

# WAPPINGERS CONGRESS OF RETIRED TEACHERS

## CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS

### I. NAME

This Organization shall be Known as the Wappingers Congress of Teachers

### II. OBJECTIVES

This Organization is formed for the following purposes:

- A. To bring the retired educators of the Wappingers Central Schools together for mutual assistance, cooperation, and socialization;
- B. To promote the best interests and welfare of retired educators;
- C. To obtain all the rights to which they are entitled; and
- D. To promote mutual assistance and cooperation with the Wappingers Congress of Teachers, the New York State United Teachers, and the American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO).

### III. AFFILIATIONS

This Organization shall affiliate with the Wappingers Congress of Teachers and its state and National affiliates.

### IV. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership in this organization shall be open to retired educators who are eligible for membership in the affiliates.
- B. Membership shall be obtained only through the payment of appropriate dues as determined by the Organization, the local, state, and national affiliates.
- C. The WCRT will not release the names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and other information of our members for confidential reasons. Personal information is to be used **only** for confidential reasons.

D. In order to establish that two individuals living together as a couple, they must provide documentation in the form of a *Marriage Certificate*, *Domestic Partnership*, or *Civil Union*.

E. Already Retired Teachers are permitted to join the WCRT at any time after their retirement.

## V. DUES

A. Any annual dues of the Organization shall be proposed by the Board of Directors and shall be based on the financial report to be submitted by the treasurer.

B. The dues shall be subject to the approval of the membership at one of its meetings.

C. The amount adopted shall be in addition to any WCT, NYSUT, and AFT dues.

D. In the year a member of the WCRT becomes 80 years old before September 1<sup>st</sup>, the WCRT will not charge them for membership in that year and the thereafter.

## VI. OFFICERS

A. The officers of the Organization shall be President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

B. Duties of the President

The President shall;

1. Be the Chief Executive Officer of the Organization, administer all affairs and execute all policies of the Organization;

2. Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and General Membership

3. Represent, or appoint representatives of the organization to all external and affiliate groups;

4. Appoint and establish the function of all committees with the approval of the Board of Directors;

5. Call regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors and general membership;

6. Fulfill such other duties as the office requires and are consistent with this constitution; and

7. Delegate responsibilities to other members of the Board of Directors.

C. Duties of the Vice Presidents

A Vice President shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the president in his/her absence and shall perform other duties as the President shall designate.

#### D. Duties of the Secretaries and Treasurer

The Secretaries and Treasurer shall perform those duties usual to those offices and such other duties that may be required by the President of the Board of Directors

#### E. Nominations

1. A nominating committee composed of dues paying members shall be appointed by the President in March of an election year.
2. The nominating committee shall propose a slate of officers for election
3. Each member shall also be given reasonable opportunity to nominate candidates for office.
4. Notice of the office to be filled, the right to make nominations, and the time, place and proper form for submission of nominations shall be available to all members.
5. Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination for office.
6. No member may hold more than one office at the same time.
7. Nominations shall be excepted from the floor at the election meeting.

#### F. Election

1. Written notice announcing the time and place of the elections shall be posted in the WCRT April Edition of the Postscript newsletter to read and address at least fifteen (15) days prior to the election in May.
2. Elections shall be by secret ballot if there is a nomination from the floor.
3. The recording secretary shall preserve all elections records, including ballots for a period of one (1) year.

#### G. Terms of Office

Duly elected officers shall serve a two (2) year term, beginning July 1. Each officer shall remain in office until his/her successor assumes office.

#### H. Vacancies

1. If the office of President becomes vacant, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall assume that Office.
2. If any other office becomes vacant, it shall be filled by an election within the Board Of Directors, and that person shall hold office until the next election is held by the General Membership.

### VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the officers, five (5) directors at-large, The representative to the WCT Representative Assembly, and the immediate past President.

B. The five (5) Directors at-large and the representative to the WCT Representative Assembly shall be elected at the same time as the officers and in the same manner as Provided for in Article VI, Section F.

1. Duly elected Directors at-large and the representative to the WCT Representative Assembly shall serve a two (2) year term.

C. Duties

The Board of Directors shall:

1. approve and annual budget

2. act upon expenditures as may be required

3. interpret the Constitution/By Laws

4. act on policy matters for the organization between meetings of the general membership;

5. make policy recommendations to the membership for their consideration, and

6. perform all other duties as enumerated in the Constitution.

D. The Board of Directors shall meet no less than twice (2x) during the year. Special meetings may be called by the President or by a petition of a majority of the Board Of Directors.

E. Any Board of Directors member who is absent from more than three (3) consecutive meetings, whether of the Board or of the general membership, may be removed from office by the vote of the other members of the Board.

### VIII. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

A. Meetings of the general membership may be called by the President, by a majority

- of the Board of Directors, or by a petition of ten percent (10%) of the membership.
- B. Membership meetings shall be held no less than twice (2x) a year.
  - C. A quorum at a general membership meeting shall consist of the members present.

#### IX. PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

- A. Every member of this Organization shall have equal rights and privileges to nominate candidates, to hold office, to vote in elections or referenda, to attend membership meetings, and to participate in deliberations and to vote upon the business of the Organization.
- B. This Organization shall show no discrimination toward and individual or group on the basis of sex, creed, color, race, national origin or political activities or beliefs.

#### X. AMENDMENTS

- A. An amendment to the Constitution may be proposed by:
  - 1. A majority of the Board of Directors; or
  - 2. No fewer than ten percent (10%) of the membership.
- B. A proposed amendment must be distributed in writing to each member at least fourteen (14) days before the ratification vote.
- C. An amendment may be ratified by two-thirds (2/3) vote at a general membership Meeting.

#### XI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORIZATION

Meetings of a duly constituted bodies of the Organization shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order. Newly Revised, except as provided in this Constitution.

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