

SEICHE Bylaws

2021

ARTICLE I

Organization Name, Mission and Vision

1.1 Name. The name of this organization shall be SEICHE.

1.2 Mission. SEICHE, in agreement with, but not part of, Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE), is a ministry of Christian families who come together to give and receive the support and resources that will more fully enable them to provide a home education for their children in which the Lord Jesus Christ is central and supreme. Parents will be encouraged in their walk with Christ so that they will be further equipped to raise children who live out the character, truth and compassion of Christ in their unique, God-given life purposes.

1.3 Vision. Although SEICHE is an acronym for Southeast Indiana Christian Home Educators, it is also an actual word (pronounced sashe – with a long “a” in the middle and a silent “e” at the end), and it refers to the ripple effect that occurs in a land-locked body of water. The vision for SEICHE is to have a ripple in the towns and rural areas of Southeastern Indiana, by helping to build strong families that shine the light of Christ in our neighborhoods, communities and world.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

SEICHE is organized for the purpose of providing service and support to Christian home educating families in the Southeastern Indiana area. This may include, but is not limited to, the following:

2.1 Maintaining a website that will contain both essential and helpful information relative to homeschooling in our area for all home educating families on the general pages, as well as a place for communicating, networking and planning among SEICHE members on password protected pages.

2.2 Providing various activities and events for the SEICHE member families.

2.3 Sponsoring occasional events for the whole home education community.

2.4 Offering educational classes in a co-op style format with all parents contributing to its operation.

ARTICLE III

Statement of Faith

3.1 We believe that there is one God, who is the creator of the heavens and the earth and everything in them, and who is eternally existent in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, Acts 17:24-1, Corinthians 8:6, Colossians 2:9-10, John 4:24)

3.2 We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension and in His personal return in power and glory. (Isaiah 7:14 Matthew 1:24-25, John 1:1-3, John 1:1, Colossians 1:15-18, Colossians 2:6-10)

3.3 We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person proceeding from the Father and Son, and is therefore eternal, and of the same essence, majesty, and glory with the Father and Son. We believe therefore that the Holy Spirit is truly God. (1Corinthians 2:12, 2 Corinthians 3:17)

3.4 We believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed. (Psalm 19:7, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Deuteronomy 4:2, Matthew 5:17-1, John 17:17, Hebrews 4:12, Galatians 1:8)

3.5 We believe all have sinned and that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:21-24, Ephesians 2:8-10, Acts 4:12)

3.6 We believe that Christ was the spotless lamb, whose blood, shed at Calvary on the cross, paid the penalty for our sins.(Romans 5:, Ephesians 1:7-8, Colossians 1:19-20, 1 John 2:2)

3.7 Through His bodily resurrection, we believe that Jesus overcame death and can give believers new life and power over sin. (Luke 24:39, 1 Peter 1:3-4, 1Corinthians 15:3-6)

3.8 We believe in that "Blessed Hope", the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, for his redeemed ones. (John 14:3, Acts 1:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

3.9 We believe in the Church, which is the Body of Christ, and consists of all believers in this present age. (Ephesians 1:22-2, Corinthians 12:12-13)

3.10 We believe in the existence of the devil, who is the enemy of God and His people, and is working in the world to destroy the souls of men. (1 Peter 5:8-9)

3.11 We believe that every Christian should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon Christ and His church, avoiding sinful practices and striving to live a holy life. (Ephesians 4:22-2, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Romans 12:2, 2 Timothy 2:1, 2 Peter 1:3-4)

3.12 We believe it is our obligation as believers to witness by life and word to the truths of the Gospel and proclaim these to all mankind. (Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 10:14)

3.13 We believe God, in His word, has given parents the responsibility and authority to educate their children in a godly manner. (Proverbs 22:6, Deuteronomy 6: 5-9)

3.14 We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, that, with rare exception, has a set of sex chromosomes that is either xy (male) or xx (female). These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. (Genesis 1:26-27)

3.15 We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning, the uniting of one man and one woman in a single exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. (Genesis 2:18-25, 1 Corinthians 6:18, 1 Corinthians 7:2-5, Hebrews 13:4)

3.16 We believe that any form of sexual immorality is sinful and offensive to God, but that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeing His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Matthew 15:18-20, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Acts 3:19-20, Romans 10:9-10, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

3.17 We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accordance with Scripture nor the Statement of Faith of SEICHE. (Mark 12:28-31, Luke 6:31)

3.18 We believe that to preserve the function and integrity of SEICHE as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the SEICHE members and the community, it is imperative that all persons who work,

serve as volunteers or participate in a SEICHE–sponsored activity (whether it is the SEICHE Co–op, or an activity for the SEICHE support group), abide by this Statement of Faith, as well as other policies established by SEICHE. If there is behavior that falls outside of the Statement of Faith or other policies, the SEICHE Board reserves the right to deny or terminate membership in the organization, as indicated in the membership section of the SEICHE Bylaws (Article 4.2). (Matthew 5:16, Philippians 2:14–16, 1 Thessalonians 5:22)

ARTICLE IV

Joining and participating in SEICHE

4.1 Agreement. Joining SEICHE requires a good faith pledge on the part of parents that: (1) they are involved in a home education program that complies with state regulations; (2) they agree with the Statement of Faith; (3) they agree to abide by the policies published by the Board of Directors of SEICHE; (4) they are not participating in a state sponsored educational alternative such as charter school, which is considered a public school by the state and does not fit the definition of a private school/home school.

4.2 Composition. This organization will be made up of families who have met the joining requirements of filling out an application, indicating agreement with the Statement of Faith, and paying annual dues (unless the dues are waived for a family by board members, due to economic hardship.) Failure to meet requirements constitutes grounds for denying or terminating participation in the organization. Participation in the organization begins upon meeting joining requirements and remains through the end of the fiscal/school year. Families who join SEICHE are non–voting participants.

4.3 Directory. A confidential list of participating families is prepared for these families only as a personal resource, on the website. Any other use (sales calls or referrals) of this directory is a serious concern and is cause for expulsion from the support group.

4.4 Participation. SEICHE welcomes the participation of families in helping to achieve the group’s mission, vision and purpose. Every participating family is encouraged to contribute toward this end, as God provides the Body with many gifts and talents. Parents may help by planning activities,

hosting field trips, coordinating event ticket purchasing, etc. and should contact board members with ideas and plans. SEICHE families should also participate in the process of educating public officials and others in the community regarding home education.

4.5 HSLDA Account Number. SEICHE will have a group discount number from Homeschool Legal Defense Association as long as there are fifteen SEICHE families who are also members of HSLDA. The number can be found on the SEICHE website.

ARTICLE V

Governing Powers, Board of Directors, Executive Committee

5.1 General Powers. The affairs of SEICHE shall be under the policy direction and implementation of a Board of Directors, known as the SEICHE Board, and the Executive Committee of the Board.

5.2 Board and Executive Committee Selection. The SEICHE Board shall consist of couples, who have joined SEICHE, and are appointed to board positions by the Executive Committee. Any board member may present new board member candidates. (These will generally be couples, but individual candidates will be considered.) The Board will review potential new member qualifications. New Board members will be approved by a simple majority vote of the board. The Board is responsible for the approval of new members of the Executive Committee, who must have been serving on the Board for at least 1 year previously, should agree to the nomination, may be nominated by any Board Member and must be elected by a majority vote of the Board.

5.3 Resignation and Removal. Board members may vacate their position by resignation; they may also be removed from office by the majority vote of the other Board members for reason of moral failure (that which violates biblical standards as agreed upon by the board), action unbecoming of a Christian home educator, or belief or action not in accordance with the Statement of Faith. Executive Committee members can only be removed for these causes upon the unanimous agreement of the other Executive Committee members and the removal must be validated by a majority vote of the other Board members.

5.4 Vacancies. A vacancy in the Board because of death, resignation, or removal shall be filled by the process described in 5.2.

5.5 Board and Executive Committee Decisions. All Board decisions shall be made by a majority vote. Voting shall be limited to indicating an agreement or disagreement with the position recommended by the Executive Committee. Voting may be recorded by telephone, electronically, on paper,

or in person and shall be recorded by the Board Secretary, or a Board Member assigned to this task. For the purpose of an orderly voting process, the Executive Committee will determine the means and times of voting. Each board member family may have one vote on a decision and can assign a proxy to submit their vote if they are absent from a meeting during which voting occurs. In order for a legitimate vote to occur, a quorum, consisting of a majority of board members, must be present, or if not present, must have an assigned proxy.

5.6 Compensation. Members of the Board shall serve voluntarily and not receive any salary or financial compensation for services.

5.7 Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet as often as deemed necessary by majority vote of the Committee. Board business will occur via direct contact, phone, text or internet. Meetings of the Board shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee but may be suggested by other board members. During Board meetings, minutes will be taken as needed.

Agendas may be informal, but decisions needing formal process shall follow guidelines of Robert's Rules for Parliamentary Procedure.

ARTICLE VI

Board Positions

SEICHE Board Positions will generally be filled by couples and will include, but not be limited to, the following,

6.1 Executive Committee. Will consists of at least 2 board member couples who are responsible for the oversight of the functions of the Board Members and for working towards the fulfillment of the SEICHE mission and vision.

6.2 President. A member (couple or individual) of the Executive Committee will serve as president and will convene and preside over meetings of the Board, or will arrange for another Executive Committee member to preside at each meeting.

6.3 Secretary. A member of the board (couple or individual) shall serve as secretary, and will be responsible for keeping records of Board actions and important SEICHE documents, including overseeing the following: taking of minutes at all board meetings, sending out meeting announcements, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to each Board member, and assuring that corporate records are maintained.

6.4 New Member Contact Leader. Board member individuals or couples who are responsible for contacting families interested in becoming new

participants of SEICHE, giving them information about SEICHE, and joining requirements, and answering questions about home education as able.

6.5 Treasurer. Board member individual or couple who is responsible for the oversight of the SEICHE bank account and finances, who will give an annual financial report to the board and will complete the necessary reporting to the IRS.

6.6 Activity Coordinator. Board member individual or couple who is responsible for organizing main social activities of SEICHE as determined by the couple in conjunction with the board. Also they will help SEICHE member families to coordinate activities for SEICHE when help is requested.

6.7 Members at Large. Board member individual or couple(s) who will represent SEICHE member interests on the Board.

ARTICLE VII

Finances

7.1 Dues. SEICHE Participant dues will be collected at the beginning of each SEICHE fiscal year. The amount of the dues shall be set by the Board. Dues will go up by \$5. if not paid by September 30th.

7.2 Fiscal Year. The term of participation and fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30.

7.3 Bank Account. A SEICHE checking account shall be kept a a local bank. At least 2 Board members, including an Executive Committee member, and the Treasurer, should have access to all bank records at all times.

7.4 Financial Report. The treasurer shall give a financial report, including income and expenditures, and account balance, at the end of the fiscal year.

7.5 SEICHE Assets. All assets of the organization are the property of SEICHE and shall be distributed as the board directs to fulfill the organization's mission.

7.6 Expenditures. All expenditures of the organization shall be approved by the board, either prior to, or in arrears, of the expenditure. Board expenditures over \$100 require the approval of 2 board members prior to the expenditure.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

8.1 These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Board, provided notice of the proposed amendment is submitted in writing to the Board for consideration, at least 2 weeks prior to voting on the proposal. Electronic distribution of the proposed amendment and electronic voting are allowed.

8.2 Board members may propose to amend these bylaws by providing a notice of the proposed change to any member of the Executive Committee for the purpose of counsel. The Executive Committee shall provide a recommendation for or against the proposal along with the two week notice provided to the Board.

ARTICLE IX

Dissolution

9.1 Upon the recommendation of a Board Member and a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee, this organization may be dissolved and all activities ceased.

9.2 After payment of all bills and proper claims, upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. The Executive Committee will seek to transfer the assets to a 501(c) (3) organization with purposes similar to those of SEICHE.