

Constitution of the La Grande Education Association

ARTICLE 1

NAME

- Section 1** The name of this Association shall be La Grande Education Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association.
- Section 2** The Association shall affiliate with the UniServ Council, Oregon Education Association, and the National Education Association.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES

- Section 1** To unify and strengthen the United Teaching Profession while presenting a positive image of teachers in the community.
- Section 2** To bargain with the school district board for professional salaries, fringe benefits, working conditions, and instructional improvement.
- Section 3** To assure enactment of legislation favorable to education and elect candidates who will support education.
- Section 4** To promote professional growth of teachers.
- Section 5** To participate actively in Oregon Education Association and National Education Association affairs. The Association shall participate actively in the appropriate UniServ Council and pay its share of UniServ Council operating costs.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1** Active membership in the Association shall be open to all certified personnel employed in the La Grande School District who are OEA, NEA members. Active membership shall be continuous until the member leaves the school system or resigns from the Association.
- Section 2** Association membership in the Association shall be open to all persons who meet the qualifications of associate memberships as defined in the OEA Bylaws. Associate members (student teachers, etc...) shall be without vote.
- Section 3** To withdraw from continuing membership, active members shall revoke their membership between August 1 and October 1 of any year. Bargaining unit members who withdraw their membership shall become fair share fee payers.
- Section 4** No member shall be censured, suspended, or expelled without a hearing before the Board of Directors. An appeal may be made to the OEA.

ARTICLE IV GOVERNANCE

Section 1 OFFICERS

- The Association Officers shall be a President, President-elect every two years, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- The President shall serve a two-year term commencing on May 1st. The President –Elect shall be elected for the 2nd year of the President’s term. The President –elect shall automatically become President the following year. All other officers will serve one year terms, also commencing on May 1st. Past-President will be available to assist current officers.

Section 2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- There shall be a governing body known as the Executive Committee which shall consist of the elected officers of the Association. This is the legislative body which is the executive authority of the Association.

Section 3 REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

- There shall be a governing body known as the Representative Council which shall consist of elected officers, Building Representatives, delegates to UniServ Council/state/national assemblies, and chairs of standing committees. This is the legislative body which executes the policy and functions of the Association and which conducts normal business.
- Each school shall elect one Building Representative per 15 members or portion thereof with at least one per school.
- Building Representatives shall be Association members.

Section 4 OEA-RA and NEA-RA delegates shall be elected and serve according to OEA and NEA policies. EOUC delegates shall be elected and serve according to EOUC policies.

ARTICLE V ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

Section 1 The officers shall be elected by April 15. Officers shall take office by May 1.

Section 2 The OEA delegates shall be elected by April 15. The term of office is two (2) years, beginning with the following year’s Representative Assembly. Half of the elected delegates will be elected in even numbered years and half will be elected in odd number years. OEA by-laws shall dictate the number of local delegates.

Section 3 By April 1, the Representative Council shall nominate candidates for each elected position.

Section 4 Secret ballots shall be used in all elections. Candidate names shall be posted in building at least ten (10) school days prior to elections. A place for write-in candidates shall be placed on the ballot for each office.

Section 5 Should a vacancy occur in the office of President, the President- Elect shall become President. If there is no President- Elect, the Representative Council shall appoint an interim successor, and an election to fill the office will be held within ninety (90) days of the date that the vacancy occurs.

Should a vacancy occur in the office of Secretary, Treasurer, or OEA Representative Assembly delegate(s) the Representative Council shall appoint an interim successor, and an election to fill the office will be held within ninety (90) days of the date that the vacancy occurs.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1 The Representative Council shall meet at least once every month or as needed.

Section 2 The Representative Council shall arrange at least two (2) meetings for the membership each year for the discussion of Association issues.

Section 3 Any officer may call for a meeting of the Representative Council.

Section 4 The Executive Committee shall meet to set agendas for general membership meetings and for other business as needed.

Section 5 General membership meetings can be called for the Representative Council or by fifteen (15) members petitioning the Executive Committee/Representative Council.

Section 6 General membership meetings are to be held to disseminate information or to consider and vote on ratification of a negotiated agreement.

ARTICLE VII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

**ARTICLE VIII
DIRECT LEGISLATION**

Section 1 INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

The rights of popular initiative and referendum shall rest with the active membership of the Association. Upon receipt of a petition signed by 15% of the active membership of the Association, the secretary shall announce a general meeting or ballot as indicated on the petition within fifteen (15) calendar days for the purposes presented in the petition. A majority of the total active membership shall be required for its adoption, which shall take effect thirty (30) days later.

Section 2 RECALL

The right of recall shall rest with the general membership. Upon receipt of a petition signed by 30% of the membership of the electing body, the secretary shall announce a general meeting or ballot by the electing body as indication on the petition within fifteen (15) calendar days for the purposes presented in the petition. A majority of the total active membership of the general membership shall be required for its adoption, which shall take effect thirty (30) days later.

**ARTICLE IX
MEMBERSHIP AND FISCAL YEAR**

The membership and fiscal years shall be November 1 through October 31.

**ARTICLE X
CONFLICTS**

Any part of this Constitution which is in conflict with OEA and/or NEA Constitution and/or Bylaws will be declared null and void.

**ARTICLE XI
AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution may be introduced by the membership at any regular meeting of the Representative Council and by petition signed by 15% of the total active membership and submitted to the secretary and shall be act upon at the subsequent meeting of the membership or by a ballot within thirty (30) days of submission. Amendments to the Constitution may also be introduced at any regular meeting of the Representative Council and handled in the fashion above. A copy of the proposed amendment together with the recommendations of the Representative Council shall be sent to each member of the Association. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the active membership voting is required to adopt the proposed amendment which shall be effective immediately upon adoption unless otherwise specified.

