UMBRELLA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE WEST ISLIP TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Approved by a vote of the membership
October 2021

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Article I Name and Affiliations

Section 1:

The name of this organization shall be the West Islip Teachers Association (W.I.T.A.) with Chapter Divisions.

Section 2:

This organization shall be affiliated with the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and its national affiliates.

Article II Purpose

The purpose of this Association shall be:

Section 1:

To improve standards for teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, teaching assistants and school related personnel, by promoting better preparation, encouraging relevant inservice training, and securing the working conditions essential to the best performance of professional service.

Section 2:

To promote the welfare of its members and to ensure their legal and contractual rights.

Section 3:

To encourage the retention of competent teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, teaching assistants and school-related personnel to maintain well-equipped schools and to promote high quality educational programs.

Section 4:

To bring associations of teachers and all school employees into relations of mutual assistance and cooperation.

Section 5:

To sustain member involvement into retirement and provide an avenue of communication regarding maintenance and improvement of rights and benefits.

10/2021

Section 6:

To promote the welfare of children within the community by providing better educational opportunities for all.

Section 7:

To fight discrimination in all its forms.

Section 8:

To promote better understanding of educational concerns among teachers and lay-citizens and promote closer relationships with groups having similar aims.

Section 9:

To promote the aims and objectives of the New York State United Teachers and its national affiliates.

Article III Membership

A member who wishes to drop his/her dues authorization must do so within the annual drop period beginning on August 1st and ending on August 31st. A member drops his/her membership at any other time during the year shall nonetheless be obligated to continue payroll dues deduction until the beginning of the next drop period. Notice of intention to drop one's membership must be made in writing by certified mail to the President of the West Islip Teachers' Association.

Section 2:

Procedures for the Addition of Groups/Creation of New Chapters

- 1. The group/chapter seeking membership/affiliation shall submit a formal application to W.I.T.A. with a copy of its Constitution and evidence, confirmed by a secret ballot vote, that two-thirds (2/3) of the membership desires to affiliate with W.I.T.A.
- 2. Within thirty (30) school days, the W.I.T.A. Board of Directors shall discuss the application, examine the evidence to ensure that the group complied with the criteria above, review the constitution and recommend necessary changes.
- 3. At the next regular meeting of the Board, a vote shall be taken on a formal motion to accept the group's application for membership. A date for a meeting of the General Membership to discuss the Board's recommendation will be set. A written report of the Board's action shall be forwarded to the applicant group/chapter within five (5) school days of the meeting.
- 4. Voting on proposed affiliation will be held by secret ballot in each building except that Associate Members shall receive mail-in ballots. The affiliation of the group or chapter will become effective upon a majority vote of the total membership of W.I.T.A. except that unreturned mail-in ballots, from Associate Members only, will be subtracted from the total membership in order to determine the number of votes necessary for approval. Written notice of the proposed group/chapter affiliation must be forwarded to all members and ballots mailed at least fifteen (15) school days prior to the vote and the deadline for the return of mail ballots.

Section 3:

The Board of Directors may initiate proceedings for disciplinary action regarding a group of members. Disciplinary action taken against an individual member shall proceed in accordance with his/her Chapter Constitution.

Section 4:

Procedures for Disciplinary Action Involving a Group of Members

- 1. A written request, including substantiating information and specific charges, to initiate the process shall be given to the Board of Directors by:
 - a. The President or
 - b. Five (5) members of the Board of Directors

A copy of such request shall be forwarded to the group named.

- 2. Within thirty (30) school days, the Board of Directors shall consider the matter and determine the merits of the supporting information at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. Representatives of the group shall have the right to be present at this meeting.
- 3. A written notice, including the information and/or charges and the motion acted upon by the Board of Directors shall be forwarded to the group within five (5) school days of the meeting.
- 4. If further action is required, the Board of Directors shall call a special meeting of the Board within thirty (30) school days for the specific purpose of continued proceedings in the matter. Such meeting shall be held at a reasonable time and place.
- 5. A written notice of the meeting date shall be forwarded to the group. The group shall have the right to attend and address the Board or to submit a written brief or to be represented by an advocate.
- 6. The Board of Directors shall determine any appropriate disciplinary action. Such action shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the established voting quota of the Board of Directors.
- 7. Disciplinary action could involve the suspension of membership for a specified amount of time for infractions such as:
 - a) Non payment of dues
 - b) Adoption of policies and decisions that are in direct conflict with those of W.I.T.A.
- 8. A written report, indicating the decision of the Board of Directors shall be sent to the group by return receipt mail within five (5) school days of the meeting.
- 9. The group shall have the right to appeal any decision of the Board of Directors to the General Membership.

10. In the event that the Board of Directors determines that permanent removal of an entire Active Chapter of Active Members is warranted, such severance of affiliation shall be final only after the de-certification process is completed by PERB.

Section 5:

Restoration of Membership

- 1. After the specified amount of time has elapsed, the group may request restoration of membership.
- 2. A written request for reinstatement of membership shall be made to the Board of Directors.
- 3. By the next meeting of the Board and/or within thirty (30) school days, the Board of Directors shall consider the application for reinstatement of membership. Representatives of the group may be present at this meeting.
- 4. If the request is warranted and within thirty (30) school days, the Board of Directors shall establish a meeting date to consider the application.
- 5. Restoration of membership in W.I.T.A. shall be determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the established voting quota of the Board of Directors.
- 6. Written notification of the action taken by the Board of Directors shall be sent to the affected group by registered/return receipt requested mail.
- 7. The group shall have the right to appeal any decision of the Board of Directors to the General Membership.

Section 6:

The Appeal Process

- 1. Any appeal must be made, in writing, to the General Membership within thirty (30) school days of the receipt of the decision by the Board of Directors. A copy must be forwarded to the President.
- 2. Within thirty (30) school days the President shall call a General Membership meeting.
- 3. The aggrieved parties must be afforded the opportunity to address the Membership.
- 4. The decision of the Board of Directors shall only be overturned by a majority vote of the total Active Membership of W.I.T.A.

10/2021

Section 7:

There shall be an annual meeting of the General Membership each May or June at an hour and place designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 8:

Special meetings of the General Membership may be called by the Board of Directors or upon written request of ten percent (10%) of the Active Membership representing at least half of the school buildings.

Section 9:

Meetings must be held at a reasonable time and place and reasonable notice (generally 5 school days) must be given.

Section 10:

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

- 1. Subject to the limitations set forth within, every active member in good standing of this organization shall have equal rights and privileges, including, but not limited to the right to nominate candidates to hold office, to be a candidate for elective office, to vote in elections or referendums, to attend membership meetings, to be eligible to be considered for appointment by the union to district committees, and to participate in deliberations and voting upon the business of the organization. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to enjoy the rights and privileges in this section.
- 2. No member may be fined, suspended, expelled, or otherwise disciplined (except for non-payment of dues) by this organization unless such member has been served with written specific charges and given reasonable time to prepare a defense and afforded a full and fair hearing. The Executive Board, or a sub-committee thereof, shall conduct all discipline hearings.
- 3. No officer of the organization may be removed from office unless such officer has been served with a written specific charges and given reasonable time to prepare a defense and afforded a full and fair hearing before the Executive Board. Following the hearing, the Executive Board may, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, recommend to the membership of the organization that the officer be removed from office. Thereupon the officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership at a general membership meeting called for that purpose and pursuant to the organization's by-laws.
- 4. This organization shall show no discrimination toward any individual or group of individuals on the basis of sex, religion, color, race, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or political activities or beliefs.

Section 11:

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF NON-MEMBERS

- 1. Any member of the bargaining unit(s) represented by the West Islip Teachers Association that is not a union member in good standing as defined within, shall not be eligible to receive from the West Islip Teachers' Association or its state and national affiliates any service or benefit not expressly provided for in or conferred by the prevailing collective bargaining agreement with the employer. Services and benefits withheld from non-members shall include, but not be limited to (a) the right to be represented by the union in disciplinary hearings (e.g., §3020-a, §75, Part 83 hearings), meetings or interviews with administrators, supervisors, or their agents that may lead to disciplinary action, §913 examinations, workers' compensation proceedings, EEOC, or NYSDHR proceedings, APPR appeals, and the like: (b) the right to have access to NYSUT, AFT, or NEA Member Benefit Programs, including any benefit plans purchased by the West Islip Teachers' Association: and (c) the right to have access to NYSUT ELT programs.
- 2. Non-members shall be ineligible to participate in any union activity reserved for members in good standing including, but not limited to, the rights defined within. Furthermore, non-members are ineligible to participate in any social, collegial, professional, or other such events conducted by the West Islip Teachers' Association.

Article IV Dues

Section 1:

Dues shall be the same as those of the previous year except that changes in dues shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors and passed by the Active Membership at a General Membership meeting.

Section 2:

Written notice of the proposed dues change must be given to the Active Membership at least five (5) school days prior to the annual meeting.

Section 3:

The dues collected by the individual chapters of WITA must cover the expenses of those chapters.

Section 4:

Dues for part time employees shall be prorated at the proportionate amount of the appropriate chapter dues.

Section 5:

- 1. Members of the Association shall have the following obligations:
 - a) To subscribe and support the stated purposes of the Association as contained in the Constitution and By-Laws.
 - b) To pay dues through payroll deduction.
- 2. Bargaining unit members who opt out of membership in the union may re-join the union at any given point in time during the school year. However, the re-instated member shall not be eligible to receive services (such as legal representation) or (such as reimbursements from a unit paid benefit trust) for problems that occurred when the individual was not a member in good standing of the West Islip Teacher' Association.

Section 6:

- 1. Dues shall include a combined total of member's local dues for the West Islip Teachers' Association, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), and its national affiliates.
- 2. The local dues of the Association shall be an amount voted on by the membership by a simple majority vote of the general membership.
- 3. The fiscal year shall be from September 1st through August 31st.
- 4. Upon recommendation of the Executive Board and subject to the approval of a simple majority vote of the general membership, assessment shall be made for special contingencies.

Article V Board of Directors

Section 1:

The Board of Directors shall consist of:

The Officers of this Association

Delegates to the state and national affiliates

Delegates to the New York State Retirement System(s) who are members of the Association

Representatives of the affiliated Chapters of Active and Associate Members Immediate Past President, if individual is a member in good standing, for a maximum of four (4) years, but not to exceed the number of years served as President.

Section 2:

Each person shall have one (1) vote except that if a member of the Board of Directors holds a second voting seat the Board of Directors may delegate that vote to a duly elected alternate to that position. Such alternate shall be chosen in rank order according to the number of votes received. At the beginning of each year, the number of voting delegates will be determined. Votes allocated to duly elected alternate(s) will be determined and the maximum total number of votes will be established. Unless altered by a resignation or recall, this official roll call shall be effective for all subsequent meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 3:

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held once each month and at any other times at the call of:

- 1. The President or
- 2. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the Board of Directors or
- 3. Twenty percent (20%) of the Board of Directors if they represent at least five (5) different constituent groups (Chapters or within the Teachers' Chapter the various buildings).

Section 4:

The Board of Directors shall:

- 1. Be responsible for the general management of this Association.
- 2. Establish policies to be implemented and followed by the officers and members of the Association.
- 3. Interpret this constitution.
- 4. Coordinate and oversee the activities of the affiliated Chapters.
- 5. Ensure that policies established by the affiliated Chapters are consistent with those of the Association as established by this Board.
- 6. Adopt nominating and voting procedures for the election of representatives to the state and national affiliates; such elections to be held by secret ballot in the respective buildings.
- 7. Establish guidelines for nominating and voting procedures for elections held by the affiliated Chapters.

- 8. Approve or disapprove the membership of all committees recommended by the President.
- 9. Make a charge to all committees and oversee the work of such committees by requiring all committees to make periodic reports to the Board.
- 10. Approve an annual budget and distribute it to the membership at least five (5) school days prior to the annual meeting.
- 11. Authorize, by two-thirds (2/3) of the established voting quota, all expenditures outside of the approved budget.

Section 5:

All meetings must be at a reasonable time and place and reasonable notice must be given.

Article VI Officers

Section 1:

The Officers of the Teachers' Chapter shall serve as Officers of this Association. The Association shall have the following Officers:

- 1. President/Chief NYSUT Delegate
- 2. One (1) First Vice-President
 - One (1) Vice-President who must originate from the configuration of the elementary school buildings at that time.
 - One (1) Vice-President who must originate from the configuration of the middle school and/or high school buildings at that time.
- 3. Treasurer
- 4. Recording Secretary

Section 2:

Membership in good standing for at least one (1) year is required to hold office.

Section 3:

The President shall carry out the policies established by the Board of Directors. Unless this constitution or the Board of Directors otherwise provides, the President shall:

- 1. Preside at all meetings of the General Membership and the Board of Directors.
- 2. Issue the call for all regular and special meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors. The President may also call and/or attend any building meetings or meetings of affiliated Chapters.

- 3. Provide the Board of Directors with a list of all volunteers, if requested, for W.I.T.A. committees and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding committee appointments.
- 4. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- 5. Serve as a member of the Budget Advisory Committee.
- 6. Submit a report of the work of the Association for the past year at the annual meeting of the General Membership.
- 7. By his/her office, serve as the chief delegate to state, national and international affiliated organizations.
- 8. Act as the spokesperson for the policies established by the Board of Directors.
- 9. Coordinate the activities of the various affiliated Chapters of the Association.
- 10. Present an annual budget to the Board of Directors and to the General Membership.
- 11. Direct the disbursement of all funds subject to the budget or the approval of the Board of Directors.
- 12. Maintain on-going communications with other officers to ensure continuity of leadership in the event that the President cannot perform the responsibilities of his/her office.

Section 4:

The First Vice-President shall:

- 1. Assume all the duties of the President in case of absence, resignation, or recall.
- 2. Work in conjunction with the President.
- 3. Perform such other duties as may be required by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 5:

The Vice-Presidents shall:

- 1. Serve as liaison officers, at their respective levels, responsible for reporting to the President and the Board of Directors on activities of committees, delegates, programs, etc.
- 2. Perform such other duties as may be required by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 6:

The Treasurer shall:

- 1. Keep an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures of the Association and maintain all financial records at the W.I.T.A. office.
- 2. Forward dues collected to the affiliate organizations in a timely manner.
- 3. Disburse funds only by check and only as authorized by the budget or the Board of Directors. All disbursements will be made upon the receipt of a voucher signed by the President and substantiated by an itemized bill or itemized receipt.
- 4. Make reports on the financial status of the Association at the annual General Membership meeting, at the monthly Board of Directors meeting and at such other times as the Board of Directors may request.
- 5. Serve as chairperson of the Budget Advisory Committee and prepare a written annual budget to be presented by the President to the Board of Directors and the General Membership.
- 6. Provide all pertinent and available records to the Audit Committee as requested.
- 7. File forms required by the government and organizations with which W.I.T.A. is affiliated.
- 8. Maintain a membership roll with names and addresses, register new members, and forward the necessary materials to our affiliate organizations.
- 9. Perform such other duties as may be required by the President or the Board of Directors.

- 10. Provide all financial records to the new Treasurer.
- 11. Assist other chapter's officers with financial matters.

Section 7:

The Recording Secretary shall:

- 1. Keep records of all meetings of the General Membership and Board of Directors.
- 2. Maintain accurate attendance records for General Membership and Board of Directors meetings.
- 3. Prepare and keep on file a correct list of names and addresses of the officers and Board of Directors.
- 4. Keep on file all Audit Committee reports.
- 5. Maintain a record of all policies and by-laws established and adopted by the Board of Directors.
- 6. Provide the Board of Directors with the current policies and by-laws annually.
- 7. Perform such other duties as required by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 8:

The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of the Association. It shall advise the President on matters of the Association. There shall be at least one monthly meeting of the Board for this purpose.

Article VII Members of the Board of Directors

Section 1:

Active Membership

A. Delegates to State and National Affiliates

The appropriate number of delegates, from among the members of the Chapters of
Active Members, to the state and national organizations will be elected by the
Active Membership of W.I.T.A. in accordance with the constitutions of those
organizations.

The Delegates to the State and National Affiliates shall:

- 1. Represent the W.I.T.A. Active Membership at meetings and conventions held by the state and national organizations as appropriate.
- 2. Make timely reports to the Board of Directors and to the General Membership regarding the activities of and the policies established by the respective organizations.
- 3. Attend all meetings of the Board of Directors.
- 4. Maintain communications with the alternates to ensure continuity of representation in the event that the delegate(s) cannot perform the responsibilities of the office.
- B. Delegates to the Retirement System(s)

 The appropriate number of delegates to the New York State Retirement

 System(s) will be elected by the constituent groups according to state regulations.

 By state regulations the school district is required to conduct such elections, therefore these elections will not be subject to other provisions of this constitution.

The Retirement Delegates shall:

- 1. Attend all meetings and conventions of the appropriate Retirement System(s).
- 2. Make timely reports to the Board of Directors and to the General Membership regarding the activities of and the policies established by the respective organizations.
- 3. Attend all meetings of the Board of Directors.
- 4. Maintain communications with the alternates to ensure continuity of representation in the event that the delegate(s) cannot perform the responsibilities of the office.
- C. Representatives of the Chapters of Active Members Teachers' Chapter
 - 1. Each public school in the district shall be entitled to one delegate/representative for each twenty-five (25) members or major portion thereof, except that each building shall have at least one (1) delegate. For the purpose of such representation, members who are assigned to more than one building shall be counted as one-half (1/2) in each such building.

2. Members of the Chapter employed by the district who are assigned exclusively to private schools or to the district office shall constitute one "building" and shall be entitled to representation in accordance with the provisions in item #1 above.

Other Chapters of Active Members

Each Chapter of Active Members shall be entitled to one (1) delegate/representative for each twenty-five (25) members or major portion thereof, except that each Chapter shall have at least one (1) delegate.

The Chapter Delegates/Representatives shall:

- 1. Attend all meetings of the Board of Directors.
- 2. Keep the constituent groups informed of the activities and policies of the Board of Directors.
- 3. Bring proposals to the Board of Directors for action.
- 4. Call meetings of the Chapter or building as required in the Chapter Constitutions.
- 5. Transmit a short written report on all meetings held to the President within ten (10) school days.
- 6. Maintain communications with the alternates to ensure continuity of representation in the event that the delegate(s) cannot perform the responsibilities of the office.

Section 2:

Associate Membership

Each Chapter of Associate Members shall have one (1) voting delegate/representative on the Board of Directors.

The Representative(s) shall:

- 1. Attend all meetings of the Board of Directors
- 2. Serve as a liaison between the Associate Members and the Active Membership of W.I.T.A.
- 3. Keep the constituent groups informed of the activities and policies of the Board of Directors.

Section 3:

Alternates

Alternates shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of the organization or Chapter that the alternate represents.

The alternate(s) shall:

- 1. Fill a vacancy occurring by resignation or recall in his/her area of representation.
- 2. Substitute for delegate(s) at the Board of Directors meeting as needed.
- 3. Be available to attend meetings of the Board of Directors and to meet with the delegate(s) and officers in order to keep current with issues affecting his/her constituency.

Article VIII Terms of Office

Section 1:

Officers, Chapter Representatives, and Delegates to state and national organizations shall be elected in accordance with procedures established by the appropriate organization or Chapter following guidelines established by the Board of Directors. All such elections shall be by secret ballot within each building.

Section 2:

Duly elected officials of the Association shall serve for a term of office as follows:

- 1. Officers and Chapter Representatives for a two (2) year term commencing at the end of the annual General Membership meeting immediately following their election.
- 2. Delegates to the state and national affiliates for a two (2) year term commencing the September 1 immediately following their election.
- 3. Retirement System Delegates for two (2) year term as per State Retirement System regulations.

Section 3:

The immediate Past President shall serve for a term of a maximum of four (4) years commencing upon leaving the office of President. However, the term of the immediate Past President shall not exceed the number of years served as President.

Article IX Recall and Filling of Vacancies

Section 1:

Recall of a delegate to the state and national affiliated organizations can be proposed by:

- 1. A petition giving specific reasons and signed by thirty percent (30%) of the Active Membership of the Association, or
- 2. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the established voting quota of the Board of Directors.

The recall will become effective upon a majority vote of the total Active Membership of W.I.T.A. Such vote shall be held at a General Membership meeting called for that purpose preceded by at least five (5) school days notice. In the event that the President is unable to chair this meeting, the Board of Directors will designate a person to call the meeting and serve as its chairperson.

Section 2:

Except as otherwise provided, the Board of Directors shall fill vacancies for delegates to the state and national affiliates for the unexpired term. If such term is less than one (1) year, the Board of Directors may appoint a replacement on the recommendation of the President; otherwise, an election shall be held.

Section 3:

The Board of Directors shall act in an advisory capacity to the governing bodies of any affiliated Chapter that must address the recall and vacancy process, provided the process is initiated following the procedures outlined in the Chapter Constitution.

Article X Chapter Affiliations

Section 1:

- 1. Any employee of the district who is a member of a bargaining unit represented by any Chapter of Active Members is eligible for membership in that Chapter. Employees' right to membership must be governed by state and federal law.
- 2. Retirees who were Active Members of W.I.T.A. shall be eligible to maintain that membership as an Associate Member.

- 3. The addition or removal of Chapters will be subject to the provisions of Article III of this Constitution.
- 4. In the event that individual members of a Chapter of W.I.T.A. are referred to the Board of Directors for disciplinary action, provisions of the individual Chapter Constitution shall be followed. In the event that the Chapter Constitution does not provide for such procedures, the Board of Directors shall establish appropriate procedures. However, members subject to such proceedings shall be guaranteed the right to appeal as outlined in Article III of this Constitution.

Section 2:

Chapter Constitutions shall not be in conflict with this Constitution.

Section 3:

Each chapter of active members shall designate a team of W.I.T.A. members from their respective chapter and/or a representative of the state affiliate as the official bargaining representatives.

Section 4:

W.I.T.A. shall make a recommendation to the governing bodies and the General Membership of each Chapter of Active Members regarding approval/disapproval of a negotiated agreement.

Article XI Committees

Section 1:

The Board of Directors shall establish committees as needed and appropriate, except that there shall be an Audit committee and a Budget Advisory committee comprised of Active Members of this Association. Membership of all other committees should reflect the needs of the Association and its members.

Section 2:

All committees of the Association shall be responsible to the Board of Directors and shall report to the Board at such times as the Board directs and/or at the conclusion of their work.

Section 3:

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee shall:

1. Consist of four (4) Active Members of the Association.

10/2021

- 2. Make a financial status report available to the membership, the Board of Directors and the Budget Advisory Committee prior to the adoption of a budget for the following year or at such other times as directed by the Board of Directors.
- 3. Provide the membership and the Board of Directors with a complete audit report at the end of each fiscal year.

Section 4:

Budget Advisory Committee

The Budget Advisory Committee shall:

- 1. Consist of the Treasurer, as chair, the President, Representatives of the Chapters of Active Members of the Association.
- 2. Get input from each chapter regarding budgetary concerns and needs.
- 3. Make a recommendation regarding the budget to the membership and the Board of Directors prior to the annual meeting of the General Membership.

Article XII Quorums

Section 1:

For meetings of the General Membership, except as otherwise provided, ten percent (10%) of the Active Members of W.I.T.A. shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2:

For meetings of the Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided, sixty-six and two-thirds percent $(66^{2}/3\%)$ of the established voting quota of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Article XIII Amendments

Section 1:

Amendments to this Constitution can be proposed by:

- 1. A 2/3 vote of the established voting quota of the Board of Directors, and/or
- 2. a petition signed by 20% of the Active Membership of the Association from at least 5 different building or chapters.

Section 2:

Voting on proposed amendment(s) will be held by secret ballot in each building except that Associate Members shall receive mail-in ballots. The constitution will become amended upon a majority vote of the total membership of W.I.T.A. except that unreturned mail-in ballots, from Associate Members only, will be subtracted from the total membership in order to determine the number of votes necessary for approval of the amendment(s). Written notice of the proposed amendment must be forwarded and ballots mailed to members at least fifteen (15) school days prior to the vote and the deadline for return of mail-in ballots.

Section 3:

If there is a vote by the Board of Directors or a petition established on a proposed amendment to any article of this Constitution then six (6) months must expire before there can be another proposed amendment to that article.

Article XIVConducting Meetings

The most recent edition of <u>Robert's Rules of Order</u>, shall be the authority on all questions of procedure not specifically stated in this constitution.

Article XV Affiliations

Any changes in affiliations with any state or national organization must be approved by the Board of Directors and a majority vote of the total Active Membership of W.I.T.A. Such vote shall be held by secret ballot in each building. Written notice of the proposed amendment must be given at least five (5) school days prior to the vote.

Article XVI Landrum-Griffin

Any actions and activities undertaken by the governing bodies of W.I.T.A. shall be consistent with Landrum-Griffin.