Bylaws. The Representative Council shall develop and adopt standing rules for the Representative Council committees and commissions.

Section 3 Election of Representative Council members representing faculty units shall be conducted in a fair fashion by the members within each faculty unit. Said election shall be conducted by the incumbent faculty representative in that faculty by the end of May in any school year in which a representative council position is open. Each representative shall be elected for a two-year term, except as provided for in the case of a vacancy or creation of new Representative Council member position. The terms shall be staggered terms of office.

- a. Any Representative Council member representing a faculty unit may be recalled or removed, with or without cause, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members voting by secret ballot within such faculty unit at a special election to be called by the Representative Council upon the petition of one-third (1/3) of the members within such faculty unit.
- b. In the event of recall, or removal of a Representative Council member, or a voluntarily created vacancy, the faculty unit shall hold a timely election, following open nominations from the same faculty unit to complete the term.

Section 4 Only active members of the MVEA shall be eligible to be a faculty representative or to vote for the election of faculty representatives.

Section 5 Special Services, Northwest Career and Technical Academy, District Office and Skagit Family Learning Center shall each be considered faculty units and will have representation in the same manner as faculty units described under Section 1 of this Article. If not otherwise listed in this Section, when a unit reaches five or more members, they shall be entitled to representation as in Section 1 of this Article.

ARTICLE VII GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1 Motions to be considered by the General Membership of the MVEA will be crafted by the MVEA Rep Council.

- a. If previously announced with at least one week's notice, a simple majority of Rep Council decides the motion to be considered.
- b. If unannounced or announced with less than one week's notice, a 2/3 majority of Rep Council decides the motion to be considered.

Section 2 General Membership decisions will include but are not limited to, adoption of benefits, election of officers, and election of representatives to the WEA Rep Assembly.

- Section 3 The time frame for General Membership voting will be defined during creation of the motion.
- Section 4 Any member of MVEA may attend an MVEA Rep Council meeting to comment, suggest a motion, or ask questions. Rep Council voting privileges are not extended to non-Rep Council members.
- Section 5 Members may add or create new motions as long as there is a quorum.
- a. If the motion has previously been announced with at least one week's notice, a simple majority of the General Membership decides the motion to be considered.
 - b. If the motion has been unannounced or announced with less than one week's notice, a 2/3 majority of General Membership decides the motion to be considered.
- Section 6 Rep Council reserves the right to call for an Emergency General Membership Meeting that requires attendance of General Members for participation. The motions to be considered at that Emergency General Membership Meeting may be decided at that meeting, in a building vote, or via electronic means.

ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- Section 1 Committees may be authorized by the membership or by the Representative Council and may be abolished by the authorizing body or by the membership.
- Section 2 Commissions may be authorized or abolished by the general membership.

ARTICLE IX QUORUM

- Section 1 The equivalent of three members from each unit in the district at any general membership meeting of the Association shall constitute a quorum. For electronic voting, a quorum of the general membership shall be one-fifth of those members eligible to vote casting a vote.
- Section 2 The majority of the Representative Council shall constitute a quorum thereof. For electronic voting, a quorum of Representative Council shall be half of those members eligible to vote casting a vote.

ARTICLE X AFFILIATION WITH WEA, WEA FOURTH CORNER, AND NEA

Section 1 This Association ratifies the Constitution of the WEA, declares its relation to the WEA, and pledges its active assistance and support in promoting the program outlined by the WEA in fulfillment of its purpose and objectives.

Section 2 This Association ratifies the charter and bylaws of the NEA as an affiliated association, declares its relation to the NEA, and pledges its active assistance and support in promoting the program outlined by the NEA in fulfillment of its purpose and objectives.

Section 3 This Association ratifies the Constitution and Bylaws of WEA Fourth Corner as an affiliated association, declares its relation to WEA Fourth Corner, and pledges its active assistance and support in promoting the program outlined by the WEA Fourth Corner in fulfillment of its purpose and objectives.

ARTICLE XI PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1 The current edition of The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure governs this organization in all parliamentary situations that are not provided for in the law, standing rules, or in its charter.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

Section 1 This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members voting at any general membership meeting, provided all proposed amendments shall have the approval of the Representative Council and have been provided electronically for members two weeks before being presented to the Association for a vote.

ARTICLE XIII RATIFICATION

Section 1 This Constitution shall be considered ratified if it is approved by a majority of the members.