

LASC STATE CONSTITUTION
Louisiana Association of Student Councils Constitution

PREAMBLE

“We, the members of the Louisiana Association of Student Councils, being grateful to Almighty God for the opportunity to develop a growing appreciation of membership in a democracy learned through democratic experiences in the school, and believing that each individual in such democracy should be granted privileges, commensurate with their maturity, ability, and sense of responsibility, do ordain and establish this Constitution.”

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Louisiana Association of Student Councils (“LASC”).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

The purpose shall be:

- A. To instill American ideals and to promote democratic principles in the youth of today
- B. To further the organization of student councils in Louisiana
- C. To promote student participation in middle school and high school activities
- D. To act as a central agency for the collection and distribution of materials relating to Student Council
- E. To act as a clearing house for of Student Council problems relating to Student Council within the State of Louisiana
- F. To provide a forum for of student expression
- G. To provide leadership training for to student leaders and future leaders

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1:

Any upper elementary (5th grade or higher), junior/middle level or senior level public, private, charter, home-school, virtual or parochial high school of the State of Louisiana may become a member of the organization.

Section 2:

Those schools which have paid annual dues (as deemed appropriate and which are subject to change by the Executive Board) shall be considered active members. (See ByLaws)

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1:

The student officers of the organization shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Convention-Host, Parliamentarian and SBESE (Student BESE Representative). Schools, not individuals, shall hold the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary-Convention-Host, and Parliamentarian. For the office of SBESE, the individual will hold the office. Those schools elected to the above offices will select one student representative and one school advisor necessary to carry out all of the obligations and duties mandated for a State Officer School.

Section 2:

The President, Vice-President, Secretary-Convention Host and Parliamentarian who meet the required qualifications and are able to perform the duties noted in Article IV, Section 4 of this Constitution shall be elected by a vote of the member schools present at the State Convention. Each school attending the annual State Convention will choose one student to sit in the House of Delegates to cast a vote for all necessary LASC business that may be brought forth for a vote, and to vote for the schools of its choice seeking an LASC State Office. No school may be elected to more than one state office for any given year. There may not be more than one student representative for each of the four state offices. [A school may not hold a state office or a combination of state offices for consecutive terms].

Section 3:

The position of Student BESE Representative shall be elected by a selected interview committee. Each member school is allowed one applicant per school year. The applicant school must be a public or charter school and must be registered and attending state convention for the current year. The applicant must meet the required qualifications and must be able to perform the duties noted in Article IV, Section 4 of this Constitution.

Section 4:

Duties of the State Officer Schools:

A. State President:

- i. To act as the chief executive of this organization.
- ii. To preside at all meetings of the organization.
- iii. To attend the summer workshop and any and all Executive Board Meetings.
- iv. To assume all duties generally associated with the office of President.
- v. It is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory, to attend the annual Southern Association Convention or National Association Convention.

B. State Vice-President:

- i. To execute the duties of the President in case of the latter's absence.
- ii. To act as chairman of the election committee.
- iii. To attend the summer workshop and any and all Executive Board Meetings.
- iv. The Advisor of the Vice-President school shall serve as Secretary of the advisors' meeting recording all business transacted there, giving a copy of the same to the Secretary school to be incorporated in the new convention report.
- v. Develop and implement activities for Student Led Exchange.
- vi. To assume all the duties generally associated with the office of Vice-President.

C. State Secretary-Convention Host:

- i. To keep all financial and registration records of the convention.
- ii. To collect convention fees for convention expenses.
- iii. To act as the official host school for the State Convention.
- iv. To send out information relative to the State Convention.
- v. To attend the summer workshop and any and all Executive Board Meetings.
- vi. To assume all duties generally associated with the office of Secretary-Convention Host.

D. State Parliamentarian School:

- i. To settle matters of parliamentary procedure at meetings.
- ii. To serve as chairman of the constitution committee and to see that the Constitution is current.
- iii. Parliamentarians will send a copy of legally proposed amendments to all member schools two weeks before the State Convention.
- iv. To attend the summer workshop and any and all Executive Board Meetings.
- v. To collect an Election Packet for running for state office.
- vi. The advisor of the parliamentarian school shall serve as Parliamentarian in the advisors' meeting.
- vii. To send out proposed amendments to all member schools prior to the annual convention.
- viii. To preside over elections of state officers and any other LASC elections brought before the House of Delegates.
- ix. To act as the chairman of state officer campaign procedures, including but not limited to finances, speeches, and skits.
- x. To assume all duties generally associated with the office of Parliamentarian.

E. Student Representative to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (SBESE):

- i. Attend all required BESE meetings.
- ii. Provide a newsletter summarizing current BESE activities to be posted on the LASC website.
- iii. To serve on the selection interview committee.
- iv. Present reports at the Executive Board Meetings and State Convention summarizing current actions of the BESE board.
- v. Present new BESE representative at convention.
- vi. To attend the summer workshop and any and all Executive Board Meetings.

ARTICLE V. OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Section 1:

There shall be an Executive Director who will serve a term of three years with option for re-election by the advisors attending the business meeting held during the annual state convention. Each school is limited to one advisor vote. There shall be no term limit for the Office of the Executive Director.

Section 2:

The duties of the State Executive Director shall be:

- A. Promote the mission and purposes of the LASC.
- B. Coordinate the routine office work of the association.
- C. Represent the association at district, state, regional and national student council events.
- D. Maintain membership in and attend meetings of the National Association of State Student Council Executive Directors (NASSCED).
- E. Supervise the maintenance of the association's website.
- F. Advise officer schools on matters of procedure and standard operating processes.
- G. Serve as a resource to District and Student Council Advisors.
- H. Serve as a member of the Executive Board.
- I. Perform any other duties assigned by the Executive Board.
- J. Appoint District Advisor(s), former or current Principal and BESE.

Section 3:

The Assistant Executive Director(s) shall be appointed by the Executive Director. In the event of a vacancy in the Executive Director's position, the Assistant Executive Director shall succeed the vacancy for the remainder of the current term.

Section 4:

The duties of the State Assistant Executive Director(s) shall be:

- A. Maintain the historical and legal documents of the association.
- B. Promote the mission and purposes of the LASC.
- C. Assist the Executive Director to perform and complete their duties.
- D. Represent the association at district, state, regional, and national Student Council events.
- E. Serve as a member of the Board of Directors.
- F. Serve as a member of Workshop staff.
- G. Maintain records of delegates to State Convention and Workshops.
- H. Maintain active school membership.

Section 5:

There shall be a State Executive Board consisting of the following members:

1. The State Executive Director
2. The elected student officers of the present year.
3. The advisor of the elected state officer schools.
4. The BESE advisor/liaison.
5. One former or current high school Principal
6. District presidents and district advisors.
7. Assistant Executive Director(s)

Section 6:

The duties of the State Executive Board shall be:

- A. To increase the membership and to provide opportunities for more students to participate in leadership development activities and student council events.
- B. To promote the mission and purposes of LASC.
- C. Conduct the routine business of the association.
- D. Act on behalf of the members between annual conventions.
- E. Adopt and revise by-laws to enforce the constitution.
- F. Provide guidance to member schools, advisors and the adult leadership.
- G. Review and approve all convention and workshop plans as well as any other LASC activities.
- H. Approve association initiatives, projects and themes.
- I. Determine any discipline actions for individuals or member schools.

ARTICLE VI. DISCIPLINE

Section 1:

Any individual serving on the Executive Board or as a District Officer who engages in behavior or commits acts that are detrimental to the welfare and best interests of the association as determined by the Executive Board may be disciplined as determined by the Executive Board.

Any individual serving on the Executive Board may be removed from office for failing to carry out the duties specified in the constitution. Removal will be decided by a two-thirds approval of the Executive Board members meeting with a quorum present. The Executive Board may enforce sanctions upon the member school that the Board deems appropriate.

Section 2:

Removal of a school and/or student from an LASC State Office:

- A. If the student appointed by a duly elected state officer school fails to perform the duties of the office or becomes academically ineligible to participate, the officer school itself may replace that student.
- B. When the school replaces the student representing them as a state officer, the Executive Director must be notified. The Executive Director will then notify the Executive Board of any changes.
- C. If a school no longer wishes to serve as a state officer or is removed from office because of disciplinary actions, or failure to fulfill its duties according to the Constitution, then the following will occur to fill the vacancy:
 - i. If the school faced opposition during the election in the House of Delegates, the school with the second highest number of votes will replace the school that has been removed from office. This school will then appoint a student to serve as the state officer representative.
 - ii. If the school that is removed or chooses to resign from its state office and was unopposed in the election process, the Executive Director will seek volunteers to fill the vacated position, and the LASC Executive Board will have final approval on the selection.

ARTICLE VII. THE DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Section 1:

The District organizational structure of LASC shall be those parishes as determined by the State Executive Board. The division of the District as follows:

DISTRICT I: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles

DISTRICT II: St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington

DISTRICT III: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana

DISTRICT IV: Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, Terrebonne

DISTRICT V: Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermilion

DISTRICT VI: Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis

DISTRICT VII: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, La Salle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, Vernon, Winn

DISTRICT VIII: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll

DISTRICT IX: Bossier, Bienville, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Webster

Section 2:

- A. A District President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian school (“District Officers”) shall be elected by the member schools in good standing of the respective District. The number of votes per member school of each District shall be determined by the District itself.
- B. The District Officer Schools shall serve in office for a period of one year with option of re-elections.
- C. Each District Association may have its own treasury and set its own dues structures.
- D. Each District Association shall conduct at least two general meetings of the member schools within the District during the school year. One meeting must be at the annual LASC State Convention.
- E. One of the District meetings must be a District Workshop. The time and place of the workshop and the meetings shall be determined by the officer schools of the District.
- F. The District President Schools will meet annually at the State LASC Convention, the LASC Summer Workshop, and attend all meetings called by the Executive Director.
- G. The District President School is chiefly responsible for the success of its district association. The District President School shall promote Student Council work within the District by doing the following:
 - i. Sending out a Monthly Newsletter to all of the schools within the District.
 - ii. Assisting in organizing a District Leadership Workshop once a year.

- iii. Encouraging the district schools to join LASC, SASC, and NASC.
 - iv. Promoting attendance at the LASC Conventions and Summer Workshops.
 - v. Forming new student councils within the District.
 - vi. Promoting the Guy Harvey Memorial Workshop Scholarship Fund and State Student Council Week.
 - vii. Assisting in organizing District projects and activities.
 - viii. Encouraging inter-school visitations and student exchanges among student councils within the District.
 - ix. Working hand-in-hand with the District Advisor.
- H. If any District wishes to sub-divide itself, it may do so on the recommendation of the majority of the members schools within the District, and with the approval of the LASC State Executive Board. It shall be incumbent upon the newly created District to present a constitution and organizational plans to the LASC State Executive Board for final approval.
- I. If a school from a neighboring District wishes to join another District because of travel considerations, it may do so with the approval of the home District and the District for which it wishes to affiliate. The Executive Director must be informed of these types of changes.
- J. Any Upper Elementary (5th grade or higher), Junior/Middle Level and/or Senior High within the boundaries of the District is eligible for membership in the District organization if that school has an active student council, or wishes to form a student council. This includes all public, private, charter, home-school, virtual or parochial high school.
- K. A school must be a member of LASC and its District organization. It is strongly recommended that the District do everything in its power to encourage the District members to join SASC and NASC.

ARTICLE VIII. RATIFICATION

Section 1:

The Constitution shall be ratified article by article at the LASC State Convention. For an amendment to pass will require a 2/3 vote of the advisors in attendance at the LASC State Convention during the advisor's business meeting. Each school will be allowed one vote per school, regardless of the number of advisors and chaperones in attendance.

Section 2:

Amendments must be submitted in writing to the Parliamentarian of the Association at least forty-five days before the convention conference. (A copy shall be sent to the member schools and to the state Executive Board at least two weeks before the annual State Convention.)

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: FINANCES

Section 1:

Delegates and advisors may be assessed a registration fee for the Annual State Convention. Such fee is to be determined with the advice and consent of the LASC Executive Board at the Spring meeting.

Section 2:

The assessed fees shall be used for the expenses of the State Convention and any remaining fees shall be used for the growth of the Association.

Section 3:

The schools shall pay annual dues of an amount determined by the Executive Board at the Spring meeting.

Section 4:

The dues shall be made payable to LASC and sent to the Executive Director by the date established by the Executive Board at the Spring meeting.

Section 5:

The school dues shall be expended upon recommendation of the State Executive Board and/or the State Executive Director.

ARTICLE II: ACTIVITIES

Section 1:

There shall be at least one Executive Board Meeting called by the Executive Director prior to the State Convention each year. The Executive Director may call additional Executive Board meetings as the need arises.

Section 2:

An annual state convention shall be hosted each year by the Secretary-Convention Host School. The convention registration fees, and the number of delegates and advisors permitted to attend will be determined by the LASC Executive Board.

ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

Section 1:

The minimum qualifications for all candidates for the positions of Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director are as follows:

- A. A certified educator (retired or currently employed) with a minimum of ten years experience in the classroom
- B. An advisor of Student Council that has maintained a continuous affiliation with LASC.
- C. A candidate must be available to attend district, state, regional, and national workshops and conferences and NASSCED meetings.
- D. A candidate must be proficient in organizational and public relations skills as well as possess a competent level of financial and computer literacy.
- E. The candidate must be an active member of LASC whom has participated in, at a minimum, the following activities:
 - i. State conventions,
 - ii. LASC Summer Workshop Staff,
 - iii. Member of the Executive Board at least once in the past ten years, and
 - iv. a current and continued residency in Louisiana.

Section 2:

The Executive Board will not receive a salary for services rendered. Minimal expenses related to the office of Executive Director will be paid or reimbursed by the Association.

Section 3:

Upon the circumstance that the Executive Director is no longer able to complete their outstanding term, the remaining term shall be completed by a current Assistant Executive Director. The interim Executive Director shall have all of the rights, duties, and privileges as the elected Executive Director. At the completion of the term, an official election for Executive Director will take place.

ARTICLE IV: SPECIAL SERVICES

Section 1:

Upon retirement, advisors that have been actively involved in LASC activities may apply for lifetime membership in the Louisiana Association of Student Councils.

HISTORICAL NOTES:

September 2024: A restructuring of the constitution was needed because of the change in terminology, addition of positions and change of leadership within the LASC organization.