

SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA HOME EDUCATORS

Operating Bylaws

Introduction

God’s Holy Word, the Bible, tells us to “let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.” (I Corinthians 14:40) To best accomplish the tasks of this organization, these bylaws are being written to clarify the purpose and structure of the Southwestern Indiana Home Educators (SWIHE). With the establishment of these bylaws, SWIHE seeks to confirm its original intent to represent home education from a distinctly Christian perspective. SWIHE acknowledges that many homeschooling families are not Christians, but agrees that all homeschoolers share a common bond in the education of our children in our homes. Because SWIHE believes that the Lordship of Jesus Christ affects all areas of our lives - including the education of our children - all SWIHE events and functions are to be built on the foundation of Jesus Christ and the Word of God as found in the Holy Bible. This in no way excludes any families from attending SWIHE events, nor discourages them from organizing events, groups, and other functions outside the oversight of SWIHE. SWIHE seeks to be a Godly encouragement to all homeschoolers living in southwestern Indiana and its tri-state area hereinafter referred to as Southwestern Indiana.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be “Southwestern Indiana Home Educators”, also known as and referred in this document as “SWIHE”.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- to promote the God-given responsibility of parents to “train up [their children] in the way [they] should go” (Proverbs 22:6)
- to provide encouragement to area homeschoolers through educational opportunities, such as monthly fellowship coffees, printed literature, publication of a regional newsletter, etc.
- to provide resource packets for prospective/new homeschool families
- to conduct an annual “Homeschool Information Day”
- to sponsor an annual regional convention for the benefit and advancement of home education

The organization is not limited to performing only these functions. Any additional needs and activities as the organization shall deem necessary may be included for accomplishing the organization’s overall purpose.

Article III – Statement of Faith

SWIHE desires to encourage and support home educating families through traditional Christian values. The organization desires to be faithful in honoring and glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, authoritative, and inerrant Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1, 10:30, 37-38)

We believe in the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We believe in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His imminent personal return in power and glory. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35; Hebrews 4:15, 7:25, 9:12, 12:2; John 2:11, 11:25; Colossians 1:14; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16)

We believe that man is sinful by nature and that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is an absolute necessity for man's salvation, which is initiated and accomplished by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone.

(Romans 3:19, 23; John 3:16, 5:24; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6)

We believe in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.

(Ephesians 5:18, 4:30; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20)

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved unto eternal life, and those who are lost unto eternal damnation. (John 3:16, 5:28-29)

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-28)

We believe in the special creation of man, and all things, by the hand of God.

(Genesis 1:1, 226-68, 5:1-2; John 1:3)

Article IV – Membership

Membership to Southwestern Indiana Home Educators is open to all homeschoolers living in southwestern Indiana as well as its tri-state area.

Article V – Board of Directors

Section 1: Governing Body

- SWIHE is governed by a Board of Directors (also known as a Steering Committee) comprised of six (6) married couples. No more than one couple living outside of Southwestern Indiana.
- The editor (including spouse) of the SWIHE newsletter shall at least serve as an ex-officio couple of the governing body. The editor (including spouse) may serve as an approved Board member, if desired and meeting the requirements for membership.
- The regional (southwestern Indiana) representatives from the Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) shall at least serve as an ex-officio couple of the governing body. The IAHE representatives may serve as an approved Board member, if desired and meeting the requirements for membership.

Section 2: Requirements

- Membership on the Steering Committee is limited to married couples, husband and wife, who profess saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, give evidence of spiritual regeneration, and accept (by signing) the organization's statement of faith.
- Married couples on the Steering Committee must currently homeschool at least one child (grades 1-12) and must have completed at least one year of homeschooling. Married couples who have experience in home education, but whose children have already graduated, may also serve on the Steering Committee. Married couples without one year of homeschooling experience in grades 1-12 may not serve on the Steering Committee.
- Steering Committee members must currently reside in southwestern Indiana or its tri-state area.

Section 3: Application

- Couples who desire to serve on the SWIHE Steering Committee must complete a written application, as provided by the Steering Committee. Said application must be reviewed and approved by the current Steering Committee before applicants can be a member of the Board of Directors.
- All new applications are subject to board approval, and must be approved by a unanimous vote of all board members at the board's January meeting, in the year serving.
(Absentee voting is acceptable for this purpose.)

Section 4: Terms

- The term of board members (couples) shall be three years, with one-third (1/3) of the couples being appointed each year. Terms shall commence with

the beginning of the fiscal year. All couples on the Steering Committee shall serve a limit of two successive terms, but may serve subsequent terms after an absence of one (1) year.

- Members that are selected to serve an unexpired term obtained through a vacancy shall be considered as serving a complete term.
- The initial Steering Committee (operating under these guidelines) shall elect two members (couples) for a term of one year, two members (couples) for a term of two years, and two members (couples) for a term of three years, with the commencement of each term to be effective April 1, 2001.

Section 5: Vacancies

- Vacancies in the Board of Directors caused by death, resignation, or termination of a member shall be filled by election of a qualified person to serve the unexpired term of the member leaving the vacancy. Election of the replacement shall be by a unanimous decision of the current Board of Directors.

Section 6: Termination

- In the event that a board member acts in a manner that proves harmful to SWIHE, termination of said member(s) may be made by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of a quorum. Absentee voting is acceptable for this purpose.

Article VI – Executive Committee

Section 1: Officers

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall consist of married couples acting as President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2: Selection and Term of Service

The Executive Committee shall be selected by approval of the Board of Directors and shall serve on the Executive Committee for one fiscal year. Repeated terms of service are acceptable, as determined by the Board of Directors. Officers shall be selected at the board's April meeting.

Section 3: President

The President shall have general supervision and direction of the affairs and management of the Steering Committee, subject to the authority of SWIHE. The President shall preside at all meetings and perform such other duties as are customarily performed by this office, or determined proper by the Steering Committee. The President shall appoint all committee assignments, call meetings, establish the meeting agenda, and oversee delegation of any subcommittees. The President shall also distribute copies of the application, statement of faith, and bylaws to prospective board members, as recommended by the Board.

Section 4: Secretary

The Secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, and maintain record of those minutes in an established book. The Secretary shall provide copies of meeting minutes to all board members within two (2) weeks after the meeting. The Secretary shall ensure that notice is given for meetings of the Board of Directors, make any necessary reports, and maintain correspondence as directed by the board. The Secretary shall also maintain records of board member applications and signed statements of faith. The Secretary shall perform all of the duties incident to the office of Secretary and may perform any other duties, as the Steering Committee may deem necessary.

Section 5: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have custody of all monies and securities of SWIHE and shall keep regular books of accounts. The Treasurer shall make financial reports at each meeting of the Board of Directors, receive and give receipt of monies due and payable to the organization, and deposit all monies in the name of the organization in a bank as selected by the Steering Committee. The Treasurer shall perform all of the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and may perform any other duties, as the Steering Committee may deem necessary.

Article VII – Meetings

The Board of Directors of SWIHE shall meet at least four (4) times per year, in the months of January, April, July, and October. The calendar year of meetings and activities shall be established at the April meeting. The President may call special meetings as necessary. Notice of any special meetings shall be given to all board members at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.

Article VIII – Fiscal Matters

Section 1: Fiscal Calendar

The fiscal year of SWIHE shall be April 1-March 31.

Section 2: Funds

All monies of SWIHE shall be deposited in the name of “Southwestern Indiana Home Educators” into non-interest bearing account at a bank selected by the Board of Directors. The account shall be subject to withdrawal only on the signature of the duly appointed Treasurer, or other board member as designated by the majority of the board members.

Section 3: Compensation

Members of the Board of Directors may receive compensation for their services and may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the maintenance of their duties. Persons who serve as members of SWIHE and render service to the organization in some capacity, other than as a member of the Board of Directors, may be compensated for their services when approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Dissolution

In the event that this organization should be dissolved for any reason, then all monies and assets of the organization shall be transferred to the Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) and designated specifically for use in the region which represents southwestern Indiana.

Article IX – Subcommittees

Section 1: Appointments

The President shall appoint all committee chairpersons and members at the April meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Standing Committees

- A. Convention - The Convention committee shall consist of, but is not limited to, chairpersons overseeing the functions of coordinating vendors, advertising/publicity, workshops, set-up, registration & concessions, and main speaker.

- B. Information Day - The Information Day committee shall consist of, but is not limited to, chairpersons overseeing the functions of coordinating set-up, advertising/publicity, refreshments, panel of speakers, and used book sale (if deemed necessary.)

Section 3: Special Committees

The President shall appoint other committees as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

Article X – Quorum

A quorum shall consist of four representative couples (husband and/or wife) present for the transaction of any business at all meetings.

Article XI – Rules of Order

“Robert’s Rules of Order”, revised edition, shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and do not conflict with or prove inconsistent with the mission statement, purpose, or operating bylaws of SWIHE.

Article XII – Amendments

These operating bylaws of SWIHE may be altered, amended, or repealed by an affirmative vote of five (5) representative couples (husband and/or wife) of the six couples on the Board of Directors.

These operating bylaws are hereby accepted for use by the Southwestern Indiana Home Educators, and have been adopted on the ___ day of _____, 200__, as witnessed by:
