WEAC-Retired Constitution and Bylaws

WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL-RETIRED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

As Amended by WEAC-Retired
At the Annual Meeting on May 13, 2022

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Wisconsin Education Association Council-Retired. The Association shall be governed by this Constitution.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of WEAC-Retired is to provide for the economic, social, and political welfare of its members and to sustain quality public school systems for Wisconsin citizens by supporting the principles and programs of WEAC.

ARTICLE III – AFFILIATION

1. The Association shall affiliate with the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) and the National Education Association (NEA).

2. In the event WEAC-Retired members choose to form local or regional organizations, such organizations shall be affiliated with the Association.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership

a. Membership in the Association shall be open to any former public education employee.

b. Members of the Association shall also be members of the National Education Association-Retired.

c. Membership shall be continuous until the member fails to pay membership dues.

d. The fiscal and membership year shall be from September 1 through August 31.

e. Members have the right to vote in all elections and referenda.

f. Members have the right to nominate candidates for Association office.

2. After due notice and hearing, the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors may suspend from membership or expel any member for just cause and may reinstate a member who has previously been suspended or expelled from the Association.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS, WEAC-RETIRED BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

2. The Executive Committee of the Association shall include the officers, a Membership Coordinator, and one At-Large Representative, all of whom shall be elected statewide.

3. The Executive Committee of the Association shall be empowered to act in lieu of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors. Any action taken by the Executive Committee must be affirmed at the next regular WEAC-Retired Board of Directors meeting.

4. Each candidate for Executive Committee shall be a member of the Association in good standing.

5. The terms of the Executive Committee members shall be those established in the Bylaws.

6. There shall be a governing body known as the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors, which shall consist of the Executive Committee and one member elected for up to 500 members belonging to the local chapters based within the WEAC geographical regions plus one member for every additional 500 members, or greater fraction thereof. There also shall be the same number of elected alternates who will serve whenever the elected representative(s) is/are unable to attend a WEAC-Retired Board meeting.

7. After due notice and hearing, the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors may remove any elected member of the Executive Committee for just cause and may reinstate such member. Such vote to remove shall require a two-thirds roll call of its entire membership at a duly convened meeting of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

1. Members of the Association shall elect, statewide, the members of the Executive Committee, delegates to the WEAC Representative Assembly, and delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly.

2. Members of the Association may adopt amendments to this constitution by a two-thirds majority of those voting.

3. The WEAC-Retired shall hold an Annual Meeting of the General Membership.

ARTICLE VII – DISAFFILIATION

The WEAC-Retired may not disaffiliate from WEAC without notifying the Council officers and WEAC Board of Directors of its intention to disaffiliate ninety (90) days in advance of any action to disaffiliate. Such notice of intention to disaffiliate shall state in detail the reasons why WEAC-Retired desires to disaffiliate and shall be supported by a statement that the desire to disaffiliate has been presented to a duly convened General Membership meeting of the WEAC-Retired and that the membership has approved the intention to disaffiliate by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by resolution of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors or by a petition signed by 25 WEAC-Retired members; any proposed change must be submitted to the Secretary in writing on or before March 1st.

2. Following the receipt of a proposed amendment(s) to the Constitution, in accordance with the above, the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors shall schedule a vote on the proposal(s) to be held at the next Annual Meeting.

3. A copy of the proposed amendment(s), together with the recommendations of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors, shall be available to each member of the Association on or before April 15th.

4. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the members voting is required to adopt the proposed amendment(s) which shall become effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise provided for in the amendment(s) or accompanying documents.

BYLAWS

BYLAW I – PURPOSES

The purposes of this Association are to continue its commitment to improve lifelong public education; to strengthen its capacity to attract, represent, and serve its members; to strengthen its capacity to preserve and improve retirement, pension, and health benefits for all retirees; to work with active members in organizing, collective bargaining, and political goals; to encourage members to register and vote, to exercise their full rights and responsibilities of citizenship and perform their rightful part in the political life of local, state, and national communities; and to advocate for human, civil, and economic rights for all.

BYLAW II – MEETINGS

1. The WEAC-Retired Board of Directors shall meet up to five (5) times per year. Additional meetings may be called by the President or upon the request of one-third of the members of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors. If a special meeting is called, the purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call and shall constitute the only order of business.

2. The WEAC-Retired Board of Directors shall arrange an Annual Meeting of the General Membership.

3. Any member may attend WEAC-Retired Board of Directors meetings.

BYLAW III – QUORUM

1. A majority of their members shall constitute a quorum for the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Standing Committees.

2. Members present and eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum for the WEAC-Retired Annual Meeting.

BYLAW IV – POWERS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The President shall preside over meetings of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors and General Membership meetings, appoint the chairpersons and members of committees, subject to the approval of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors, and shall be the executive officer of the Association. The President or his/her designee shall represent the WEAC-Retired affiliate on the WEAC Board of Directors as specified in WEAC Bylaw 5-1. The President shall also represent the Association before the public either personally or through delegates and shall perform all other functions usually attributed to the office.

2. The Vice President of the Association shall perform the functions usually attributed to the office, co-chair the budget committee and assist the Secretary with reporting and the Treasurer with financial record-keeping. The Vice President shall also serve as liaison to the WEAC-Retired Public Relations Committee unless specifically directed otherwise by the President.

3. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Annual Meeting, shall maintain the official files, and shall assist the President with Association correspondence.

4. The Treasurer shall co-chair the Budget Committee and, with the assistance of the Budget Committee, prepare the budget to be presented to WEAC-Retired Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall report receipts and expenditures at each meeting of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors and at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall also report the current balance and activity of the WEAC-Retired deferred account at each meeting of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be bonded.

5. The Membership Coordinator shall engage in activities which support current members and enlist new members and serve as liaison to the WEAC-Retired Membership Committee.

6. The At-Large Representative shall act as a contact person to the Executive Committee on behalf of the general membership. In addition, the At-Large Representative shall assist the other members of the Executive Committee as needed. The At-Large Representative shall serve as liaison to the WEAC-Retired Legislative Committee unless specifically directed otherwise by the President.

7. The WEAC-Retired Executive Committee members shall be considered duly elected delegates to the WEAC RA.

BYLAW V – TERMS AND SUCCESSION

1. The terms of office for the WEAC-Retired Executive Committee members shall be three years. These Executive Committee members may serve two terms in one office without an intervening term. In the event that a member fills a vacancy and serves a partial term, that time served shall be in addition to the two complete terms allowed.

2. Cluster representatives on the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors may not serve more than six (6) consecutive years. In the event that a cluster representative fills a vacancy and serves a partial year, that time served shall be in addition to the six (6) consecutive years.

3. The Vice President shall succeed to the office of President in case of a vacancy in that office.

4. Whenever the position of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator or At-Large Representative shall become vacant between elections, the members of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors shall elect one of their members to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the

unexpired term. Should no Board member be willing to serve, the Board may elect another WEAC-Retired member to fill the vacancy.

5. No person may hold more than one of the Executive Committee positions at the same time.

6. No person may hold more than one elected position on the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors at the same time.

BYLAW VI – ELECTIONS

1. The President shall appoint an Elections Committee which shall review the procedures of each election, guarantee that all elections provide for open nominations, act as observers during the counting of ballots, and report the results to the WEAC-Retired President. In such cases where the number of candidates exceeds the number of positions available, or where write-in candidates are allowed, an election shall be held.

2. The WEAC-Retired Board of Directors shall certify the Elections Committee report and shall publish the results of the election.

3. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, and At-Large Representative to the WEAC-Retired Executive Committee shall be elected at-large by the general membership, except for when the Vice President becomes President as the result of succession.

4. Local chapter members within each WEAC geographical region will vote for the number of representatives on the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors designated to that region. The individual(s) receiving the highest number of votes will be the Board representative(s) with the alternate(s) being the individual(s) receiving the next highest number of votes. Members whose chapters are split between the WEAC geographical regions may run/vote in the region in which they reside.

5. Election procedures for the cluster representatives and alternates to the WEAC-Retired Board of Director members shall be determined jointly by the chapter affiliates within each WEAC geographical region.

6. Delegates to the Representative Assemblies of organizations with which the Association is affiliated may be chosen in compliance with the Constitutions of such organizations. In such cases where the number of representative positions is equal to or greater than the number of candidates for those positions, delegates shall be elected by acclamation by the WEAC-Retired President.

BYLAW VII – POWER OF THE WEAC-RETIRED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Upon the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors shall rest the duties, responsibilities, and authority for conduct of the Association in all matters except as provided in this Constitution and Bylaws.

2. The WEAC-Retired Board of Directors may, at any time, refer matters to the General Membership for consideration.

3. The WEAC-Retired Board of Directors shall have the right to remove any WEAC-Retired Board of Directors member for just cause, after due notice and hearing. Such vote to remove shall require a two-thirds vote of its entire membership at a duly convened meeting of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors.

4. Each member of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors shall have no more than one (1) vote.

BYLAW VIII – COMMITTEES

1. The President shall, with the approval of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors, appoint an Elections Committee and other such special committees as may be necessary and shall discharge them upon completion of their duties. These committees shall operate according to rules approved by the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors. No Executive Committee member of the Association shall serve on the Elections Committee.

2. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Budget Committee.

3. The Standing Committees are: Legislative, Membership, and Public Relations.

BYLAW IX – AUTHORITY

Roberts Rules of Order (revised) shall be the parliamentary authority for the Association on all questions not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws and such standing rules as the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors may adopt.

BYLAW X – AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by resolution of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors or by a petition signed by 25 WEAC-Retired members; any proposed change must be submitted to the Secretary in writing on or before March 1st. Following the receipt of a proposed amendment(s) to the Bylaws, in accordance with the above, the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors shall schedule a vote on the proposal to be held at the next Annual Meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment(s) together with the recommendations of the WEAC-Retired Board of Directors shall be available to each member of the Association on or before April 15th.

2. A majority affirmative vote of the members voting is required to adopt the proposed amendment(s) which shall become effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise provided in the amendment(s) or accompanying documents.

The WEAC-Retired Constitution & Bylaws were:

Submitted to the WEAC Board of Directors on November 13, 1993.

Submitted to currently retired members of WEAC in good standing as of February 7, 1994 for ratification on March 9, 1994.

Adopted March 21, 1994

Amended February 13, 1996; Amended February 25, 2002; Amended September 30, 2004; Amended September 30, 2005; Amended August 24, 2009; Amended April 30, 2012; Amended May 2, 2014; Amended May 5, 2015; Amended May 10, 2017; Amended May 28, 2020; Amended May 5, 2021; Amended May 13, 2022.