Dickinson Emmet Area Retired School Personnel Association Constitution and By-Laws

Article 1 - Name

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be Dickinson Emmet Area Retired School Personnel Association or DEARSPA.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of this unit shall be:
Section 1: To continue to support the educators of today.
Section2: The promotion of the social, educational and economic welfare of the members.
Section 3: To cooperate with the National Retired Teachers Association by promoting membership.
Section 4: To cooperate and maintain affiliation with the Iowa Retired School Personnel Association.
Section 5: Strive to build and maintain coalitions and maintain communications with other organizations that may have mutual interests as noted above.

Article III - Membership

Section 1: Any certified teacher, administrator or uncertified staff who has, at some time, been employed in the education institutions of the Nation, at any education level.
Section 2: Associate membership shall be open to anyone interested in the ideals and work of this organization and/or its affiliates.
Section 3: Public librarians and their spouses are eligible for membership.
Section 4: As per the state constitution, twenty-five percent of the members must belong to IRSPA. In order to claim AMBA benefits you must be a member in good standing of IRSPA. (remember, it is your IRSPA membership that pays for the lobbyists that work for legislation that affects the retired people of Iowa. - like no income tax on retirement funds.) This is not part of the constitution and by-laws - just a point to make.

Article IV - Dues

Section 1: The annual dues shall be determined by a vote of the membership at the regular May meeting.
Section 2: Dues shall be due and payable by September 1 and shall be delinquent October 1.
Section 3: Dues for the local shall be $10.00 with $5 to go to the PH Balance Scholarship and will be paid at the May District meeting.
Section 4: Any member whose membership has been terminated for nonpayment of dues may be reinstated in good standing upon payment of dues for the current year.
Section 5: The local unit will also collect dues for the state and send that to the state treasure.
Section 6: A collection of two dollars will be collected at each meeting from each member and kept separate in the treasury for rent of space and honorarium for speakers.

Article V - Officers and Elections

The officers of this unit shall be: Section 1: There shall be up to eight elected officers allowing for: Co-Presidents, Co-Vice Presidents, Co-Treasurers, and Co-Secretaries. The officers of this organization and the immediate past President(s) shall constitute the Executive Board.
Section 2: Regular elections shall be held each year during the October meeting. The officers President and Secretary will be filled during even numbered years and the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer will be filled during odd numbered years. Special elections for any office may be held at any time to fill vacancies.
Section 3: The qualifications to become an officer are the same as for being a member in good standing for this unit. General Duties of Officers:
A) President: 1) Serve as chairperson of the Executive Board. 2) Preside at all meetings of the Association. 3) Call special meetings as needed 4) Appoint committees. 5) Co-signer on financial documents with the Treasurer.
B) Vice-President: 1) Assist the president. 2) take over duties of the President in the absence of the President.
C) Secretary: 1) Record the minutes of all general meetings and meetings of the Executive Board. 2) Keep copies of said minutes in perpetuity. 3) Work closely with the treasurer on membership. 4) Notify the media of Association events when applicable. 5) Keep a copy of the yearbook with the minutes.
D) Treasurer: 1) Receive and keep track of all monies paid into the Association. 2) Pay all authorized statements and bills. 3) Prepare financial reports for the membership. 4) Work closely with the Secretary on membership. 5) Co-sign financial documents with the President. 6) Forward all IRSPA membership dues to the state before October 1st each year or as new or delinquent memberships come in during the year.

Article VI - Committees

Section 1: All committees of this unit shall be ad hoc.
Section 2: Committees are appointed by the President
Section 3: Suggested committees: Constitution and By-Laws, Program, Courtesy, Legislative, Volunteer Hours, Membership, Telephone/Internet, Historian/Newsletter.

Article VII - Meetings

Section 1: Regularly scheduled meetings shall be held the second Thursday of the month or as determined by our activity.
Section 2: A calendar for regular meetings will be set by the executive board and presented for approval at the March meeting
Section 3: The Executive Board shall meet on an as needed basis.
Section 4: Special meetings may be called by the President of the Executive Board.
Section 5: A quorum for doing business at a regularly scheduled meeting shall consist of those members in good standing at that meeting.
Section 6: A quorum for doing business at a scheduled Executive Board meeting shall be defined as a simple majority plus one member.

Section 7: Members in virtual attendance are considered present at the meeting and have the right to submit motions, vote, and submit amendment changes via email or snail mail. All attempts to make a virtual meeting possible at a members request are to be made. Requests should be made at least one week before the scheduled meeting.

Article VIII - Amendments

Section 1: These by-laws may be amended by a simple majority of the members, a quorum being present, at any regular meeting, provided the proposed amendment(s) have been introduced, in writing, and approved at a previous meeting.

Article IX - Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: In all matters not specifically addressed in this Constitution and By-Laws, the parliamentary authority shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

Article X - Dissolution of DEARSPA

Section 1: Should the current chapter of DEARSPPA dissolve all remaining funds are to be turned over to a nonprofit of the group's choosing or given to the PH Balance Scholarship fund. NOTE: The funds cannot be split among the members in good standing. They may be used to buy needed items for local schools, applied to a scholarship, turned over to IRSPA for a specific cause or for the general funds, or something similar.

Adopted April 13, 2023.
Revised 2024