

# MEA Bylaws

(As amended by the Representative Assembly, April 2018)

Bylaws for the operation of the Association shall be established by a majority vote of the Representative Assembly. Repeal, modification or adoption of new bylaws may be proposed by any constituent unit of the Association. Bylaws shall conform to the Constitution and shall become effective upon establishment or on the date indicated in the Bylaws statement. The Association shall operate under written administrative policies and procedures as defined by the Board of Directors, which shall conduct, manage and control the affairs and business of the Association. All such administrative policies and procedures are subject to the review of the Representative Assembly and policies established by it.

The following Bylaws implement certain sections of the MEA Constitution.

## I. Membership year and payment of dues

The official membership year shall extend from September 1 through August 31 each year. The terminal dates for other than full-year membership shall be the same as for full-year members. All membership dues shall be paid on or after September 1 of each year but may be paid earlier according to Administrative Policies as established by the Board of Directors. Continuing membership in the Association shall be terminated at the request of a member when such a request is submitted to the Association in writing, signed by the member and postmarked between August 1 and August 31 of the year preceding the designated membership year. **\*\*The last sentence of Bylaw I is currently not being enforced as written.\*\***

## II. Active membership

**A. Qualifications.** Any person as defined in the Administrative Policies may become an active member of the Association.

An active member shall pay the MEA active membership dues, the NEA active membership dues and the membership dues of the local association as stated in the Administrative Policies. Eligibility for active membership shall continue while a person is on lay-off status, not to exceed three (3) years.

A life membership in the MEA/NEA may be bestowed upon an individual or individuals by the Board of Directors with Representative Assembly approval for recognition of outstanding performance for the Association and/or the profession. Said person or persons shall be afforded all rights and privileges of the specific membership grant bestowed upon them for the remainder of their natural lives. Members who become life members on or after July 1, 1961, shall continue membership in the local association and pay local association membership dues, where such dues are levied, as long as they remain actively engaged as educators or support professionals. This requirement shall be waived for those persons joining as life members prior to July 1, 1961.

**B. Dues**

1. Membership dues of the Association shall be determined by the Representative Assembly. The membership dues shall be as stated in this section.

2. a. Except as otherwise provided in Subpart (b) below and Subsections 3, 4 and 5 of this bylaw, the active yearly membership dues shall be:

For those members with a contractual salary/wage for the prior year of less than fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), one and forty-four one hundredths percent (1.44 %) of each member's contractual salary/wage for the prior year ending June 30 earned for work in a bargaining unit represented by MEA or one of its affiliates.

For those members with a contractual salary/wage for the prior year of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) or more one and one half percent (1.5 %) of each member's contractual salary/wage for the prior year ending June 30 earned for work in a bargaining unit represented by MEA or one of its affiliates provided that the active membership dues calculated under this paragraph shall not exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650).

Except as set forth in the Dues Transmittal Policy for status as a member in good standing, one tenth (1/10) of the National Education Association active membership dues plus the appropriate active membership dues above must be paid monthly beginning in September of each membership year and every month thereafter until the active membership dues are paid.

The MEA shall transmit the appropriate portion of each membership dues to the NEA. Zero (-0-) dollars from each membership dues shall be placed in a Crisis Assistance Program (CAP) Fund, subject to a member's written election to receive a refund of zero (-0-) dollars according to such policies and guidelines as are from time to time adopted by the CAP Committee. Twenty dollars (\$20.00) from each annual membership dues shall be reserved for the Building, Site and Maintenance Fund of the Association.

- b. For those members who did not receive salary/wages for work in a bargaining unit represented by MEA or one of its affiliates in the prior year ending June 30 or whose current year ending June 30 contractual salary/wage is increasing or decreasing twenty-five percent (25 %) or more from the previous year, the yearly membership dues shall be:

For those members with a contractual salary/wage for the current year of less than fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), one and forty-four one hundredths percent (1.44 %) of each member's contractual salary/wage for the prior year ending June 30 earned for work in a bargaining unit represented by MEA or one of its affiliates.

For those members with a contractual salary/wage for the current year of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) or more one and one half percent (1.5 %) of the member's current year contractual salary/wage to be earned for work in a bargaining unit represented by MEA or one of its affiliates, provided that the active membership dues calculated under this paragraph shall not exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650).

3. For those members of local MEA/NEA units which are not designated as negotiating agents and where negotiations dues or financial responsibility clauses have been negotiated in master agreements, state and National Education Association membership dues shall be fifty percent (50%) of the active membership dues.
4. The membership dues for members who are on a laid-off or on-leave status shall be twenty-five percent (25 %) of the amount calculated pursuant to B 2 (a) above.
5. Persons eligible for active membership where no MEA/NEA-affiliated unit exists or where the MEA/NEA-affiliated unit is not recognized as legally representing its membership may join the Association by paying annual dues set by the Board of Directors in an amount no less than the cost of allocated services.
6. Nothing in the MEA Bylaws shall prohibit the MEA from offering a discount or rebate to active members in good standing for payment of MEA dues in full if received and processed by October 31 of that membership year. Locals with payroll deduction may require a deadline prior to October 31.
7. Nothing in the MEA Bylaws or policies shall prohibit MEA from developing or participating in new member recruitment programs which may forgive MEA and/or NEA dues for a limited period of time in exchange for a financial commitment by the new member. (*October 2017*)

### **III. Other membership**

- A. **Associate.** Persons who are not eligible for active membership may become *associate* members. The membership dues for persons meeting the above specifications shall be set by the MEA Board of Directors at a rate no less than the cost of allocated services. Related benefits shall be established by the MEA Board of Directors as stated in the Administrative Policies.

1. *Student*

- a. Interns who are employed by local boards of education and are not included in local bargaining units may become MEA/NEA student members upon payment of dues set annually by the MEA Board of Directors at a rate no less than the cost of allocated services for Michigan Education Association/NEA and the Student National Education Association. In addition, the intern shall pay the student membership dues in the local MEA/NEA unit.
- b. Persons who are preparing for the teaching profession in any of the institutions of higher education in the state who are not regularly employed as educators by an educational institution or agency may become MEA/NEA student members upon payment of a dues set by the MEA Board of Directors at a rate no less than the cost of allocated services for Michigan Education Association/NEA and the Student National Education Association. In order to be eligible for MEA/NEA student membership, such students shall also be members in good standing of the SMEA chapter in the institution in which they are enrolled.

2. *Substitutes.* Substitutes who are not included in local bargaining units may become MEA/NEA members upon payment of dues set by the MEA Board of Directors at a rate no less than the cost of allocated services for MEA/NEA and the appropriate NEA dues.

3. *General.* Any person interested in advancing the cause of education who is not eligible for categories of membership as provided in this Constitution and Bylaws may join the Association by paying membership dues set by the MEA Board of Directors at a rate no less than the cost of allocated services.

B. *MEA-Retired.* Any person who is or has been a member (active, associate) of the MEA or an education association of any state other than Michigan, and/or who is an annuitant of a public school employees retirement system or a retirement system of a college or university or educational agency, may become a MEA-Retired member. For those members, active or retired, who join on or after January 1, 1980, dues for this category shall be set by the MEA Board of Directors at a rate no less than the appropriate NEA-Retired lifetime dues. All retired MEA life members shall automatically become members of MEA-Retired.

#### IV. Privileges and obligations of membership

A. Active members in good standing shall be admitted with full voting privileges and powers to the meetings of the Association. They shall be eligible to hold office in the Association and shall be eligible for all benefits and services accruing to members; shall be guaranteed that no member in good standing may be censured, suspended or expelled without a due process hearing, which shall include an appropriate appellate procedure; and shall receive the regular publications and all such special publications of the Association as the Board of Directors or the Representative Assembly may direct. Associate and MEA-Retired members shall be eligible for the services of the Association made available through membership in the Association except as otherwise provided and shall receive all publications of the Association but shall not be eligible to vote or hold office in the Association except as provided in this Constitution, Bylaws and Administrative Policies. The rights and privileges of a member enrolling in any category of membership for the first time shall begin on the date of the new membership application. No person shall be a candidate for office or position or hold office or position, whether elected or appointed, in the Association or any of its local affiliates unless he or she is an active member in good standing. Any office or position holder, whether elected or appointed, of the Association or any of its local affiliates who does not maintain active membership in good standing shall be removed from office after notice and opportunity to return to good standing within thirty (30) days.

B. *Obligations.* Association members shall give active support to the purposes and programs of the Association, exemplify the professional ethics as set forth in the Code of Ethics for the Education Profession adopted by the Association, conform to the Constitution, Bylaws and statements of policy of the Association, and pay membership dues promptly.

C. *Voluntary contributions.* A voluntary contribution may be collected from each member for the Michigan Education Association Political Action Council (MEA-PAC) and the National Education Association Political Action Council (NEA-PAC), pursuant to procedures established by MEA and published in the official publication. The amounts will be established by MEA-PAC and NEA-PAC with concurrence by the Representative Assembly.

D. *Exhaustion of remedies.* Any person or persons shall be obliged to exhaust all procedures and remedies provided for in the Constitution and these Bylaws before resorting to any court, tribunal or agency for the purpose of asserting a claim against the Association, any of its affiliates or subordinate bodies, or any of its employees, officers or members.

Where any such person or persons, before or following exhaustion of all remedies provided for within the Constitution and these Bylaws, resorts to a court of law and loses their cause therein, all costs and expenses incurred by the Association, its affiliates or subordinate bodies, or its employees, officers or members, including attorney dues, shall be assessed against such person or persons in the nature of a fine.

## V. Representative Assembly

- A. **Election of delegates.** Each local in good standing as determined by the Dues Transmittal Policy and the constitution of the region shall elect to the Representative Assembly one (1) delegate for each one hundred fifty (150) active and life members and/or major fraction thereof within the local during the current year with the exception that a local will be allocated one (1) delegate at fifty-six (56) active and life members. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Any active member in good standing of the Association may nominate or be nominated for office. Every active member in good standing to be represented by a delegate shall have the opportunity to vote. In the event the number of candidates equals the number of positions to be filled, there is no need for a printed ballot, and the candidates can be declared elected by acclamation. *(April 2013)*

The term of office for each state and cluster delegate shall be three (3) years, such term to begin September 1. Determination of election procedures to ensure continuity in the membership of the Representative Assembly shall be made by the Representative Assembly.

- B. The length of term for local association delegates may be either two (2) or three (3) years. The election shall take place prior to June 1. Results of all elections shall be transmitted to the MEA following the election. The ballots and all other records pertaining to the election shall be preserved for one (1) year and shall be kept in the custody of the president of the local association or region.
- C. Representative Assembly delegate positions which are vacant for any reason may be filled by a special election at any time.
- D. The Board of Directors will be required to review delegate allocation at least once every three (3) years to see that the Representative Assembly continues to meet the one-person/one-vote requirement.
- E. A local or locals within a region will be joined together to elect a delegate or delegates to the Representative Assembly as determined by the Board of Directors, provided these locals so joined together shall have at least one (1) delegate.
- F. **Representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g).** The percentage of the Minority Persons, 3-1(g) population of the state of Michigan as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau shall be reflected at all MEA representative assemblies. Therefore:
1. Each region will elect a number of representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g) as delegates at large equal to the number of MEA Board of Directors members for that region;
  2. Each local that has four (4), five (5), six (6) or seven (7) delegates will elect at least one (1) of its delegates a representative of Minority Persons, 3-1(g);
  3. Each local that has eight (8) delegates will elect at least two (2) of its delegates representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g);
  4. Each local that has nine (9) or more delegates will elect at least three (3) of its delegates representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g);
  5. If the region or local delegation contains the maximum number of delegates allowed but does not contain the required number of representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g), that delegation shall not be seated at the Representative Assembly except to vote for officers and dues. Further implementation and procedures will be as specified in the Administrative Policies of the Association.
- G. **Representation of MEA-Retired.** Allocation of delegates to the MEA Representative Assembly shall be based on one (1) delegate per one thousand (1,000) or major fraction thereof of retired MEA-Retired members. *(April 2011)*
- H. **Filling of vacancies**
1. Only duly elected alternates from the same local shall be designated to fill vacancies in the office of the local delegate to the Representative Assembly.
  2. Only duly elected alternates from the same cluster shall be designated to fill vacancies in the office of the cluster delegate to the Representative Assembly.

## VI. Duties of officers and executive director

- A. *President.*** The duties of the president shall include the following:
1. Shall be chief executive and operating officer of MEA/NEA (not to be delegated);
  2. Shall be responsible for policy interpretation and direction between meetings of the Board of Directors subject to review by the Board (not to be delegated);
  3. Shall be responsible for the direction of the work of the Association staff and evaluation of that staff.
  4. Shall be responsible for developing and implementing programs consistent with the policies of the Representative Assembly.
  5. Shall be the official representative of the Association and the chief spokesperson on policy matters;
  6. Shall have the right to represent official MEA/NEA positions before any affiliate organization of MEA/NEA;
  7. Shall propose policy and program changes to the Board and Representative Assembly;
  8. Shall prepare agendas for the various governing bodies for which the president has constitutional responsibility;
  9. Shall report periodically to the membership at the Representative Assembly and report other times as are necessary (not to be delegated);
  10. Shall preside at Representative Assembly, Board, Executive Committee and the Michigan NEA Representative Assembly delegation;
  11. Shall maintain a close working relationship with the executive director;
  12. Shall meet regularly with other officers of the Association and the executive director;
  13. May delegate duties of the president to the officers and to the executive director (not to be delegated);
  14. Shall appoint commission members and commission chairpersons with consent of the Board, except those elected by the Representative Assembly (not to be delegated);
  15. Shall serve as ex officio member on all commissions and committees;
  16. Shall be responsible for preparation of the Association budget in cooperation with the executive director and the secretary-treasurer and subject to guidelines adopted by the Representative Assembly and the MEA Board of Directors;
  17. Shall be responsible for administration of the executive portion of the budget;
  18. Shall be a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly;
  19. Shall employ a personal secretary.
- B. *Vice president.*** The duties of the vice president shall include the following:
1. Shall represent the Association at the discretion of the president on official matters;
  2. Shall chair the Representative Assembly at the discretion of the president;
  3. Shall chair committees and task forces at the discretion of the president;
  4. Shall assist the president in preparation of the budget;
  5. Shall be a state delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly;
  6. Shall serve as caucus chairperson at the NEA Representative Assembly.
- C. *Secretary-treasurer.*** The duties of the secretary-treasurer shall include the following:
1. Shall make financial reports to the Representative Assembly and shall make special reports to the Board of Directors as required;
  2. Shall assist the president in preparation of the budget;
  3. Shall be a member of all official budget-related committees;

4. Shall be responsible for coordinating budget hearings;
5. Shall represent the MEA at NEA budget hearings at the discretion of the president;
6. Shall be responsible for selecting an independent auditing firm;
7. Shall furnish each member appropriate evidence of membership;
8. Shall, at the discretion of the president, represent the Association on official matters;
9. Shall chair committees and task force groups at the discretion of the president;
10. Shall be a state delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly;
11. Shall meet periodically with the appropriate staff, with concurrence of the president and the executive director, for the purpose of fulfilling constitutional duties;
12. Shall be responsible for the minutes of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and the Representative Assembly.

**D. *Executive director.*** The duties of the executive director shall include the following:

1. Shall, at the direction of the president, be responsible for directing the work of the Association staff and evaluation of that staff;
2. Shall act as general manager of the Association under the direction of the Board;
3. Shall provide secretarial services to the Board and Representative Assembly;
4. Shall prepare the Association budget in cooperation with the president and secretary-treasurer and subject to guidelines adopted by the Representative Assembly and the MEA Board of Directors;
5. Shall, at the direction of the president, develop and implement programs consistent with the policies of the Representative Assembly;
6. Shall serve as consultant to the governing bodies of the Association;
7. Shall, at the direction of the president, represent the Association on matters of established policy;
8. Shall employ associate executive directors in consultation with the president, subject to concurrence by the Board;
9. Shall meet periodically with the president, officers and appropriate staff to confer on policies and procedures;
10. Shall report regularly to the Board and semiannually to the Representative Assembly;
11. Shall inform locals of the number of Representative Assembly delegates to which each local is entitled and of election procedures as prescribed by the Constitution;
12. Shall serve as a consultant to the Michigan delegation to the NEA Representative Assembly;
13. Shall perform such specific duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

## **VII. Commissions and committees of the Association**

**A. *Classification.*** The commissions of the Association shall consist of the following (*April 2018*):

1. Legislation;
2. Local Affiliates.

**B. *Membership.*** Only members in good standing may serve on commissions and committees of the Association. Except as otherwise provided, each commission shall be constituted as follows:

1. Six (6) active or retired members, two (2) elected each year by the Representative Assembly, nominated by petition or from the floor of the Assembly for terms of three (3) years each. When the number of candidates for the commission is equal to the number of vacancies, there is no need for a printed ballot and the candidates can be declared elected by acclamation; (*April 2012*)

2. Three (3) members from the Association membership at large appointed by the president with the consent of the Board of Directors for terms of three (3) years each, terms to be arranged in such manner that one (1) term shall expire each year;
3. Not more than three members of the Board of Directors appointed by the president with the consent of the Board of Directors for a term coincident with membership on the Board who shall serve as a voting member of the commission; (*April 2008*)
4. Requests for liaison positions to commissions must be submitted annually to the Board of Directors, which shall approve or deny the establishment of such positions. Voting privileges may be granted to approve liaison members by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission;
5. The NEA state directors shall be members of MEA commissions as determined by the MEA Board of Directors in consultation with the NEA state directors in addition to those members as provided in subsections 1, 2 and 3 above and shall have voting power on the commissions, provided that not more than one (1) NEA state director shall serve on any one (1) commission at any one time;
6. The membership of a commission shall at no time include more than two (2) members from any one (1) region of the Association. This requirement shall not apply to NEA state directors as members of commissions;
7. The membership of a commission shall at no time include more than one (1) retired member of MEA-Retired. (*April 2012*)
8. Any member absent from two (2) consecutive meetings of a commission will no longer be considered a member of the commission and the position declared vacant unless the member's absence is for what is considered to be a valid reason by the commission chairperson. The commission chairperson will notify the president that the position is vacant;
9. A member may serve on only one (1) commission at any time and shall be limited to two (2) full consecutive terms on any commission;
10. The right to discharge members from commissions for just cause shall be reserved to the Board of Directors, which shall adopt and place in the Administrative Policies procedures covering discharge, such procedures to be subject to the approval of the Representative Assembly.

**C. *Nominations and election at Representative Assembly.*** Nominations may be made by petition of at least fifteen (15) delegates or from the floor.

Petitions shall be filed with the executive director fifteen (15) days prior to the date of election. The election shall be by secret ballot and shall take place at the annual meeting of the Representative Assembly. In the event the number of candidates equals the number of positions to be filled, there is no need for a printed ballot, and the candidates can be declared elected by acclamation. Appointed and elected members of commissions shall take office on September 1.

**D. *Vacancies.*** In the case of a vacancy of a Board appointment, the president will have the right, in consultation with the Board, to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. In the case of a vacancy of a Representative Assembly-elected member, the president shall, in consultation with the Board, fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting of the Representative Assembly. Appointed members shall take office immediately.

**E. *Organization.*** Each commission shall have the right to organize itself at its first meeting to be held by October 15 following the election. The member of the staff assigned to the commission shall act as secretary of the commission.

**F. *Committees***

1. A Resolutions Committee of ten (10) members shall be appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors for terms of three (3) years, such terms to be arranged in such manner that not more than four (4) terms shall expire each year.
2. A Social Justice Committee of ten (10) member shall be appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors for terms of two (2) years. Ad hoc subcommittees may be formed to help carry out goals set by the committee.
3. An Awards Committee of six (6) members shall be appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors for terms of two (2) years. Ad hoc subcommittees may be formed to help select the awards to be given, review applicants and help plan awards event.

4. An Conference Planning Committee of six (6) members shall be appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors for terms of two (2) years. Ad hoc subcommittees may be formed to help carry out goals set by the committee.
  5. A Professional Development Committee of six (6) members shall be appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors for terms of two (2) years. Ad hoc subcommittees may be formed to help carry out goals set by the committee.
- G. *Minority representation.*** Each commission and committee of the Michigan Education Association/NEA shall include Minority Persons, 3-1(g) that is no less than the percentage of the Minority Persons, 3-1(g) population of the state of Michigan as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.

### **VIII. Board of Reference**

- A. *Meetings.*** In the event that a member of the Board of Reference is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings, provided the judge is not disqualified to hear any particular case, such position shall be declared vacant.
- B. *Board of Reference.*** A judge on the Board of Reference must be an active member in good standing or a member of MEA-Retired at the time of appointment and maintain it throughout the term of office and hold no other elective office or appointive position in the Association or its affiliates. A judge shall commence the term of office on September 1. Any vacancies which should occur on the Board of Reference shall be filled by appointment of the president of this Association with the consent of the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days of receiving notification of the vacancy.
- A judge appointed to fill such vacancy shall serve the unexpired term. A judge shall receive no salary from this Association but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses.
- C. *Board of Reference rules.*** The judges of the Board of Reference shall establish rules of procedure, a copy of which shall be filed with the executive director and shall be made available to any member of the Association upon request. The judges of the Board of Reference, acting under such rules of procedures as they adopt, shall elect one (1) of their number to serve as chairperson of the Board of Reference.

### **IX. Board of Reference: charges and hearings**

- A. *Persons filing charges.*** Any member or members in good standing of the Association may file charges against any other member or members of the Association.
- B. *Basis for filing of charges.*** The following and no other shall constitute the basis for the filing of charges:
1. Violation of any provision of the Constitution, Bylaws or Administrative Policies of the Association, the provisions of the constitution or bylaws of any local association, the provisions of the constitution or bylaws of any region of this Association, or the provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws of the National Education Association;
  2. Violation of any provisions of the Guidelines for NEA Uniserv in Michigan;
  3. Violation of the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession;
  4. Willful violation of a legally negotiated and approved professional negotiations master agreement;
  5. Obtaining membership through fraud or misrepresentation;
  6. Willfully interfering with any official of this Association, a local association, a region or the National Education Association in the discharge of lawful duties;
  7. Misappropriation, embezzlement or improper illegal use of the funds of this Association, a local association, a region or the National Education Association, or any of their membership;
  8. Any activity which assists or is intended to assist a competing organization within the jurisdiction of this Association;
  9. Acting in collusion with management to the detriment of the welfare of the Association, a local association, a region or the National Education Association, or any of their membership;
  10. Using the name of the Association, a local association, a region or the National Education Association in an unauthorized manner or for an unauthorized purpose;



**11. Conduct unbecoming a member or officer of this Association, a local association, a region or the National Education Association.**

Provided, in no case may a member be disciplined, suspended or expelled for the exercise of the right to attend membership meetings, unless that member is an officer of the Association, a local, a region or the National Education Association and has otherwise engaged in an activity prescribed above. Provided further, that all matters involving disputes arising under the Crisis Assistance Program, alleged violations of the breach of the duty of fair representation, and the discipline of members who continue in active employment during the course of a labor dispute where the withdrawal of services by other members has occurred shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and shall not constitute the basis for the filing of charges before the Board of Reference.

- C. *Procedure for filing charges.*** The charges shall be set forth in writing and signed by a member or members in good standing bringing the charge. The charges shall be specific, stating the exact nature of the alleged offense, including the date and circumstances thereof and, where a violation of a particular constitutional or bylaw provision is alleged, the specific section shall be cited along with the specific act or failure to act which constitutes the alleged violation. The charge shall be filed with the president of the trial body in the local association of which the accused is a member or, if the president of such trial body is a directly interested party, with the secretary of the trial body. A true copy of the charge shall be filed with the executive director of the MEA/NEA.
- D. *Limitations for filing of charges.*** Charges must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date the charging party had knowledge of, or should have reasonably discovered and been aware of, the alleged offense. Date of filing shall be determined by date of postmark or date of hand-delivery to MEA Headquarters.
- E. *Trial body at local association level.*** Where the local constitution or bylaws fail to provide otherwise, the trial body at the local association level shall consist of the local's executive board or committee, unless no such body exists, in which case the board of directors of said local shall constitute the trial body. Any directly interested party shall be disqualified by a majority of the remaining members of the trial body, and the presiding officer of the trial body shall then appoint an impartial member of the local to serve in that place.
- F. *Copy of charges to accused party.*** Within ten (10) days following the receipt of the charges (in the case of MEA, receipt by the secretary to the MEA Board of Reference), the person with whom the charges have been filed shall send by certified mail, return receipt requested, an exact copy of Article XII of the Constitution, Bylaw IX, and an explanation of the trial procedure to be followed.
- G. *Trial arrangements and procedure.*** The trial body shall fix the date, time and place for the trial which is mutually convenient to the parties. If no mutually convenient date, time and/or place for the trial can be agreed upon by the parties, the trial body shall declare and fix a date, time and/or place for the trial. Attendance at MEA Board of Reference hearings shall be limited to MEA members, immediate families of the parties, representatives of record and witnesses.

With the concurrence of the hearing officer, witnesses may be sequestered at the request of one of the parties until after their testimony is presented. It shall be at the discretion of the hearing officer or appellate board to permit other individuals to be in attendance or to limit attendance in order that the hearing may proceed in an orderly fashion.

It shall not be necessary to maintain a written verbatim record of the trial unless request for such record is made by a directly interested party of the proceedings. If such request is made, the party making it shall be responsible for the cost of such record and of three (3) copies of the transcript, one (1) of which shall be furnished to the trial body and one (1) to the opposing party. The reporter shall attach an affidavit to each copy of the transcript stating it is a true and accurate record of the evidence taken at the trial.

- H. *Rights of accused person.*** The accused person shall be guaranteed the following rights:
1. The right to be served with a full copy of the charges within ten (10) days after they are filed and at least thirty (30) days before the trial date;
  2. The right to file a written answer to the charge;
  3. The right to be tried within fifty-five (55) days (subject to a possible sixty [60] day extension) after the filing of the charges, which extension may be ordered by the trial body or hearing officer assigned to hear the charges, at the request of either party, the executive director, or on the trial body or hearing officer's own motion;
  4. The right to have at least fifteen (15) days advance notice of the date, time and place of the hearing;
  5. The right to confront the accuser;

6. The right to cross-examine the accuser and any witnesses;
  7. The right to present witnesses in his/her own behalf;
  8. The right to compel the production of Association, district (local association), region or National Education Association records pertinent to the case;
  9. The right to select a person of his/her own choosing, other than a Uniserv director, to act as own counsel in the case;
  10. The right to be presumed innocent unless proven guilty;
  11. The right to refuse to testify against oneself, provided, however, that this right shall not include the right to refuse to produce at the trial any papers, books, or financial or other records which are the property of the Association and which are pertinent to the case;
  12. The right to appeal, in the manner hereinafter provided;
  13. The right to choose either an open or closed hearing.
- I. *Rights of accuser.*** The person bringing the charges shall be guaranteed the following rights:
1. The right to receive a copy of any written answer of the charge which may be filed by the accused at the time such answer is filed;
  2. The right to have the charges heard within fifty-five (55) days (subject to a possible sixty [60] day extension) after they are filed, which extension may be ordered by the trial body or hearing officer assigned to hear the charges, at the request of either party, the executive director, or on the trial body or hearing officer's own motion;
  3. The right to have at least fifteen (15) days advance notice of the date, time and place of the trial;
  4. The right to give personal testimony;
  5. The right to present the testimony of others and to cross-examine witnesses presented by the accused;
  6. The right to compel the production of Association records pertinent to the case;
  7. The right to select a person of his/her own choosing, other than a Uniserv director, to act as own counsel in the case;
  8. The right to appeal, in the manner hereinafter provided.
- J. *Obligations of accuser.*** The person bringing the charge shall have the following obligations:
1. To file the original charge in sufficient detail as to afford the accused person full opportunity to prepare the defense;
  2. To appear in person at the trial;
  3. To assume the burden of proof;
  4. Maintain active membership in good standing in the association at all stages of the proceedings, including appeals.
- K. *Penalties against guilty party.*** A trial body may, if it finds the accused person guilty, assess any one or more of the following penalties:
1. Formal censure, including a formal warning against any repetition of the act or acts of which the accused party is found guilty;
  2. A fine in an amount not to exceed one (1) year's MEA and NEA dues, to be paid to the local association;
  3. Partial restitution, where the consequences of the offense can be measured in material terms;
  4. Removal from office in the Association or its affiliates;
  5. Suspension from the right to hold any elected position in the Association or any of its affiliates for a period not to exceed five (5) years;
  6. Suspension from membership for a specified period of time, not to exceed two (2) years;
  7. Expulsion from membership;

8. Any penalty or equitable remedy which may be necessary or warranted to achieve a just result consistent with the Constitution, Bylaws and Administrative Policies of the Association, provisions of the constitution or bylaws of any local association, the provisions of the constitution or bylaws of any region of this Association, the provisions of the Constitution of the National Education Association, or the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession. Failure to comply with a decision rendered by the Board may result in the assessment of further penalties.
- L. **Penalties against accuser of charges not sustained.** If the charges are not sustained, and the trial body or the appellate body is convinced that the charges were not brought in good faith or were actuated by malice, the trial body or the appellate body may impose such penalty on the charging party as in its judgment is deemed proper under the circumstances. In any such case, the party against whom the penalty is imposed shall have the right to appeal the imposition of any such penalty by the trial body, and no such penalty shall take effect while an appeal of such penalty is pending.
- M. **Time limits and form of decision.** All decisions must be rendered by the trial body within thirty (30) days following completion of the trial or within thirty (30) days following receipt of the trial transcript, if one is requested. Furthermore, the Board, by vote of the judge(s), may extend the issuance date of all decisions by an additional thirty (30) days. If the thirtieth day or the extension thereof occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday, then the decision shall be rendered on the next business day. Decisions shall be in writing and shall be transmitted by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person bringing the charge and to the accused simultaneously.
- N. **Time limits and form of appeal.** Either party may, within thirty (30) days following receipt of the decision, file an appeal to the Board of Reference in the same manner as is provided for the filing of original charges with the trial body. The appeal shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by a copy of the original charge and of the decision which is being appealed. The appeal shall set forth in substance the appellant's reasons for believing the trial body was in error and the nature of the error. Upon receipt of the appeal, the Board of Reference shall designate one member to hear the appeal whose decision shall constitute the decision of the appellate Board of Reference.
- O. **Failure of trial body to act within time limits.** In any case where a trial body fails or refuses to carry out its responsibilities under this article, or, except by mutual consent expressed in writing between the accuser and the accused, to adhere to the time limits set forth in this article, either party shall have the right to appeal to the MEA Board of Reference, provided, however, that under unusual circumstances, which shall be clearly set forth and made a part of the trial record, a local trial body may by a majority vote of all its members extend the time limits for the holding of a trial, not to exceed thirty (30) days.
- P. **Board of Reference trial.** Any trial held before the Board of Reference through the appeals procedure shall be conducted as a new trial. The Board of Reference may, in its discretion, also consider any written record which has been made before the lower trial body. Where this is done, such matters as are so considered shall be made a part of the record of the trial at the Board of Reference. A verbatim record shall be made, either through the use of a court reporter or through mechanical means, and such record shall be retained for at least five (5) years following final disposition of the case.
- Q. **Board of Reference decisions.** Decisions of the Board of Reference shall be in writing and shall include at least the following separate items:
1. Background of the case (including a statement of the charges, if any);
  2. Statement of the issues;
  3. Summary of the evidence presented by the parties;
  4. Finding of fact;
  5. Conclusions;
  6. Assessment of a penalty, if any; or an order setting aside or modifying the previously imposed penalty, if any; or an order upholding the decision of the lower trial body, if any.
- R. **Distribution of decisions.** A copy of the decision of the Board of Reference shall be transmitted to the accuser and counsel of record, the accused and counsel of record, each member of the Board of Reference and the secretary of the lower trial body which previously heard the case.
- S. **Effective date of decisions.** Decisions of a trial body or the Board of Reference shall be in full force and effect from the date of the decision until and unless reversed or modified on appeal, provided, however, the Board of Reference, upon receiving a notice of appeal, may order a delay in the carrying out of any penalty which has been assessed, pending its hearing and disposition of the appeal.

## X. Regions

- A. **Constitution.** The Board of Directors shall provide a uniform constitution for all regions. Regions may adopt any bylaws which are not in conflict with the MEA Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws or any act of the Representative Assembly and Board of Directors and which do not infringe upon the rights and responsibility of the several locals within the region.
- B. **Boundaries.** The number of regions and geographical areas covered by each region shall be determined within Administrative Policies, subject to review of the Representative Assembly. The Board of Directors may make such changes in region boundaries as deemed necessary for more effective organization, or upon receipt of a petition signed by a majority of the members of the Association in any county or part of the county, may transfer an area from one region to another region, provided the county or part of the county is contiguous, or if the number of members warrants, may create a new region.
- C. **Region expenses.** The funds of the region shall be provided by the state Association based upon a minimum guarantee plus an amount per member in the region to be allocated to the region council according to Administrative Policies established by the Board of Directors. Regions may levy upon their constituent locals such dues as may be approved by the region councils.

## XI. Board of Directors

- A. **Apportionment.** Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the membership at large of the region on the basis of one (1) Board member for each two thousand (2,000), or major fraction thereof, active and life members within the region. Each region shall have one (1) Board member. A review of the preceding allocation will be held at least once every three (3) years to see that the Board of Directors continues to meet the one-person/one-vote requirement. Procedures for reducing the number of Board seats from the region shall be as provided in the Administrative Policies of the Association.
- B. **Representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g).** The percentage of Minority Persons, 3-1(g) population of the state of Michigan as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau shall be reflected on the MEA Board of Directors. Therefore:
  - 1. Each region that has four (4) or five (5) Board members will elect at least one (1) of its members a representative of Minority Persons, 3-1(g).
  - 2. Each region that has six (6) or seven (7) Board members will elect at least two (2) of its members representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g).
  - 3. Each region that has eight (8) or more Board members will elect at least three (3) of its members representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g).
- C. **Compensation**
  - 1. Each member of the MEA Board of Directors and the NEA state directors shall be reimbursed for any salary loss due to attendance at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
  - 2. Each member of the Executive Committee shall be reimbursed for any salary loss due to attendance at any regular meeting of the Executive Committee.
  - 3. The above provisions will not apply to any person who is receiving salary as an employee of the MEA.
- D. **Roll call votes.** A record roll call vote shall be conducted upon the request of two (2) members of the Board of Directors.
- E. **Executive Committee hearings.** All disputes described in Article X of the Constitution shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for disposition. The Executive Committee shall hold a timely hearing on such disputes at a time and place to be determined by the committee. The Executive Committee may in its discretion fine, suspend, expel from membership, remove from office or otherwise discipline any member found culpable in disputes resolved pursuant to this section or may take such other action or issue such relief as it deems appropriate. Where a member may be fined, suspended, expelled or otherwise disciplined under this section, that member shall be served with written specific charges, given a reasonable time to prepare a defense, and afforded a full and fair hearing before the Executive Committee. A verbatim record of the hearing will be made. The decision of the Executive Committee, except in duty of fair representation cases, can be appealed to the Board of Directors, where a decision will be reached based on the record of the Executive Committee. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final. In duty of fair representation cases, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

## **XII. Governance and nongovernance units**

- A. *Governance units.*** Affiliates of the Association shall be chartered by a majority vote of the MEA Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Executive Committee. The MEA guarantees that the affiliate cannot be censured, suspended or disaffiliated without a due process hearing, which shall include an appropriate appellate procedure.
- B. *Affiliation.*** A local affiliate, the basic unit of self-governance within the Association, shall be organized in accordance with the Constitution and shall meet at least the following minimum standards:
1. Shall apply the one-person/one-vote principle for representation on its governance bodies. A local affiliate shall require that representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g) be elected so that the number of representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g) sitting on its governance body is at least proportionate to its Minority Persons, 3-1(g) membership;
  2. Shall conduct elections with open nominations and a secret ballot;
  3. Shall require membership in the state and national associations;
  4. Shall adopt a policy that incorporates the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession;
  5. Shall be reviewed by the state Association to determine compliance with the minimum standards at least once every five (5) years;
  6. Shall have the same membership and fiscal year as that of the Association.

### **C. *Procedure for affiliation***

1. A group or unit seeking affiliation shall file a written application, including copies of its governance documents, with the Executive Committee.

After recommendation by the Executive Committee and approval by the Board of Directors, the group or unit seeking affiliation shall be granted affiliate status.

- D. *Withdrawal.*** In order to withdraw from the Association, a majority of the members in good standing of the local affiliate must vote to disaffiliate from the Association. Before the members of a local affiliate shall be permitted to vote on the question of withdrawing affiliation from the Association, six (6) months notice in writing shall be given to the executive director of the Association. No vote shall be taken by the members of the local affiliate except at a specially called meeting after due notice in writing to each and every member designating the purpose for the meeting.

The vote shall be by secret ballot. Should the members of a local affiliate decide to withdraw from the affiliation with the Association, the officers, representatives and members of said local affiliate must comply with all the requirements of the Bylaws before being relieved of responsibility and liability of the Association.

### **E. *Nongovernance units (associated organizations)***

1. *Constitution and membership.* An associated organization shall adopt a constitution or bylaws, which shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors of the Association. Since an associated organization shall be an independent organization whose goals, objectives, constitution and bylaws are compatible with the Association, said constitution is subject to review by the Board of Directors of the Association to determine compatibility only. The associated organization will agree to promote the Association program to the degree it is consistent with its own program. Each associated organization shall require by its governing rules that each elected officer be a member of the Association, provided said officer is eligible for active membership in the Association and that the associated organization promote and urge membership in the Association. The Association shall promote and urge that each member join associated organizations for which the member is eligible.
2. *Finance and dues.* An associated organization may levy membership dues for the purpose of supporting its program. The Board of Directors of the Association may authorize additional funds to an associated organization under the terms or conditions of the Association's annual budget and may require a report of activities supported by the expenditures of such funds.
3. *Headquarters.* An associated organization may maintain its principal office at the general Headquarters of the Association. The amount and cost of space and other services shall be negotiated between the Association and the associated organization, said agreements to be in writing and signed by both groups.
4. *Reports.* Upon request, each associated organization shall file with the executive director of the Association an annual report of official actions and such other information as may be requested.

5. *Discontinuance.* An associated organization may be discontinued by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Representative Assembly of the Association upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, provided such recommendation shall have been presented at the meeting of the Representative Assembly preceding the meeting at which action is to be taken. The Board of Directors, before recommending discontinuance of an associated organization, shall, upon request, provide opportunity for a hearing. The right of an associated organization to discontinue its affiliated relationship to the Association is recognized.

### **XIII. Finance**

- A. *Fiscal year.* The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on September 1.
- B. *Depository.* All funds received by the Association shall be deposited at once in the general funds depository designated by the Board of Directors. The executive director is authorized to deposit surplus funds of the Association in other interest-bearing depository accounts.
- C. *General fund*
  1. A general fund shall be deposited as designated by the Board of Directors. The executive director is authorized to pay current Association bills from the general fund. Vouchers for all such payments shall be available for inspection by the Board of Directors.
  2. The general fund shall provide an appropriated reserve in an amount equal to at least four percent (4%) of the annual budget for the previous fiscal year. Appropriations from the appropriated reserve may be made only after approval by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors following thirty (30) days advance notice of the proposed appropriations.
- D. *Bonds.* The executive director shall purchase a fidelity bond covering all officers, agents, representatives and employees of the Association, the premium of which shall be paid by the Association. Said bond shall be in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the funds handled by any such person, but in no case more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000).
- E. *Auditing and payment of bills.* No bills shall be allowed by the executive director unless they are fully itemized. The executive director shall furnish each person with the proper voucher, together with full instructions for making out the same. All bills involving travel expenses shall state the means of travel, place of lodging, the date and price of room per day, a full explanation of all expenses, the purpose of each trip and the nature of the business transacted. The authorized expenses of the Association may be paid by the executive director. No other expenditures shall be made until duly authorized by the Board of Directors or by the Representative Assembly.

A resolution or motion involving the appropriation of money by the Representative Assembly shall be presented at least one (1) day before being acted upon. The executive director shall maintain detailed accounts and shall make a written report on financial conditions at each meeting of the Board of Directors.
- F. *Investments and borrowing.* The executive director may invest surplus funds and borrow money in the name of the Association when so authorized and directed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may authorize the executive officers of the Association to borrow money and issue the promissory notes or bonds of the Association or the repayment thereof with interest, and upon the authority and direction of the Board of Directors, the real estate of the Association may be mortgaged as security for the debts or other lawful engagements of the Association.
- G. *Annual audit.* The Board of Directors of the Association shall require an audit, at least annually, by a certified public accountant, who shall submit a written report to the Board of Directors.
- H. *Review of budget.* At least thirty (30) days before the Representative Assembly the Board of Directors shall meet for the purpose of considering any changes in the proposed budget, which may be recommended by chairpersons of commissions, presidents of associated organizations or any member of the Association. The proposed budget, as recommended by the Board of Directors, shall be sent by the executive director to the members of the Representative Assembly two (2) weeks prior to the meeting at which the budget is to be acted upon.

### **XIV. Publications**

- A. *Official publication.* The official publication of the Michigan Education Association/NEA shall be sent to every member of the Association for one (1) year after the payment of annual dues.
- B. *Annual reports.* The president, executive director and the chairpersons of all commissions and committees shall submit a written annual report and recommendations to the Representative Assembly at the time of the annual meeting of the Assembly.

- C. The official logo of the MEA and/or NEA may only be used by the Association or its affiliates.

## **XV. Initiative and referendum**

### **A. Initiative**

1. *Petition form.* Initiative petitions shall be drawn according to the rules as contained in the Administrative Policies of the Association and shall be submitted prior to circulation to the executive director of the Association, who shall cause them to be reviewed by the legal counsel to the MEA Board of Reference. The jurisdiction of legal counsel in this instance is limited to ruling on the sufficiency of the petition form.
2. *Filing.* Initiative petitions shall be filed with the executive director of the Association, who shall canvass the petitions to ascertain if such petitions have been signed by the required number of active members in good standing and have been properly certified by an authorized circulator according to the Administrative Policies.
3. *Publication.* Upon receipt of the required number of signatures, the executive director shall cause the proposed measure and any existing measure to be modified by the proposal to be published in the next regular issue of the official publication of the Association.
4. *Voting*
  - a. *By Representative Assembly.* The initiated proposal shall be submitted to the Representative Assembly on the first day of the meeting and acted upon the second day. If the proposal is an amendment to the Constitution and/or Bylaws or modifies existing measures contained herein, the rules established in the Constitution governing amendment shall prevail. Otherwise, a majority vote of the delegates elected to the Assembly shall be required for adoption. Any initiated proposal adopted by the Representative Assembly shall have immediate effect unless otherwise provided in the measure. In the event the proposed measure is rejected by the Representative Assembly, the measure shall be submitted to the active membership in good standing of the Association within twenty (20) days from the date of rejection according to the procedures contained in Subsection b of this bylaw.
  - b. *By active membership.* Within twenty (20) days of publication date or rejection of the proposal by the Representative Assembly, the executive director shall cause to have prepared a uniform ballot setting forth the proposed measure and any existing measure to be modified by the proposal, such ballots to be sent by direct mail to active members in good standing of the Association of record as of the mailing date.

Ballots shall contain a return date of fifteen (15) days from the mailing date. Sealed ballots shall be returned to the executive director of the Association. Only single ballots sealed in official envelopes will be counted. The MEA Board of Reference shall convene immediately to count the ballots and shall certify the results to the executive director. Two thirds (2/3) of those voting on the measure, provided that at least a majority of the active membership in good standing casts a vote, shall be required for adoption of the measure, which shall take immediate effect unless otherwise stated in the measure.

### **B. Referendum**

1. *Form of petition.* Referendum petitions shall be drawn according to the rules as contained in the Administrative Policies of the Association.
2. *Filing.* Referendum petitions shall be filed with the executive director of the Association, who shall canvass the petitions to ascertain if such petitions have been signed by the required number of active members in good standing.
3. *Publication.* Upon receipt of the required number of signatures, the executive director shall cause the text of the referendum petition to be published in the next regular issue of the official publication of the Association.
4. *Voting.* Within twenty (20) days of publication date, the executive director shall cause to have prepared a uniform ballot setting forth the action being referred, such ballots to be sent by direct mail to active members in good standing of the Association of record as of the mailing date. Ballots shall contain a return date of fifteen (15) days from the mailing date. Sealed ballots shall be returned to the executive director of the Association. Only single ballots sealed in official envelopes will be counted. The MEA Board of Reference shall convene immediately to count the ballots and shall certify the results to the executive director. Two thirds (2/3) of those voting on the measure, provided that at least a majority of the active membership in good standing cast a vote, shall be required for adoption. Measures adopted by referendum shall take effect fifteen (15) days following certification of vote unless otherwise stated in the measure.

## **XVI. Succession and vacancies**

### **A. Elected officers**

1. A vacancy in the office of the president shall be filled by the vice president.
2. If during the first or second year of a term a vacancy in either the office of vice president or the office of secretary-treasurer occurs, such vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors, which shall elect a successor to serve until the next meeting of the Representative Assembly. The Representative Assembly shall then elect a successor for the remainder of the term. In the event a vacancy occurs during the third year of a term, the Board of Directors shall elect a successor for the remainder of the term.
3. In the event vacancies occur in the office of president, vice president and secretary-treasurer, the responsibility of convening the Board shall fall on the senior elected member of the Executive Committee, junior elected member of the Executive Committee, and then on members of the Board of Directors in order of seniority. The vacancies shall be filled within ninety (90) days.

## **XVII. Recalls**

### **A. Elected officers**

1. The power of recall of the president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, NEA state directors and alternate NEA state directors shall be vested in the Representative Assembly, which is the elective body.
  2. The petitions for recall shall be filed with the executive director of the Michigan Education Association/NEA. Signatures of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the voting members of the Representative Assembly just preceding shall be required to initiate the recall procedures. Petitions shall be drawn in the manner as prescribed in these Bylaws. The executive director shall be responsible for validating the signatures contained on the petitions.
  3. Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the number of signatures specified in Section 2, the executive director shall notify voting members of the Representative Assembly that such petitions have been received.
  4. Forty-five (45) days after the receipt of the number of signatures specified in Section 2, ballots shall be prepared and mailed to the voting members of the Representative Assembly except that in the event a regular meeting of the Representative Assembly occurs between thirty (30) and sixty (60) days of such receipt, the recall vote will be the first item of business on the agenda for that Assembly.
  5. In the event of a mail ballot on the recall vote, ballots shall be collected within fifteen (15) days following their distribution and shall be counted by the Board of Reference. A representative of the officer named in the petition shall be present when ballots are counted, if the officer so desires.
  6. If a majority of the voting members of the Representative Assembly vote to recall the officer, that office shall be declared vacant upon certification of the election results to the MEA executive director.
  7. In the event the president is recalled, the vice president shall succeed to the presidency immediately, serving in this capacity for the unexpired portion of the term, and the office of the vice president shall be filled by the next Representative Assembly. If the vice president is recalled, that office shall be filled by the next Representative Assembly for the unexpired portion of the term. The next Representative Assembly, as stated in this section, shall be defined as the Representative Assembly immediately following the certification of the results of a mail ballot or the Assembly at which a recall vote is taken.
  8. In the event an NEA state director is recalled, the MEA Board of Directors, in compliance with the NEA Constitution, shall appoint an interim to serve until the next Representative Assembly.
- B. Commission members.** Members of the MEA commissions may be recalled or their appointments revoked by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the MEA Board of Directors. Before a vote is taken on the revocation of an appointment or recall of an elected commission member, ample opportunity shall be provided for a hearing on the matter before the Board of Directors.
- C. Members of the Board of Directors**
1. The motion for recall of a member of the MEA Board of Directors shall be submitted to the electorate by the region elections committee, which shall notify active members in good standing of the region that petitions for recall containing signatures of fifteen percent (15%) of the electorate have been received, such notice to detail charges involved.



2. Not more than thirty (30) days nor less than fifteen (15) days after notification, ballots shall be prepared and distributed by the elections committee according to procedures as provided in the Region Constitution.
  3. Within fourteen (14) days following distribution, ballots shall be collected and counted as provided in the Region Constitution, except that the thirty (30) day prior notification clause shall be waived in matters of recall. The region elections committee shall then announce the results of the vote to the region council.
- D. *Delegates to the Representative Assembly.*** Delegates to the Representative Assembly may be recalled for just cause according to procedures prescribed in the Constitution of the local association by which they were elected except that petitions for recall shall be signed by not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the active and life members of that local association.

### **XVIII. Multiple association bargaining organizations**

- A. *Establishment of name.*** Any group of local associations within a single region or contiguous multiple regions, with exceptions made for higher education units, may form, by majority vote of those members voting within each local association, an organization for the purpose of combining resources and efforts to obtain more effective collective bargaining activity, including obtaining multiple employer collective bargaining agreements. Such a multiple association bargaining organization may select an appropriate geographical designation, such as a county or regional name, and be named the \_\_\_\_\_ *Education Association- MEA/NEA.*
- B. *Agreements to enter.*** Membership in multiple association bargaining organizations is voluntary. Any local association entering into such an agreement by majority vote of the members in good standing voting shall be found to honor such an agreement in the same manner and to the same extent that it is bound to honor the Bylaws of this Association.
- C. *Powers.*** Any such agreement to form or enter a multiple association bargaining organization may provide for a central body or bodies with executive, legislative and judicial powers, which must be democratically selected pursuant to the principles set forth in this Constitution and Bylaws and shall meet the minimum standards of the MEA/NEA.\* Said body may have any or all of the following powers, anything to the contrary in the local constitutions of the agreeing locals notwithstanding:
1. To designate a common bargaining team for all or some of the agreeing locals;
  2. To delegate or exercise itself the power to formulate bargaining positions and demands for all or some of the agreeing locals;
  3. To reserve to itself or its designated common bargaining team or other designated representative the exclusive right to recommend ratification of any collective bargaining unit of multiple agreeing locals;
  4. To reserve to itself or its designated representative the authority as exclusive agent for any agreeing local to enter into any agreement with any employer with whom any agreeing local is the certified or recognized bargaining agent;
  5. To reserve to itself the exclusive authority to recommend to the membership of any or all agreeing locals any action to enforce or support any collective bargaining demand or agreement;
  6. To temporarily suspend from all power and authority any official of any agreeing local who circumvents or attempts to circumvent the agreement between his/her local and the multiple association bargaining organization, pending hearing before the subordinate judicial body of the multiple association bargaining organization or the Board of Reference of this Association, provided that any officer so suspended shall have the right of immediate appeal to the Executive Committee of this Association, who shall be empowered to stay such suspension pending hearing before the appropriate judicial body. The Executive Committee shall act to either approve or disapprove any temporary suspension within seventy-two (72) hours after receipt of the appeal, or temporary suspension shall be automatically stayed until action is taken by the Executive Committee;
  7. To receive such funds as may be appropriated for its operation; to levy dues upon its constituent units as the multiple association bargaining organization governance body determines. Nonpayment of such levies on the part of the local units shall prohibit such locals from seating delegates on the multiple association bargaining organization.
- D. *Ratification.*** Procedures for ratification of a tentative contract achieved in any constituent local or any areawide tentative contract shall be provided within the multiple bargaining organization agreement.

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\* Refer to the last page of the MEA Bylaws for minimum standards.

- E. **Amendment.** For purposes of this bylaw, the term agreeing local refers to any association which by majority vote of its members in good standing voting enters into an agreement with a multiple association bargaining organization. The use of the term agreeing does not indicate any requirement for a separate agreement to each separate provision of a multiple association agreement. A multiple association bargaining organization may amend or alter the basic agreement between its various locals pursuant to democratic procedures not inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws without requiring further ratification of the agreement by the individual agreeing locals.
- F. **Judicial body.** The multiple association bargaining organization may establish a judicial body subordinate to the Board of Reference. If it does not, the MEA Board of Reference shall be the judicial body for the multiple association bargaining organization.
- G. **Withdrawal.** A local association may withdraw from a multiple association bargaining organization (MABO) pursuant to the following procedures:
  1. If the MABO is not the certified or recognized collective bargaining agent for the members of the local association, withdrawal shall be pursuant to this subparagraph. When a petition of thirty percent (30%) of the members of the local association is filed with the MABO and/or the MEA, and no such election has been held within a one (1) year period, an election shall be held between thirty (30) and forty-five (45) days from the filing of the petition. Receipt of such petition shall be communicated between the MABO and MEA within seven (7) days. All members in good standing of the local association may participate. There shall be a minimum of seven (7) days notice of the election. Notice shall be in writing to all members of the local association that a vote on withdrawal will be taken at the special meeting. The election shall be at a special meeting of the local association called for the specific purpose of taking a vote on withdrawal. The vote shall be by secret ballot and among active members in good standing. If a majority of those voting elect to withdraw from the MABO, said withdrawal shall be effective immediately. Withdrawal will have no effect on the status of the local association and/or MEA/NEA as the collective bargaining agent.
  2. Where the MABO is the certified or recognized collective bargaining agent for the members of the local association, withdrawal shall be pursuant to this subparagraph. When a petition for withdrawal from the MABO signed by thirty percent (30%) of the members of the local association is filed with the MABO and/or the MEA, and no such election has been held within a one (1) year period, an election shall be held between thirty (30) and forty-five (45) days from the filing of the petition. Receipt of such petition shall be communicated between the MABO and MEA within seven (7) days. All members in good standing of the local association may participate. There shall be a minimum of seven (7) days notice of the election. Notice shall be in writing to all members of the local association that a vote on withdrawal will be taken at the special meeting.

The election shall be held at a special meeting of the local association called for the specific purpose of taking a vote on withdrawal. The vote shall be by secret ballot and among active members in good standing. If a majority of those voting elect to withdraw from the MABO, the issue of decertification will be submitted to the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) at the earliest possible date pursuant to its procedures. In such cases the MABO shall consent to a MERC-conducted election and/or a voluntary agent change. The MEA will facilitate any election held by MERC with respect to the local association's withdrawal. Certification by MERC of a collective bargaining agent other than the MABO will constitute immediate withdrawal of the local association from the MABO.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws to the contrary, where a petition for election is filed with MERC seeking decertification of the MABO and/or the local association or the Michigan Education Association/NEA as bargaining agent for the local association, the following will apply. The MEA may, if it deems it appropriate, participate in conjunction with the local association or MABO or on its own behalf in any election proceedings that may ensue. Certification by MERC of a collective bargaining agent other than the MABO will constitute immediate withdrawal of the local association from the MABO.

## **XIX. Contract ratification**

- A. The constitution and/or bylaws of local affiliates and multiple association bargaining organizations shall provide for contract ratification procedures. Said procedures shall minimally incorporate the following:
  1. Only a proposed contract tentatively agreed to by an officially impaneled bargaining team may be submitted to a membership for a ratification vote.
  2. A majority vote of those members voting shall be required for ratification.
  3. Only members in good standing may vote on ratification.

## XX. Rules

- A. **Quorum.** A majority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in all cases except for meetings of the MEA Board of Directors, where a quorum shall consist of two thirds (2/3) of the members elected to the body.
- B. **Majority vote.** No motion shall be passed by the Board of Directors or a commission or committee without the concurrence of a majority vote of all members elected to the body. No motion shall be passed by the Representative Assembly without the concurrence of a majority vote of those members having registered with the Credentials Committee and seated by the Assembly.
- C. **Rules of order.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall be the authority in transaction of business unless such provisions conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Association.

## XXI. Definitions

- A. **Executive office.** Executive office shall mean the MEA president, MEA vice president and MEA secretary-treasurer.
- B. **Minority Persons, 3-1(g).** Minority Persons, 3-1(g) shall mean those persons designated as ethnic minority by statistics published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. This designation shall specifically include Black, Mexican American, other Spanish-speaking groups, Asian American and Native American.
- C. **Representatives of Minority Persons, 3-1(g).** Representative of Minority Persons, 3-1(g) shall mean a person elected or appointed to represent the interests of ethnic-Minority Persons. (Such a representative may be of any race, religion or ethnic background.)

## NEA Bylaw 8-7: Standards for local affiliates

The Association shall not affiliate with a local association, including a dual-national local affiliate, unless it meets the following minimum standards:

- A. Each affiliate shall apply the one person-one vote principle for representation on its governing bodies except that (I) the affiliate shall take such steps as are legally permissible to achieve ethnic-minority representation at least proportionate to its ethnic-minority membership and (II) the affiliate may adopt a provision in its governing documents that would permit that local to allocate a minimum of one (1) representative or delegate to members at each work site of a school district or higher education institution within the jurisdiction of the affiliate. Where an all-inclusive affiliate exists, it shall provide proportionate representation between its nonsupervisory members and its supervisor members;
- B. The affiliate shall conduct all elections with open nominations and a secret ballot;
- C. The affiliate shall require membership in the Association and in its state affiliate where eligible. If an affiliate enrolls education support professionals in any membership category and as a matter of policy seeks to recruit and represent such members, the affiliate (I) shall grant them full rights of participation and (II) shall require them to be members of the Association and its state affiliate where eligible;
- D. The affiliate is comprised predominantly of persons who are eligible for active membership (or the equivalently designated membership category) in the state affiliate, unless the state affiliate by action of its Board of Directors (or equivalent governing body) approves such affiliation. This requirement shall not apply to any local association that was an affiliate of the Association as of the effective date of this amendment.
- E. The affiliate shall be reviewed by the Association to determine compliance with minimum standards for affiliation at least once every five (5) years;
- F. The affiliate shall have the same membership year as that of the Association;
- G. The affiliate shall guarantee that no member of said affiliate may be censured, suspended or expelled without a due process hearing which shall include an appropriate appellate procedure; and
- H. The affiliate shall deny membership to an individual while said individual is denied membership in the Association pursuant to Bylaw 2-3.D.