

Bylaws of the Baldwin Christian Home Educators Association

Article I—Name

The name shall be the Baldwin Christian Home Educators' Association (henceforth referred to as BCHEA).

Article II—Purpose

BCHEA, a nonprofit, volunteer-based, organization, exists to provide support and communication to families in the Baldwin County, Alabama area who choose to educate their children at home. BCHEA operates from a decidedly Christian worldview and will represent the home school community in a manner that consistently and forthrightly honors Jesus Christ.

Article III—Statement of Faith

Section 1—Preface

While there are truths other than these which are taught in the Bible (and all Scripture is equally important), this brief statement of faith delineates truths which we believe essential for Christian fellowship.

Section 2—Statement Points

A. The Bible alone is the inspired and infallible Word of God and constitutes completed and final revelation. The Bible, in its original autograph, is without error in whole or in part, including theological concepts as well as geographical and historical details. (II Tim 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21)

B. God alone is self-existent and has existed from all eternity in three eternal and co-equal persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was God, come in human flesh, being fully God and fully man except without sin. (Gen 1:1; John 1:1; John 10:30, 37-38)

C. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and everything that God created was good. Yet his perfect creation was marred by sin. Through Adam's sin, death and decay entered into this world. (Gen. 1:1, 31; Gen. 2:16-17; Gen. 3:6-10, 23; Rom. 8:20-21; Rom 5:12)

D. All men are in violation of God's righteous requirements and His Holy character both by nature and by act, and are therefore under His wrath and just condemnation. Yet because of God's infinite love and mercy, He sent His Son to bear the penalty of our sins. The central purpose of the coming of Jesus Christ was to atone for sins through His substitutionary death on the cross - the successful accomplishment of which was attested to by His subsequent visible bodily resurrection. (Rom. 3:19; Rom 5:6-8; Eph. 2:1, 4-

5; II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:25-26; 1 Cor 15:3-6)

E. Salvation is offered as a gift free to the sinner. This gift must be responded to individually in faith, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, but in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone. (Rom. 6:23; John 3:16; Eph.2:8-9; Rom. 3:21-24; Rom. 10:9)

Article IV—Tenets

Section 1 We believe that every family has the God-given mandate and responsibility for the education of their children (whether they choose to educate their children at home or in a classroom) and should have these rights protected by law, regardless of their philosophy of education or religious affiliation.

Section 2 Trusting to the working of the Holy Spirit in all believers, we believe that all home school families are completely autonomous in their activities and are not responsible to BCHEA for their organization or management. In addition, BCHEA provides no legal oversight of any family's home education program.

Article V—Members

Section 1—Agreement

BCHEA shall be open to home schooling families who respect this organization's Statement of Faith (Article III of these Bylaws) and who agree to abide by these Bylaws and the Standards of Conduct.

Section 2—Ineligibility

BCHEA reserves the right to deny or terminate membership for cause not in agreement with the purpose of the association or irresolvable breaches of the Standards of Conduct.

Section 3—Dues

Membership dues will be exacted per family, and will be determined each year by the executive leadership. Dues will be used primarily to support BCHEA activities, the website, and other necessary expenses as determined by the executive leadership.

Section 4—Educational Excellence

As similarly stated in Article IV of these bylaws, it is neither the intent nor purpose of this association to monitor the educational pursuit of any member family. However, all members **MUST** be committed to pursuing educational excellence in their children through a curriculum of their choice, whether purchased or self-compiled and be in compliance with current Alabama laws regarding home education.

Section 5—Character

Member families should exemplify godly character before their families and community.

Section 6—Privacy

Members must not distribute any member names, addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and other personal information out of respect for the privacy of member families.

Section 7—Meeting Attendance

BCHEA meetings and functions are exclusively for members and those interested in becoming members, unless the executive leadership announces in advance that the meeting is open to others for purposes of outreach or information.

Section 8—Member in Good Standing

A member in good standing is a member whose dues are paid, current year application is on file, and is in agreement and adhering to the Bylaws and Standards of Conduct.

Article VI—Meetings

Section 1—Scheduling and Type

At least one business meeting of the general membership shall be scheduled in the latter half of the school year. An informational, welcome, and business meeting shall be scheduled in late summer for the purpose of new member orientation and general information for the upcoming school year. In addition, at least one annual executive meeting attended by board members and officers shall be scheduled by existing leadership.

Any number of additional officer, board, general membership, and/or committee meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the leadership.

Section 2—Procedures

Generally accepted parliamentary procedures as established by Roberts Rules of Order shall govern procedures at leadership, board and the formal business portion of member meetings.

Section 3—Quorum

Members in good standing attending a regular member meeting constitute a quorum. All votes of the members for electing officers and transacting other business matters, except changes or amendments to these Bylaws (see Article IX), shall require a simple majority of the quorum to pass.

Section 4--Voting Members

Each member family will be allowed one vote for each adult parent or guardian in the family, not to exceed two votes per family.

Section C--Proxies

Proxies shall not be allowed for any votes.

Article VII—Leadership

Section 1—preface

Leadership shall consist of 1) a Board of Directors and 2) a group of operating officers. These groups taken together may throughout these bylaws be referred to as executive administration or leadership. Other leadership consists of various committees established herein or from time to time by officers.

Section2—Board of Directors

- A. The Board shall oversee the general direction and scope of the association, acting primarily in an advisory capacity.
- B. The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than four (4) or more than six (6) members, as changed from time to time by the Board. If Directors are husband and wife, they shall count as one vote and one member.
- C. Directors shall be chosen from the pool of past BCHEA officers or their spouses and shall be required to sign the Statement of Faith presented in Article III of these bylaws.
- D. The term of each Director shall be three (3) years or until a successor Director has been elected or until his earlier resignation, death or removal.
- E. The election of Directors for positions which terms have expired or will expire shall occur at the annual executive meeting of the Board of Directors and Officers or otherwise specially scheduled executive meeting, by unanimous vote of the existing executive administration for each position to be filled. Directors shall be eligible for reelection without limitation on the number of terms served.
- F. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, the presence of two-thirds (2/3) of the authorized number of Directors, but in any event not less than three (3) Directors, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except in the event termination of a Director becomes necessary, in which case agreement of three-fourths (3/4) of the remaining executive administration shall be required. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the Directors present at any meeting may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is obtained.

Section 3—Officers

a. Scope of Officers

The officers of BCHEA shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary/ Web Administrator, and Treasurer. Other offices may be added or these modified from time to time as seen fit by the Board and/or existing Officers. The term of each office shall be two years. The responsibilities of each office may be fulfilled by either spouse of a married couple in any shared capacity deemed useful and appropriate by the husband/wife so long as both parties meet all requirements of the individual office as set forth below.

b. Eligibility Requirements:

- Must—at the beginning of their term—have homeschooled their children for at least the previous three (3) years, and for the most recent two (2) of those years been members in good standing of BCHEA.
- Must provide a signed copy of the Statement of Faith as presented in Article III of these bylaws
- Must reside in Baldwin County, Alabama

c. Election: BCHEA officer openings shall be filled voluntarily. Officer Candidates may be nominated and approved by the existing Officers. In the case of two volunteers desiring the same office, approved nominations shall be voted on by a majority quorum of the general membership at a regularly scheduled meeting of said membership. Uncontested nominees will be presented for verbal confirmation at the first general meeting of the school year.

d. Duties of President:

- Shall, in general, supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the association, including coordination, planning and presiding over all general, officer and executive or leadership meetings.
- If an immediate decision must be made, the responsibility lies with the President.
- Work closely with various committees.
- Represent the association at public and media events.
- Authorize expenditures.
- Faithfully attend, to the best of his or her ability, as many BCHEA meetings, functions and events as appropriate for an officer.

e. Duties of Vice President:

- Help the president organize and plan meetings as needed.
- Serve as good-will ambassador for prospective members and lead welcome efforts for new members.
- Serve as chairperson of the parent panel committee.
- Take over President's duties in his or her absence.
- Faithfully attend, to the best of his or her ability, as many BCHEA meetings, functions and events as appropriate for an officer.

f. Duties of Secretary/Web Administrator:

- Prepare any written correspondence on behalf of the association as may be needed from time to time.
- Serve as primary administrator of the website which duties include, but are not limited to: updates and deletions to calendar, periodic electronic newsletters and general maintenance of the site, oversee and direct administrative rights of other members, as may be granted from time to time by the leadership.
- Keep any documents necessary to the organization and record minutes of meetings when required.
- Faithfully attend, to the best of his or her ability, as many BCHEA meetings, functions and events as appropriate for an officer.

g. Duties of Treasurer:

- Collect and deposit dues, maintain website access for members, maintain bank account, mail box, and sign and disburse checks as directed and approved by president.
- Faithfully attend, to the best of his or her ability, as many BCHEA meetings, functions and events as appropriate for an officer.

Section 4—Committees

To facilitate planning and succeed in meeting the wide-ranging needs of members with various-aged children the following committees shall be maintained and utilized. This list is not all-inclusive and various other committees may be formed by the Officers and/or Board as needed. Unless otherwise specified herein, all committee members must meet the general requirements listed below and all terms are for one year.

a. General eligibility Requirements

- Must—at the beginning of their term—have homeschooled their children for at least one(1) year, and be a member in good standing of BCHEA.
- Must provide a signed copy of the Statement of Faith as presented in Article III of these bylaws
- Must reside in Baldwin County, Alabama

b. Parent Panel Committee

- Consists of seven (7) committee members (married couples count as one member) where two (2) members represent student grades pre-K through fourth, two (2) members represent student grades fifth through eighth, and two (2) members represent student grades ninth through twelfth. The vice-president of BCHEA serves as the seventh member and Chair of this committee.
- The first six members are volunteers unanimously approved by the officers.
- The parent panel shall meet with officers near the beginning of the school year to help plan and coordinate age-appropriate activities consistent with our purpose and mission for the various grade levels.
- One member from each of the three groups shall be granted limited administration rights on the website in order to maintain the calendar and announcements for his or her group. These administrators will work closely with the BCHEA Web Administrator in using the website.
- The panel may meet periodically during the school year as they see fit to update and report on activities and plans.

c. Graduation Committee:

- Each year the BCHEA Commencement Exercises consistently draw the largest non-member audience of any of our association's activities. Consequently, every effort should be made to continue to present a ceremony not only worthy of the graduates and their parent's achievement, but one consistent with the purpose and mission of BCHEA. A committee consisting of parents of graduates shall be formed in August of the new school year. A chairperson meeting the eligibility requirements shall volunteer or be chosen from the group of parents and unanimously approved by the officers.

- Special general eligibility requirements for graduation committee members are as follows:
 - Must—at the beginning of their term—have homeschooled their children for at least one(1) year, and be a member in good standing of BCHEA. Must reside in Baldwin County, Alabama
 - Must declare their intent to participate in the graduation ceremony at the beginning of the school year and comply with all policies and procedures as detailed in a separate document to be presented to all committee members.
 - Exceptions for county residency and for persons joining our group mid-year may be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis by the leadership.
- Specific eligibility requirements for the Chairperson of the graduation committee include all of those listed above. In addition, without exception, the Chairperson:
 - Must—at the beginning of their term—have homeschooled their graduate for at least the previous three (3) years, and for the most recent two (2) of those years been members in good standing of BCHEA.
 - Must provide a signed copy of the Statement of Faith as presented in Article III of these bylaws
- All other Graduation Committee guidelines are detailed in the separate Policy and Procedure document created and amended from time to time as deemed necessary by the graduation committee and approved by the executive leadership.

Article VIII—Conflict Resolution

As a Christian organization, BCHEA believes in a Biblical approach to resolving conflict. We will use the Peacemaker’s Pledge as a guideline to resolving any conflict that may arise within our group. The Peacemaker’s Pledge is copyrighted material and may be accessed by visiting <http://www.hispeace.org/html/pledge.htm>.

Article IX –Amendments to Bylaws

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members in good standing present at any meeting open to all membership and having been announced with the purpose and details in writing at least twenty-one (21) days in advance to all current members in good standing.