

R-3

Region Council Constitution

Article I. Name and purpose

- Section 1.** This unit of the Association shall be known as Region _____ - MEA/NEA.
- Section 2.** The purpose of this region shall be to serve as the intermediate unit between the state Association and the constituent associations within the region.
- Section 3.** The region shall carry out the objectives of the state Association.
- Section 4.** The region shall counsel, initiate and be a forum for the policies of the Representative Assembly, MEA Board of Directors and views of the membership.

Article II. Membership and boundaries

- Section 1.** The membership shall comprise all active and life members in the region.
- Section 2.** The boundaries of the region shall be the same as those specified in the MEA Administrative Policies.

Article III. The region council

- Section 1.**
- a. The region council shall be the governing body of the region and shall meet at least three (3) times during the school year. The members of the region council shall include Representative Assembly delegates including MEA-Retired delegates to the Representative Assembly; coordinating council chairpersons; the elected region officers; local presidents or duly elected officers; representative of Minority Person, 3-1(g) at-large delegates; MEA-Retired region directors; and members of commissions and committees of the MEA/NEA who are employed within the region. *(March 2012)*
 - b. Voting membership of the region council shall consist of the Representative Assembly delegates including MEA-Retired delegates to the Representative Assembly, local presidents or duly elected officers, coordinating council chairpersons, the elected region officers, representative of Minority Person, 3-1(g) at-large delegates, MEA-Retired region director(s) and other delegates as specified in the region bylaws. All voting members of the region council must be elected, not appointed. Persons filling more than one of the above positions may be replaced in one or more of those positions at the region council by a duly elected alternate/officer of the electing constituency. *(March 2012)*
 - c. Upon option of the region, additional delegates may be elected to the region council on a proportional basis as determined in the region's bylaws.

Section 2. *Minority Person, 3-1(g) representation provisions.* Membership of the region council shall reflect Minority Person, 3-1(g) representation provisions as stated in the MEA Constitution. If not elected at the local level, representative of Minority Person, 3-1(g) at-large delegates shall be elected by the council as stated in their bylaws.

Locals that do not comply with the Minority Person, 3-1(g) representation requirements at the region level as stipulated in a region's bylaws must present their case to the MEA Credentials Committee, which will decide whether or not to recommend that said local be seated on the region council.

Section 3. *Powers and duties.* The region, through its region council, shall have the power to establish such agencies and agents as may be required for the effective promotion of the activities of the Association within the region, to take any action necessary under the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association or by the acts of the Representative Assembly or the Board of Directors, to appoint its own committees, and to undertake any lines of work deemed necessary in the light of the needs within the region. Such action shall not be in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws or acts of the Board of Directors or the Representative Assembly. The region council shall have general supervision of the work of the region and shall perform all duties not specifically assigned to coordinating councils, local associations, the state Association, the region officers or committees.

Section 4. Special meetings of the region council may be called by the executive committee and shall be called upon the written request of twenty percent (20%) or more of the voting members of the region council.

Section 5. The region council shall have the power to fill all region council office vacancies for the unexpired term. Procedures shall be set up in the bylaws of the region.

Section 6. Quorum shall be established in the bylaws and shall not be less than twenty- five percent (25%) of the voting delegates to the region council.

Section 7. Any member in good standing of the Association shall have the right to attend a meeting of the region council. *(Amended July 2013)*

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. The *officers* shall be president, past president, vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, NEA region coordinator and member(s) of the MEA Board of Directors from the region. The vice president may, at the option of the region through its bylaws, be designated as the president-elect. The president shall take office during or at the close of the region's annual meeting. The retiring president shall serve as past president for one (1) year. Officers, except for the MEA Board of Directors member(s), shall be elected for terms not to exceed two (2) years as stated in the region bylaws. Officers, except for the MEA Board of Directors member(s) and the NEA region coordinator, shall be elected from the council. The MEA Board of Directors member(s) shall be elected according to procedures as

prescribed in Article VIII of this Constitution. The NEA region coordinator shall be elected according to procedures as prescribed in Article VII of this Constitution.

Section 2. The *executive committee* shall comprise the officers of the region, representative(s) of Minority Person, 3-1(g) at-large delegate(s) to the Representative Assembly, coordinating council chairpersons, the chairpersons of the region committees and MEA-Retired region directors. Members of state commissions and committees from the region shall be members ex-officio of the executive committee. By a majority vote of the above-stated members, the membership of the executive committee may be expanded to include others. All members of the executive committee shall have voting power at executive committee meetings. Provision shall be made for a quorum of the executive committee in the region's bylaws.

Section 3. The *terms of office* of each officer shall begin during or at the close of the region's annual meeting and shall continue until a successor is elected, except the NEA region coordinator and the MEA Board of Directors member. The NEA region coordinator shall be elected for a term of one (1) year commencing December 31. Delegates and alternates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall serve three (3) year terms, such terms to be staggered in such a manner that not more than one half (1/2) of the delegates shall be elected each year.

Article V. Duties of officers

Section 1. The *president* shall perform the usual duties of a presiding officer. That person shall enforce the observance of the MEA Constitution and Bylaws and the region constitution and bylaws. The president shall be chairperson of the region council and the executive committee and shall be responsible for the conduct of elections for MEA Board of Directors member(s).

Section 2. In the absence of the president, the *vice president* shall be the presiding officer, and in the absence of those officers the past president shall preside. In the event none of the three (3) named above is present, the secretary of the council shall preside until the council shall elect a temporary presiding officer.

Section 3. The *secretary* shall keep the minutes of the region council and executive committee meetings. Copies of these minutes in the quantity as required by the MEA/NEA shall be forwarded to the executive director of the state Association. The secretary shall file all reports submitted which are to be a part of the records of the region. The secretary shall perform such other duties usually performed by the secretary of an organization.

Section 4. The *treasurer* shall receive all monies due the region, have custody of same and pay bills as provided by the region bylaws, and shall submit the accounts to an audit annually; a copy of the audit shall be sent to the Michigan Education Association/NEA. The treasurer shall furnish each member of the council with a copy of the current financial statement at each council meeting.

Section 5. The *executive committee* shall be the ad interim committee of the region council but may not perform those duties specifically delegated to the region council by the MEA Constitution and Bylaws or Region Council Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 6. The *NEA region coordinator* shall be chairperson of the region's delegation to the NEA Representative Assembly, shall hold periodic meetings of the delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly and shall keep the region council informed of the activities and programs of the NEA.

Section 7. The agenda for the region council meetings shall include time for the MEA Board of Directors members to present and discuss issues coming before the Board of Directors, as well as general organizational goals.

Article VI. Nominations

Section 1. The president, with the approval of the region council, shall, by May 31 of each year, appoint a nominations committee. The nominations committee is separate from the election committee and a member may not serve on both committees. The nominations committee shall minimally be comprised of each coordinating council chairperson or designee from within the region and whatever other members are necessary to help insure the committee will accomplish its goal. Each member of the nominating committee shall preferably be from a different local association within the region.

Section 2. The goal of the nominations committee is to recruit candidates so that there is a least one candidate for each vacant position. In order to help achieve this goal, the nominations committee shall minimally perform the following tasks.

- a. The nominations committee shall meet no later than one (1) week following the first region meeting each fall.
- b. Prior to October 1, the nominations committee shall contact incumbents whose positions will be up for election in order to determine their intention to run again.
- c. If by November 1, there are cluster position vacancies with no announced candidates, the nominations committee shall contact the local presidents from within the cluster in order to recruit candidates.
- d. If by November 1, there are vacant positions other than cluster positions with no announced candidates, the nominations committee shall schedule a meeting with the coordinating council chairperson(s) and the region MEA Board members in order to recruit candidates.

Section 3. Nominations for offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer shall be made at the meeting held prior to the election by the following methods: by a nominating committee, by written nomination of one (1) or more members of the council, by petition signed by fifteen (15) or more members of the region, or by nominations from the floor. The report of the nominations shall be sent by the secretary to each member of the council at least two (2) weeks prior to the election.

Section 4. Nominations for region MEA Board members, region at-large MEA and NEA delegates/alternates and region cluster MEA and NEA delegates/alternates shall be:

- a. In writing or by fax. Only members eligible to vote for a position may nominate someone for that position. Self nomination is permitted.
- b. By action of a local association at a regular or special meeting; the local association shall notify the region election chairperson of the nomination no later than December 1;
- c. By open nominations at a region council meeting no later than December 16;
- d. Nominations shall comply with the MEA Administrative Rule XI.

Section 5. Consent of a candidate must be secured before that name is placed on any ballot.

Article VII. Elections

Section 1. The election of the region president, vice president, secretary and treasurer shall be on or before May 31. The retiring secretary shall notify the council members of the time and place of the region's annual meeting. Newly elected officers shall assume their duties during or at the close of the region's annual meeting.

Section 2. The election of region MEA Board members, region at-large MEA and NEA Representative Assembly delegates and alternates, and region cluster MEA and NEA Representative Assembly delegates and alternates shall be completed by April 1 in accordance with the election procedures in Article VIII.

Section 3. The election of the NEA region coordinator to the Representative Assembly of the National Education Association shall be held before December 31. Such election shall take place at a region NEA caucus between September 1 and December 31. Coordinators shall be nominated from the current local and region NEA delegates and elected by those delegates. The initial meeting of the NEA local and region delegates, for the purpose of nominating and electing the coordinator, shall be called by the senior MEA Board member from that region. An alternate NEA region coordinator shall also be elected at this time.

Section 4. All elections which take place in the region among the entire membership in good standing of the region shall be held at one time and shall be called the region at-large election. This election includes region MEA Board members, region at-large MEA and NEA Representative Assembly delegates and alternates, and region cluster MEA and NEA Representative Assembly delegates and alternates. *(Amended July 2013)*

Section 5. Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall be elected to a three (3) year term no later than April 1 and shall assume office on September 1 of that year. Elections shall comply with the MEA Administrative Rule XI.

Section 6. Alternates shall be elected for all region at-large and cluster positions, except the MEA Board of Directors, and shall serve a three (3) year term beginning April 1.

Section 7. Alternates

- a. Each region shall select one of the following methods of electing alternate MEA and NEA Representative Assembly delegates:
 - 1. By a separate ballot and shall be elected in descending order of the number of votes received; or
 - 2. The unsuccessful candidate(s) for a position shall be alternates for that position in descending order of the number of votes received.
- b. If a region does not conduct a specific election for alternates, unsuccessful candidates for delegate positions shall be the alternates, in descending order of the number of votes received.
- c. If the region conducts elections for alternates, but no alternates are available to fill a vacancy, the alternates shall be the unsuccessful candidates in descending order of the number of votes received.
- d. Alternates for region at-large NEA Representative Assembly delegate(s) will be the unsuccessful candidate(s) for NEA Representative Assembly delegate position(s) representing Minority Person, 3-1(g) concerns, in descending order of the number of votes received.

Section 8. All elections shall be by secret ballot and the region at-large election shall be conducted among the active member in good standing of the region. In the event the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled, the candidates can be declared elected by acclamation. Only positions which are not filled by acclamation will appear on a printed ballot. If two or more candidates for identical positions are elected by acclamation, the region council shall conduct a lottery at the close of nominations to determine the rank order of the candidates. *(Amended July 2013)*

Section 9. The region may conduct a special election at any time to fill a vacancy for the position of Representative Assembly cluster delegate or region at-large Representative Assembly delegate. Such election shall require written notification to eligible voters through the U.S. mail, open nominations and secret ballot.

Section 10. Results of all at-large elections shall be transmitted to the Executive Office of the state Association by the president no later than April 1. Results of other region elections including special elections shall be transmitted to the MEA following the election. Delegates whose names are transmitted to the Executive Office at least seventy (70) days prior to a Representative Assembly will receive all Representative Assembly mailings. Delegates whose names are transmitted fewer than seventy (70) days prior to a Representative Assembly shall receive whatever mailing would be reasonably possible given the actual reporting date.

Article VIII. Region at-large elections

Section 1. Region at-large elections shall be conducted in accordance with the following timelines:

For On Site and Mailed Ballots (Amended July 2019)

May 31	Region selects a region election chairperson and a nominations chairperson and forwards the names to MEA.
July 31	MEA notifies region president, region election chairperson, nominations chairperson and region MEA Board members of positions to be filled and length of terms.
August 15	Date, time, and location of region nominations meetings to be forwarded to MEA for inclusion in the Fall <i>MEA Voice</i> .
October	The Fall edition of the <i>MEA Voice</i> will provide region election information.
December 16	Close of nominations from the floor at a region meeting no earlier than December 1 and no later than December 16. A region should close nominations at its December meeting and may elect by acclamation. If no meeting is held in December, the region may not use acclamation.
December 17	Nominations sent by the region to MEA received/postmarked no later than December 21.
December 31	Biographical sketches sent to MEA by candidates must be received/postmarked no later than December 31.
February	The Winter edition of the <i>MEA Voice</i> will provide region election information.
February 1	Ballots and all other election material will be distributed to regions.
February 7	MEA Membership Department to receive membership update information from locals prior to creating voter eligibility list.
February 15	Voter eligibility list emailed to president and elections chair of locals using paper ballots.
February 28	Region election committee has mailed or delivered election materials to local association presidents.
March	Elections conducted in the locals: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The election shall be conducted on the first consecutive Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday in March.2. If the unit is not scheduled to work during the above days, the election shall be conducted on the next consecutive Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday in March.

3. If inclement weather or other emergency interrupts the election as above, it shall be completed on the next consecutive workday(s), but no later than March 24.
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| March 24 | Tabulated election results mailed or delivered from the local to the region election committee. |
| March 31 | Local association tabulations compiled by region election committee and candidates and MEA notified of election results by submitting the official tally report form in Appendix A. |
| April/May | Election results and local association tabulations incorporated in region minutes. |

For Online Voting (Amended July 2019)

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| May 31 | Region selects a region election chairperson and a nominations chairperson and forwards the names to MEA. |
| July 31 | MEA notifies region president, region election chairperson, nominations chairperson and region MEA Board members of positions to be filled and length of terms. |
| August 15 | Date, time and location of region nominations meetings to be forwarded to mea for inclusion in the Fall <i>MEA Voice</i> . |
| October | The Fall <i>MEA Voice</i> will provide region election information. |
| December 16 | Close of nominations from the floor at a region meeting no earlier than December 1 and no later than December 16. A region should close nominations at its December meeting and may elect by acclamation. If no meeting is held in December, the region may not use acclamation. |
| December 17 | Nominations sent by the region to MEA received/postmarked no later than December 21. |
| December 31 | Biographical sketches sent to MEA by candidates must be received/ postmarked no later than December 31. |
| February | The Winter edition of the <i>MEA Voice</i> will provide region election information. |
| February 1 | MEA sends the local president online voting instructions. |
| February 7 | MEA Membership Department to receive membership update information from locals prior to creating voter eligibility list. |
| February 5-15 | Region election chairs send an announcement to all local presidents in their region regarding online voting. |

- February 15 Voter eligibility lists emailed to president and election committee chairs of locals using paper ballots.
- February 18-28 Local president informs members of online voting procedures.
- March 1-24 Members may access the online voting system during the fifteen (15) day period printed in the *MEA Voice* and vote or may vote on an alternate paper ballot, which must be received by MEA by the close of online voting.
- MEA IT will send a confirmation email to the individual voting member when the ballot has been submitted electronically.
- April 1 MEA will compile the results and send individual region results to the respective election chair for certification.
- MEA IT will provide a list of the members who voted to the local president(s) and local election committee members.

Election results shall be recorded in region minutes.

Section 2. Region election committee

a. *Membership*

1. The region president shall, by May 31 of each year, appoint, subject to the approval of the region council, an election committee and chairperson, comprised of at least one (1) member from each coordinating council who is a member of the region council.
2. Each member of the committee shall preferably be from a different local association within the region.
3. No candidate shall serve on the region election committee.

b. *Duties.* The committee shall:

1. Meet with the region president to plan the implementation of the region at-large election schedule and procedures;
2. Conduct nominations from the floor during a region council meeting prior to December 16;
3. Accept written and faxed nominations and nominations resulting from action by local associations prior to the close of nominations.
4. Secure written consent from each candidate prior to submitting candidates' names to MEA for placement on the ballot.

5. Certify the validity of all nominations and submit to the MEA Executive Office the names of all nominees no later than December 21;
6. Issue an invitation to each candidate to appear at a region council meeting prior to the election;
7. Establish the method for distribution of ballots and related materials to local associations and distribute same no later than February 21;
8. Establish the location and method for the return of tabulated results from local associations and include notice of same with the election materials sent to each local association president;
9. By April 1 receive and tabulate the local association election results, notify the candidates of the official election results and certify the election results to the region president who shall notify the MEA Executive Office of the results;
10. Present a motion at the next region council meeting to incorporate the region at-large election results and the local association tabulations as a part of the region minutes;
11. Preserve the tabulated results and all related materials for one (1) year;
12. Receive, review and act upon election challenges in accordance with Article VIII-5.

Section 3. Election procedures

For On Site and Mailed Ballots (Amended July 2013)

- a. A September edition of the *MEA Voice* shall notify members on the membership rolls as of that date, of the positions open in each region, the nomination procedure, the election dates, voter eligibility requirements and other relevant information.
- b. A January edition of the *MEA Voice* shall announce the nominations received for each position, the dates of the election, positions filled by acclamation, requirements necessary to receive a ballot for eligible voters unable to vote on site and other relevant information. (*Amended July 2013*)
- c. A voter eligibility list will be prepared by MEA and distributed to each region election chairperson to be forwarded to each local association president along with the ballots. The voter eligibility list will be created from the membership information received from local associations by the MEA Membership Department by December 31. Only ballots from members in good standing whose names appear on the voter eligibility list may be counted. Ballots received from other individuals will remain unopened and set aside as challenged ballots.
- d. The ballots, tally sheets, biographical information, instructions and other related materials shall be prepared by MEA. All ballots shall provide for write-in candidates. The ballot for MEA Board members shall read: *For MEA Board and MEA state*

delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly. MEA shall distribute the ballots and other materials to each region election chairperson no later than February 1.

- e. The ballots and other materials shall be distributed by the region election committee to each local association president no later than February 21, who shall give written acknowledgement of the receipt thereof.
- f. Eligible voters who are not able to vote on site during the election period may notify their local association president of their need to vote by absentee ballot. The request must be in writing, must include the specific reason necessitating an absentee ballot and must be received no later than February 21 by the local association president. Eligible voters requesting an absentee ballot and complying with the above requirements shall be mailed an absentee ballot by the local association election committee. An absentee ballot must be returned by U.S. mail and received by the local association no later than the last day of the election. Late absentee ballots shall be unopened and set aside as void ballots. *(Amended July 2013)*
- g. The region at-large election shall be conducted in each local association by a local election committee comprised of at least three (3) members in good standing of the local. If such a committee does not exist, one shall be appointed by the local president with the concurrence of the local governing board. EA and ESP units in the same district may conduct their elections together and form one combined EA/ESP Election Committee. The local election committee shall: *(Amended July 2013)*
 - 1. Determine the election site(s);
 - 2. Determine the election times; however, the times must allow all eligible voters a reasonable opportunity to cast their ballots, which at a minimum will require one (1) hour per day for each of the three (3) days of the election;
 - 3. Appoint an election official (election committee member, building representative, etc.) for each site. The ballot box at each site must be attended at all times by the election official. Election officials shall not be provided with the key to their ballot boxes;
 - 4. Distribute ballots and other election materials;
 - 5. Count the ballots and record the results on the tabulation sheets;
 - 6. Forward the tabulated results to the region election committee no later than March 24.
 - 7. Preserve the ballots, including challenged and void ballots, signed outside envelopes, tally sheets and all other related materials for one year.
- h. The local association shall provide a locked and secure ballot box for each voting site.
- i. A double envelope system of balloting shall be used in conducting the region at-large election. This system shall entail an eligible voter marking a ballot, placing it in a secret ballot envelope, and placing the secret ballot envelope in an outside envelope, signing his/her name on the outside envelope, and depositing it in the ballot box.

- j. All tabulated results received from local associations by the region election committee shall be counted at one time by the election committee on a predetermined date. The region election committee shall notify all candidates of this date and their right to be present or to have a designee present to observe the final count.
- k. The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- l. If the office of MEA Board of Directors shall become vacant, the region executive committee may appoint an interim Board member to serve until the region council meets. The region council shall fill the position by appointment until the next region at-large election is held.
- m. Change of employment to a system outside of the region shall disqualify the Board member from further service and the office shall be declared vacant.
- n. Persons on leave of absence or lay-off from employment must retain active membership in good standing status in order to remain eligible for the Board of Directors. *(Amended July 2013)*

For Online Elections (Amended July 2013)

- a. September edition of the *MEA Voice* shall notify members on the membership rolls as of that date, of the positions open in each region, the nomination procedure, the election dates, voter eligibility requirements and other relevant information.
- b. A January edition of the *MEA Voice* shall announce the nominations received for each position, positions filled by acclamation, the dates of the election, requirements necessary to receive a ballot for eligible voters unable to vote on site and other relevant information.
- c. A voter eligibility list will be prepared by MEA and distributed to each region election chairperson to be forwarded to each local association president. The voter eligibility list will be created from the membership information received from local associations by the MEA Membership Department by December 31. Only members in good standing will appear on the voter eligibility list.
- d. The online ballots, biographical information, instructions and other related material shall be prepared by MEA. All ballots shall provide for write-in candidates. The ballot for MEA Board members shall read: *For MEA Board and MEA state delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.*
MEA shall send online instructions to region election chairs for distribution to local presidents no later than February 1.
- e. Online instructions shall be distributed by the region election chair to each local association president no later than February 15.
- f. Members may access the online system to vote or may vote on an alternate paper ballot, which must be received by the MEA Executive Office by the close of online voting.

- g.** In the event a member votes both online and by a paper ballot, the paper ballot shall not be counted.
- h.** If a local opts out of the online ballot, the local may request paper ballots. The local remains responsible for all aspects of the paper ballots, including:

 - 1.** Count the ballots and record the results on the tabulation sheets;
 - 2.** Forward the tabulated results to the MEA Executive Office no later than March 24.
 - 3.** Preserve the ballots, including challenged and void ballots, signed outside envelopes, tally sheets and all other related materials for one year.
- i.** The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- j.** If the office of MEA Board of Directors shall become vacant, the region executive committee may appoint an interim Board member to serve until the region council meets. The region council shall fill the position by appointment until the next region at-large election is held.
- k.** Change of employment to a system outside of the region shall disqualify the Board member from further service and the office shall be declared vacant.
- l.** Persons on leave of absence or lay-off from employment must retain active membership in good standing status in order to remain eligible for the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Campaign practices

- a.** No candidate for a region at-large position may directly or indirectly finance his/her campaign activities with any Association funds. Candidates are prohibited from accepting contributions consisting in whole or in part of Association dues or assessments and are prohibited from utilizing, without cost, Association assets, facilities, equipment, staff, credit or newspaper advertisement.
- b.** Region and MEA dues may be utilized to issue notices regarding the nomination of candidates and the scheduling of the election, to publish factual statements of the issues not involving candidates, to meet the expenses of holding the election, to sponsor a meeting at which all candidates for a region at-large position(s) are afforded equal opportunity to express their views to the membership prior to the election, and to publish the views of candidates as long as equal coverage is provided to all candidates.
- c.** Candidates for region at-large positions shall adhere to these practices and such other regulations as may be established by the region election committee and approved by the region council.
- d.** Biographical statements for region at-large candidates shall be printed by MEA and distributed to the region election committee, which will in turn distribute them to local association presidents for distribution at the same time paper ballots are distributed to

eligible voters. For online voting, biographical statements shall be available online at the time of voting. (*Amended July 2013*)

The following provisions apply to biographical statements:

1. The printing and distribution of biographical statements is a service provided by MEA to the candidates and any errors or omissions shall not constitute a valid challenge to an election;
 2. Biographical statements shall be limited to one hundred fifty (150) words and shall be retyped for printing purposes as received, including grammatical and typographical errors. The statement must be in paragraph form; pictures and lists will not be printed. Statements longer than 150 words will be clipped at 150 words and printed as clipped;
 3. Biographical statements must be submitted to MEA no later than December 31;
 4. Biographical statements will not be edited; however, statements which may cause a legal liability for the MEA shall not be printed. In such instances, the candidate will be notified and this shall not constitute a valid challenge to an election.
- e. Candidates may distribute additional printed materials to the electorate at their own expense.

Section 5. Election Challenges

- a. Challenges to a region at-large election shall be directed in writing to the region president setting forth the alleged improprieties giving rise to the challenge. (A sample form is attached.) The challenge shall be filed within fourteen (14) calendar days of knowledge of the alleged impropriety or by April 10, whichever is earlier.
- b. Upon receipt of a timely challenge, the region president shall transmit same to the region election committee which shall review the challenge, meet with the complaining party, if necessary, and render a prompt decision.
- c. The decision of the region election committee may be appealed to the region executive committee by providing written notice to the region president within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the decision of the election committee.
- d. Upon receipt of a timely challenge, the region president shall transmit same to the region executive committee which shall review the challenge and render a prompt decision.
- e. Neither the region election committee nor the region executive committee shall direct a rerun election unless there is sufficient evidence to believe that any improprieties could reasonably have affected the outcome of the election.

Article IX. Affiliate representation

Representation to non-governance affiliate bodies may be appointed or elected as stated in the region bylaws.

Article X. Recall

Elected officials of the region may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the electorate (body by which they are elected) according to the following procedures:

- Section 1.** Recall petitions signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the electorate shall be submitted to the region council at a regular or special meeting.
- Section 2.** A region officer shall be removed from office upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote by secret ballot at the next council meeting following the presentation of petitions for recall.
- Section 3.** In the case of other positions which are elected in the region at-large election, the motion for recall shall be submitted to the electorate by the region election committee according to the following procedures:
- a.** Active members of the region shall be notified that petitions for recall have been received; such notice shall detail charges involved;
 - b.** The election shall take place in accordance with the election procedures contained in Article VIII of this Constitution, except that the region election committee shall modify the elections calendar to provide that the election shall be completed in not more than forty-five (45) days nor less than fifteen (15) days after notification.
- Section 4.** An NEA region coordinator shall be removed from office upon a majority vote, by secret ballot of the NEA region and local delegates of that region, at a special meeting which must be called in conjunction with the next meeting of the region council or within forty-five (45) days of the presentation of petitions, whichever is sooner.
- Section 5.** If the vote of the electorate is for recall of the official, the position of that official shall be filled in the manner as provided in this Constitution.
- Section 6.** In an action taken under the provisions of this article, no person shall be denied the right of a speedy hearing before the electorate.
- Section 7.** Only active members in good standing shall have the right to participate in the recall procedures prescribed above. *(Amended July 2013)*

Article XI. Committees

- Section 1.** The region council shall establish standing committees as necessary to carry on the work of the region.
- Section 2.** Chairpersons of all standing committees shall be appointed by the president, subject to the approval of the council.

Section 3. An auditing committee comprising three (3) or more members of the council, other than officers, or a certified public accountant shall make an annual audit of the accounts and shall report the findings to the council. Special audits may be authorized at any time by the council.

Article XII. Finance

The region council shall receive such funds as may be appropriated for its operation from the budget of the MEA/NEA. The region may levy dues upon its constituent units as the region council determines. Nonpayment of such levies on the part of the local units shall prohibit such locals from seating delegates on the region council or the MEA Representative Assembly.

Article XIII. Bylaws

Section 1. The region council may adopt by a majority vote any bylaw not in conflict with the MEA Constitution and Bylaws, acts of the Representative Assembly or the region constitution. All region bylaws are subject to the approval of the MEA Board of Directors.

Section 2. Any proposed bylaw must be submitted in writing to the council not less than two (2) weeks in advance of the council meeting at which it is to be considered and action is to be taken.

Article XIV. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended only by the MEA Board of Directors. The effective date shall be September 1, following the adoption of an amendment.

Article XV. Rules

Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be the authority in the transaction of business unless such provision conflicts with the Constitution and Bylaws of the state Association or of the region.

Challenge of a Region At-Large Election*

Date: _____

Must be within fourteen (14) calendar days of knowledge of alleged impropriety or by April 10, whichever is earlier.

To:
Region president _____
Complete address _____

From:
Challenger's name _____
Complete address _____

Challenge to (*specific article, section or procedure violated*):
Region Council Constitution _____
Region _____ Bylaws _____
Election procedures _____

Specifically state the alleged violation of the above documents and/or election procedures:

A copy of this challenge must be sent to all candidates and to the MEA Executive Office by the region president.