

CONSTITUTION
PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIAL STUDIES
(Revised and approved July 2008)

ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1

This association shall be known as the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies. The term “Social Studies” is used to include history, geography, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and all modifications or combinations of them whose content as well as concern is predominantly social.

Section 2

The purpose of the Council shall be the improvement of Social Studies reaching by means of:

- a. The gathering and dissemination of information of the content, methodology, and teaching strategies.
- b. The coordination of the activities of the local councils and state social studies councils and the formation of new councils.
- c. Cooperation with the National Council for the Social Studies, the Middle States Council for the Social Studies, and with other groups with similar interests.
- d. The presentation of the council’s views to professional, community, and governmental groups that are concerned with the social studies.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1

Membership in this council shall be open to all persons concerned with the teaching of Social Studies.

Section 2

Honorary membership may be granted by the Executive Board of the Council to a person, other than a member by the council, who has contributed to the improvement of Social Studies education either by his teaching or scholarship, or who has exemplified in his prior career the attributes of good citizenship. This person shall be entitled to all privileges of membership including voting and holding office.

Section 3

Life membership may be granted by the Executive Board to honor a member who has served the Council with fidelity and distinction for a considerable number of years. Such members shall be entitled to all privileges of membership including voting and holding office.

Section 4

The annual dues shall be determined by a majority of the votes received from members by way of an electronic mail ballot.

Article III – OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1

The elected officers of the Council shall be a President, a President-Elect, both of whose terms of office shall be for 2 years each; and, a Recording Secretary whose term in office shall be for 1 year. The President-Elect shall become President at the end of the President's term. The Recording Secretary may be re-elected. All officers must be PCSS members.

Section 2

There shall be fifteen (15) Directors, five (5) of whom shall be elected annually for terms of three (3) years. Directors may be elected to not more than two (2) consecutive terms. All Directors must be PCSS members.

Section 3

There shall be an Executive Secretary appointed by the Executive Board. The term of office shall be for three (3) years, after which it may be renewed. The functions of the office shall be established by the Executive Board.

Section 4

The Executive Board of the Council is comprised of the elected Officers, the Directors, the Executive Secretary, the Editor of PCSS publications, a representative of each affiliated local council, and the chairperson of each of the Council's standing committees.

Section 5

There shall be an Executive Committee comprised of elected officers as stated in Article III Section I and the Executive Secretary.

Section 6

It shall be the duty of the Executive Board of the council to establish committees and to define their responsibilities. All committee members must be PCSS members.

ARTICLE IV – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1

A list of nominees for the bi-annual election of the President-Elect, and the annual election of the Recording Secretary and five (5) Directors shall be prepared by the Nominations Committee Chairperson. This list shall also include candidates suggested by members of the Executive Board.

Section 2

The election of Officers and Directors shall be conducted bi-annually and annually by electronic mail in a manner prescribed by the Executive Board. The election shall be held at a time to permit the installation of new officers at the annual meeting.

Section 3

In the event of a tie for any office, the Executive Board shall, by secret ballot, determine the winner from those candidates who tied.

Section 4

The Executive Committee may fill any vacancy by appointment to fill out the unexpired term.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section 1

An Executive Board meeting shall be held twice a year: once in the spring at the proposed conference site, and once at the annual fall conference.

Section 2

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER REVISED shall be the parliamentary authority on all matters not covered by this Constitution or by the By-Laws of the Executive Board.

Section 3

All Executive Board members shall be encouraged to attend the NCSS annual meeting. The order for NCSS delegates shall be as follows: President; President-Elect; Executive Secretary; Recording Secretary; Senior Board members; Junior Board members; Appointed posts.

Section 4

A member of the Board of Directors who is absent from the two (2) consecutive Board meetings without having requested a formal excuse that the Board has accepted, shall forfeit membership on the Board, and the Board may elect a successor to complete the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI – AFFILIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Section 1

Local Social Studies organization, whose purposes are consistent with those of PCSS, may affiliate (or re-affiliate) with PCSS using a form to be compiled by the Local Council President and filed with the Executive Secretary by October 1st of each year. Provisional affiliation may be granted by the Executive Secretary upon receiving the necessary materials. Final affiliation is granted each year by the Executive Board of PCSS, on recommendation by its Executive Secretary at its annual meeting.

Section 2

To affiliate, the Local Council must show itself to be a viable organization by forwarding to PCSS the following:

- a. an up-to-date membership list
- b. a list of officers
- c. scheduled meeting(s) each year
- d. a yearly publication

Section 3

For affiliation, at least 25 of the local Council membership must be members of PCSS.

Section 4

A representative from an affiliated Local Council is a voting member of the Executive Board of PCSS. A representative of an unaffiliated Local Council has the right to be present at all Executive Board meetings as a non-voting member.

Section 5

To any local group desiring to establish a Local Council, PCSS pledges \$50 as an aid for its first mailing, etc.

ARTICLE VII – AMENEDMENT

This Constitution may be amended upon the approval of the majority of the members responding to an electronically published ballot.

Upon approval the Recording Secretary will update the document.