

BYLAWS OF CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Article I: NAME AND LOCATION

The name of the non-profit organization is Christian Home Educators Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as C.H.E.A. The principal and registered office of C.H.E.A. shall be located at P.O. Box 4715, Ocala, FL 34484-4715. Meetings of the Board of Directors and/or Steering Committee may be held at designated locations. In the future, the principal office of C.H.E.A. shall be at such a place as may be designated by the Board of Directors.

Article II: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of C.H.E.A. shall be to further the interests of home education of children by their parents in the areas of spiritual, academic, and character development, and to strengthen the family unit. This shall be done by all lawful means, including, but not limited to mutual support, encouragement and fellowship for homeschooling parents, positive fellowship for our homeschooled children, exchange of ideas, resources, and information important to homeschooling, organizing activities such as field trips, parties, co-ops, classes, seminars, clubs, and disseminating legislative and other information affecting the rights of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children.

Article III: STATEMENT OF FAITH

Our Statement of Faith includes only those truths upon which all true Christians agree. There are many truths taught in the Bible over which godly men have differed in understanding. Therefore, this is not a statement of all that is important to believe, but of all that is essential to believe for Christian fellowship and unity.

We believe:

1. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the only inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.

2. In one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. That Jesus Christ is true God and true Man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, and was sacrificed for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into Heaven, where at the right hand of God the Father, He now is our High Priest and Advocate.
4. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
6. That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God.

Article IV: MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be available to those families, regardless of race or nationalities, who: agree with C.H.E.A.'s Purpose, C.H.E.A.'s Statement of Faith, are in compliance with the Home Education Programs F.S. 1002.41, are willing to be committed and actively involved as defined by each subgroup, and pay annual dues as determined by the Board of Directors.

The purpose of these requirements is to keep C.H.E.A. like-minded, operating from a foundation of Biblical principles. Membership will be granted on the basis of a completed application approved by the Membership Liaison and/or the President.

All members will be required to sign a Statement of Agreement with: Support of the Purpose of C.H.E.A., Statement of Faith, compliance with the Home Education Programs of Florida, Code of Conduct, and Membership Agreement Form.

All non-Board members and non-Steering Committee members shall be designated as general members.

Article V: MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

Two annual meetings of the general membership of C.H.E.A. shall be held at a place and time to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may call special meetings. All members must be notified, in writing, electronically, or by phone, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Article VI: STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Steering Committee is made up of the Subgroup and Co-Op Leaders. The Steering Committee Chairperson shall be the Vice-President. Members of the Steering Committee shall be members in good standing of C.H.E.A.

The Steering Committee may not hold an officer's position with any other homeschool group/organization, co-op or the like, concurrently with their CHEA Steering Committee position. CHEA Steering Committee must also sign a confidentiality clause before beginning their term in office.

Subgroup Leaders or Co-Leaders, and the Co-Op Leaders shall be selected and appointed by the Board of Directors. An application will be required of all Subgroup Leaders, Co-Op Leaders and Co-Op Teachers, and Board Members annually.

Article VII: PURPOSE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee's purpose is to: approve or deny whether to send proposed bylaws changes to a vote of the General Membership. They shall also propose policy and procedures to the Board of Directors, determine fitness for office of Board of Directors Members, and to uplift and edify each other.

At least two annual meetings of the Steering Committee shall be held at a place and time to be determined by the Steering Committee Chairperson. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Chairperson. All Steering Committee members must be notified, in writing, electronically or by phone at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

A quorum of 50% of the Steering Committee is required for formal business to be conducted at the meeting. If a quorum is not present, formal business may be conducted via mail and/or email as determined by the Steering Committee Chairperson.

Article VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors shall consist of five officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Activities Coordinator.

The President and Vice President must be a current or former member of the Board of Directors having previously served a term of one year or greater. Other offices may be filled from the C.H.E.A. general membership.

An Officer shall be elected by a majority vote of the general membership by an online ballot or at an annual meeting. The term of office shall be one year.

CHEA Board of Directors may not hold an officer's position with any other homeschool group/organization, co-op or the like, concurrently with their CHEA Directors position. CHEA Board of Directors must also sign a confidentiality clause before beginning their term in office.

An Officer may be removed from office for just cause. The Board of Directors, by a majority vote, refers the action to the Steering Committee for a majority vote. A vacancy in office may be filled by appointment. The appointment is to be made by the President of the Board of Directors. If the vacancy is that of the office of President, then the Vice President shall become the President.

ARTICLE IX: BOARD OF DIRECTORS POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Directors shall exercise all powers, duties, and authority vested in this non-profit organization by the laws of the State of Florida and reserved hereby to the general membership.

The Board of Directors shall have the right to take any action in the absence of a meeting, by obtaining a majority vote of the Board of Directors. This vote shall be conducted via phone, mail, or email. Any action so approved shall have the same effect as though taken at a meeting.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to:

1. Keep a complete record of all its acts and affairs and to make a complete report to the membership upon request.
2. Oversee and supervise Subgroup leaders and other persons in positions of support in C.H.E.A. and see to it that their duties are performed properly.
3. Organize at least two annual meetings of the general membership.

4. Organize at least one annual election of the Board of Directors.
5. Promote memberships in C.H.E.A., collect dues, and maintain records of membership.
6. Keep all monies of C.H.E.A. in a proper account, and present a correct and complete financial report at each annual meeting or at any other time, upon request.
7. Disseminate information as needed to the membership of C.H.E.A.
8. To initiate all proposed Bylaws changes. Proposals are to be sent to the Steering Committee for action.
9. To ensure that a proper chain of communication and authority are maintained, the Board is responsible for the distribution of the official C.H.E.A. Organizational Chart.

Article X: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Members may voluntarily terminate membership in C.H.E.A. at any time. No monies shall be refunded to terminating members. In the event that a member family repeatedly violates the Code of Conduct Guidelines or any other C.H.E.A. guidelines, membership can be terminated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. This procedure is not to be entered into unadvisedly or without prayerful consideration.

Article XI: DIRECTOR AND OFFICER INDEMNIFICATION

C.H.E.A. shall indemnify any and all of its Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Subgroup Leaders, or former Officers, or any person who may have served at its request or by its election as a member or officer of the organization, against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defense or settlement of any action, suit, or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, by reason of being or having been members or officers of C.H.E.A., except in relation to matters as to which any such member or officer or former director or officer or person shall be adjudged in such action suit or proceeding to be liable for willful misconduct in their performance of duty and to such matters as shall be settled by agreement predicted on the existence of such liability.

The indemnification provided hereby shall not be deemed exclusive of any other right to which anyone seeking indemnification hereunder may be entitled under any Bylaw, agreement, or otherwise, both as to action in his/her official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office.

C.H.E.A. may purchase and maintain insurance on the behalf of any member, officer, agent, employee or former member or officer or other person, against any liability asserted against them and incurred by him to the extent that the organization would have the power to indemnify him against such liability under the provisions of this Article.

Article XII: DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of C.H.E.A., assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for public purpose.

Article XIII: PROFITS

In the event that C.H.E.A. has a positive balance at the end of the fiscal year it shall be returned to the treasury and used for the benefit of the whole membership.

Article XIV: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this organization's interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit private interest of an officer or director of the organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction.

This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflicts of interest application to nonprofit and charitable organizations. Please refer to C.H.E.A.'s separate conflict of interest policy.

Article XV: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

With the exception of Article III, which is irrevocable and not subject to amendment, these Bylaws shall be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors and a majority of the Steering Committee.

Article XVI: RATIFICATION OF ARTICLES OF BYLAWS

These Articles and Bylaws of Christian Home Educators Association will be ratified if accepted by a majority vote of the General Membership.