

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 experiences in a democracy in the school, and believing that each individual in a democracy should be granted privileges, commensurate with his 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.

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 high school activities;**
- (d) To act as a clearing house of Student council problems;**
- (e) To provide a forum for of student expression.**
- (f) To provide leadership training for student leaders**

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Any junior/middle level or senior public, private, or parochial high school of the State of Louisiana may become a member of the organization upon receipt of the dues for the association.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. The student officers of the organization shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Convention-Host and Parliamentarian. Schools, not individuals, shall hold these offices, Those schools elected to the above offices will select the student representatives necessary to carry out all of the obligations and duties mandated for a State Officer School. Only one Student from each of the elected schools will be the official State Officer representative.

Section 2. The President, Vice-President, Secretary-Convention Host and Parliamentarian shall be elected by a roll call vote of the member schools present. 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.

Section 3. Duties of the State Officer Schools:

A. State President:

- 1. To act as the chief executive of this organization.**
- 2. To appoint all committees.**
- 3. To preside at all meetings of the organization.**
- 4. To attend the summer workshop.**
- 5. To attend the annual Conventions of the Southern Association, the National Association, and any and all Executive Board Meetings,**
- 6. To assume all duties generally associated with the office of President.**

B. State Vice-President:

- 1. To execute the duties of the President in case of the latter's absence.**
- 2. To act as chairman of the election committee.**
- 3. To attend the summer workshop, the annual Conventions of the Southern Association, the National Association, and any and all Executive Board Meetings,**
- 4. Advisor of the Vice-President school shall serve as Secretary of the advisors' meeting recording all business transacted there, giving copy of same to the Secretary school to be incorporated in the new convention report.**
- 5. The Vice President school shall serve as the Chairman of the District President Schools. The Vice-President school shall provide leadership and facilitates of his office to promote the growth and development of the district organizations.**
- 6. To assume all the duties generally associated with the office of Vice-President.**

C. State Secretary-Convention Host:

- 1. To keep the record of the convention.**
- 2. To send the record to the host school of the coming year.**
- 3. To make announcements at the convention and to call the roll at the business session.**
- 4. To keep a file of association correspondence and to file such for the future use of the host school**
- 5. To collect convention fees for convention expenses.**
- 6. To act as the official host school for the State Convention.**
- 7. to send out information relative to the State Convention.**
- 8. To attend the summer workshop, attend the annual Conventions of the Southern Association, the National Association, and any and all Executive Board Meetings,**
- 9. To assume all duties generally associated with the office of Secretary-Convention Host.**

D. State Parliamentarian School:

1. To settle matters of parliamentary procedure at meetings.
2. To serve as chairman of constitution committee, to see that the Constitution is current.
3. Parliamentarian will send a copy of legally proposed amendments to all member schools two weeks before the State Convention.
4. To attend summer workshop and to attend the annual Conventions of the Southern Association, the National Association, and any and all Executive Board Meetings,
5. To send an Election Packet for running for state office to all member schools.
6. The advisor of the parliamentarian school shall serve as Parliamentarian in the advisors' meeting.
7. To send out proposed amendments to all member schools prior to the annual convention.
8. To assume all duties generally associated with the office of Parliamentarian.

Section 4. A. 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. There is no limit to the amount of re-election terms that an Executive Director may serve.

B. 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. One former or current high school Principal
5. Any appointed students and/or advisors selected by the Executive Director.

C. It shall be the duty of the State Executive Board to plan and to supervise the State Convention and help plan state summer workshops along with the Executive Director.

D. Minimum travel expenses and or appointed advisors' expenses are to be paid by LASC for the State Executive Board Meetings at the discretion of the Executive Director.

E. The duties of the State Executive Director shall be:

1. To keep the constitution. (circulate with any amendments to every council annually)
2. To aid in the formation and organization of new student councils in the State.
3. To administer advice and assistance to councils already organized.
4. To act as intermediary between the state, the southern and national organizations.
5. To act as supervisor of any publications of the State Association.
6. To help plan and supervise the State Conventions and state workshops.
7. To collect workshop fees and annual dues.
8. To keep the financial welfare of the association, and provide an annual report.

ARTICLE IV...Section 5

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

- 1. 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.**
- 2. When the school replaces the student representing them as a state officer, the State Director must be notified. The State Director will then notify the State Board of any changes.**
- 3. 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:**
 - a. 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.**
 - b. 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 V. 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	DISTRICT II	DISTRICT III	DISTRICT IV	DISTRICT V
Jefferson	St. Helena	Ascension	Assumption	Acadia
Orleans	St. Tammany	East Baton Rouge	Lafourche	Evangeline
Plaquemines	Tangipahoa	East Feliciana	St. James	Iberia
St. Bernard	Washington	Iberville	St. John	Lafayette
St. Charles		Livingston	St. Mary	St. Landry
		Pointe Coupee	Terrebonne	St. Martin
		West Baton Rouge		
		Vermillion		
		West Feliciana		
DISTRICT VI	DISTRICT VII	DISTRICT IX		
Allen	Avoyelles	Bossier	Caldwell	
Beauregard	Catahoula	Bienville	East Carroll	
Calcasieu	Concordia	Caddo	Franklin	
Cameron	Grant	Claiborne	Madison	
Jefferson Davis	Jackson	De Soto	Morehouse	
	La Salle	Lincoln	Ouachita	
	Natchitoches	Union	Richland	
	Rapides	Webster	Tensas	
	Red River		West Carroll	
	Sabine			
	Vernon			
	Winn			

- Section 2.
- A. A District President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer school shall be elected by the dues-paying schools 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 periods 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.
 - 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. A general meeting of the member schools of each District will be held at the annual LASC State Convention. This meeting will NOT count as one of the two required general memberships as stated in sub-section D.
- H. 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:
 - 1. Sending out a Monthly Newsletter to all of the schools within the District.
 - 2. Organizing a District Leadership Workshop once a year.
 - 3. Encouraging the district schools to join LASC, SASC, AND NASC.
 - 4. Promoting attendance at the LASC Conventions and Summer Workshops.
 - 5. Forming new student councils within the District.
 - 6. Promoting the LASC State Charity and State Student Council Week.
 - 7. Organizing District projects and activities
 - 8. Encouraging inter-school visitations and student exchanges among student councils within the District.
 - 9. Working hand-in-hand with the District Advisor.
 - 10. Maintaining a District Constitution.
 - 11. 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.
 - 12. 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.
 - 13. Any 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.
 - 14. A school need not be a member of LASC, SASC, or NASC to belong to a District organization. However, it is strongly recommended that the District do everything in its power to encourage the District members to join LASC, SASC, and NASC.

ARTICLE VIII. RATIFICATION

- Section 1. The Constitution shall be ratified section by section at the LASC State Convention. For an amendment to pass will require a 2/3 vote of the House of Delegates.
- Section 2. Amendments must be submitted in writing to the Parliamentarian of the Association at least thirty days before the convention conference. (A copy shall be sent to the member the member schools and to the state Executive Board at least two weeks before the annual State Convention.
- Section 3. All proposed amendments must be ready by the Parliamentarian at the opening session of the Convention and placed upon the table to be voted on at the regular business session by the House of Delegates.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

- 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..
- Section 2. The assessed fees shall be used for the expenses of the State Convention, and all remaining money is to be turned over to the State Association by the Secretary-Host School.

ARTICLE II. DUES

- Section 1. The schools shall pay annual dues of \$50.00 dollars per year.
- Section 2. The dues shall be paid to the Executive Director upon receipt of official notice.
- Section 3. The school dues shall be expended upon recommendation of the State Executive Board and/or the State Executive Director.

ARTICLE III. VOTING

- Section 1. Each member school present shall have one vote in the election and business meetings of the State Convention during the House of Delegate's Session. All passage of official business and the election of the State Officers will require a simple majority vote. To amend the LASC Constitution will require a 2/3 majority vote from the House of Delegates.

ARTICLE IV. 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 held 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 State Executive Board.
- Section 3. The LASC Executive Board will promote to the member schools a State Charity, State Student Council Week and any other state wide projects which the Executive Board selects.
- Section 4. If there is a need to do so, the Executive Board will sponsor both a high school and middle level/junior high summer workshops.

ARTICLE V. NASC DELEGATES

- Section 1. The registration fee shall be given to the President school to assist in sending delegate to the National Conference. If the President school is unable to send a delegate, the funds will revert to the Secretary-Host school, the Vice-President school, and the Parliamentarian school in that order.