

CONSTITUTION

Article I: Association

PREVIOUS

The association shall be called the Texas Association of Journalism Educators and shall be a non-profit organization.

Article II: Association

PREVIOUS

The aims and objectives of the association shall be specifically educational, including for such purposes:

1. To establish a state organization of journalism educators in Texas.
2. To emphasize and teach responsible and ethical journalism and to be a catalyst for lessons in freedom of expression and democracy.
3. To impart an understanding of the development and purpose of journalism in our schools.
4. To provide its members with experiences and information to develop the qualities and attributes basic to successful teaching of journalism and directing of publications.
5. To provide information on new developments, trends, practices and standards in order to raise the quality of school publications.
6. To work with the Texas Education Agency and the State Board of Education to establish professional criteria for journalism education.

UPDATED

Unchanged. This article merely establishes the organization's legal name.

UPDATED

The missions and objectives of the association shall be specifically educational, including for such purposes as:

1. to establish and operate a state organization of journalism educators and supporters in Texas.
2. to emphasize and teach responsible and ethical journalism.
3. to impart an understanding of the development and purpose of journalism in our member schools.
4. to provide its members with experiences and information to develop the qualities and attributes basic to successful journalism education, student media advising and additional opportunities to learn journalism skills for the scholastic journalism community at large, including career and technical education.
5. to provide information on new developments, trends, practices and standards to raise the quality of school publications and to meet ever-changing industry standards.
6. to be a catalyst for lessons in freedom of expression and democracy.
7. to work with local, state and federal government agencies, journalism-supporting organizations and media professionals to establish professional criteria for journalism education including career and technical education initiatives and certifications.

Article III: Membership and Fees

PREVIOUS

SECTION 1

Membership in the association shall be of three types: active, associate and honorary/life.

SECTION 2

Any person currently teaching who desires to foster the interests of journalism and publications work in Texas schools is eligible for active membership in this association.

SECTION 3

Any friend of journalism is eligible for associate membership.

SECTION 4

TAJE may elect friends of TAJE and Texas scholastic journalism to honorary/life memberships in the organization.

SECTION 5

Any member may nominate candidates for life membership by contacting the Executive Committee. After recommendations from the Executive Committee, an individual may be extended a life membership by a simple majority vote of those in attendance at the organization's meeting at the TAJE convention or at the Interscholastic League Press Conference. Those nominated will be recognized at the next TAJE meeting.

SECTION 6

All members regardless of category will receive mailings of the association.

SECTION 7

The organization's fiscal year will run from June 1 to May 31. A membership term will run from August 1 to July 31.

UPDATED

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Membership in the association shall include categories of:

- A. general membership for any person teaching or working for, or retired from a school serving K-12 students in Texas;
- B. lifetime membership,
 - a. for any person nominated by a current member for lifetime membership to the Executive Board and that are approved by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board,
 - i. to honor extraordinary service, dedication or accomplishment in relation the association's missions and goals,
 - b. for any recipient of the Texas Treasure award,
 - c. for any person who pays the Lifetime Membership fee, or
 - d. for any person who consecutively serves as President-Elect, President and Past President unless,
 - i. that person leaves the office before the end of their term; and
 - e. lifetime members may participate in association affairs at the same level as general members
- C. associate membership,
- D. for any person who seeks to support TAJE in its missions, and
- E. does not qualify for general membership.

SECTION 2: FISCAL & MEMBERSHIP YEARS

- A. The organization's fiscal year will run from Oct. 1 to Sept. 1.
- A. The membership term will run from June 1 to May 31.

Article IV: Officers

PREVIOUS

SECTION 1

This association shall have a president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, state director, past president, convention director(s) and executive director. All of the previously mentioned except past president, convention director(s) and executive director are elected officers.

SECTION 2

Only active members in good standing who are currently teaching and advising a school publication shall be eligible to be nominated for elective office. Regional Reps may be an exception to the teaching/advising requirement.

SECTION 3

A Nominating Committee will be appointed at the TAJE fall convention in even number years. Officers will be elected by mail ballot or through a secure online system approved by the Executive Committee. Ballots will be distributed to all TAJE members in February. The candidates receiving the most votes will be declared the winners within 48 hours of the close of the election.

UPDATED

SECTION 1: ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

This association shall have officers including President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer and JEA State Director.

SECTION 2: ORGANIZATION OFFICER ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for elected officer positions is:

- A. open to all general members, but
- B. not open for
 - a. associate memberships, and
 - b. a person whose primary employment is sales and services to schools or school employees.

SECTION 3: ELECTIONS

- A. In even-numbered years, any member qualified under Article IV, Section 2, may enter their candidacy for elected office through the official method administered by the Executive Board and/or Executive Director that year.
- B. Candidates should have until, at the latest, Jan. 31 to submit their official applications for elected office through the official application platform.
- C. Ballots will be distributed via the official voting platform chosen by the Executive Board no less than two times through official, direct communication methods over a one-week period.
- D. All general and lifetime members may vote for candidates during a seven-day period in February.

PREVIOUS

UPDATED

- E. Each candidate with a majority of votes will be determined to be the winner.
- F. In the event of a tie or lack of majority after the first ballot is sent out, and
 - a. there are more than two candidates, the candidate with the lowest vote total will be dropped from the ballot and a second ballot with the remaining candidates will be communicated to the same list of voting membership at least two times and remain open for no less than three days, but,
 - i. in the event that two candidates are tied with the lowest votes, the election should
 - 1. be held again using the same tiebreaker election method as above containing all candidates until an overall winner is determined or the tie can be broken, whichever comes first.
 - b. If there are only two candidates, a second ballot shall be created following the same process as Section 3(F)(1) until a winner is determined.
- G. Alternatively, the board may elect to use a ranked-choice voting system in elections with more than two candidates.

SECTION 4

Officers will serve two-year terms beginning June 1 following the spring election, except the president-elect who will serve a six-year term: two years as president-elect, two years as president and two years as past president.

SECTION 4: OFFICER TERMS

- A. All elected officers serve two-year terms beginning June 1.
- B. The President-Elect will serve three consecutive, two-year terms as: President-Elect for one term, President for one term, and Past President for one term.
- C. The Secretary and Treasurer will each serve one term.
- D. The JEA State Director will serve two consecutive terms.

PREVIOUS

(NO SIMILAR SECTION IN PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION)

UPDATED**SECTION 5: OFFICER VACANCIES**

- A. In the event that a Secretary, Treasurer or State Director no longer becomes eligible to serve in their position or chooses to step down, the President shall fill the vacancy through the end of the term with an officer-eligible member who is not already serving in an elected capacity.
- B. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the President-Elect will assume the office through the remainder of that term, and will continue in a full term as President.
 - a. A special election will be held within two months to determine a new President-Elect.
- C. If the office of Past President becomes vacant, the President shall appoint any currently eligible, formerly elected President to serve as Past President through the remainder of the term unless
 - a. no previous Presidents are available or willing to assume the role. If none are,
 - i. the President shall appoint a Past Board Member from formerly elected officers still currently eligible to serve from general or lifetime memberships, and
 - ii. if none are available or willing, the position will remain vacant through the end of the term.

Article V: Executive ~~Committee~~ Board

PREVIOUS

SECTION 1

The Executive Committee shall consist of the five elected officers and the past president, convention director, webmaster, contest director and executive director. The executive director, webmaster, convention director, contest director, ILPC director and ATPI executive director will serve as non-voting members.

SECTION 2

The Executive Committee shall meet or confer prior to the TAJE and ILPC conventions. Other meetings may be called as necessary.

UPDATED

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Executive Board shall consist of:

- A. voting members including all duly elected officers, including the Past President, or officers filling the remainder of a vacant office, and
- B. non-voting, advisory members including
 - a. any other person(s) holding association titles or employment, and
 - b. any member at the pleasure of the President.

SECTION 2: REQUIRED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

- A. The Executive Board shall meet at least four times per year including once in September or October, and once in April or May, which may both be held in conjunction with state journalism conventions.
- B. The Executive Board shall meet annually for a workshop to plan for the upcoming school year, which can include a summer retreat or similar event and may also count as one of the required Board meetings.
- C. The Executive Board meetings shall include written updates including:
 - a. a report from each of the six elected officers on their duties,
 - b. a financial report from the Treasurer,
 - c. a report on organizational operations, updates and announcements from the Executive Director,

- d. a report from all Representatives, Program and Initiative leaders, Liaisons and others as deemed necessary by any Executive Board member, and
- e. important upcoming dates and events relevant to membership.
- D. Agendas containing any potential discussions or votes shall be posted to the website and sent by the Secretary to the membership one week in advance of Executive Board meetings via typical communication methods including email.
- E. Minutes summarizing discussion points, vote results and changes shall be posted to the website and sent by the Secretary to the membership within one week of Executive Board meetings via typical communication methods including email.
- F. No discussion of agenda items nor votes on agenda items may take place at any official meeting without a quorum of voting Executive Board members present.
- G. A quorum shall be at least four of the six elected officers.

SECTION 3: ITEMS REQUIRING EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

- A. The Executive Director has broad authority to make decisions about association day-to-day operations, communications or promotional materials needs without requiring Executive Board approval unless the action
 - a. is otherwise stated in the Constitution or By-Laws,
 - b. requires signing contracts without prior Board authorization,
 - c. would result in significant and disruptive financial changes to the association's mission, objectives, programs or initiatives,

(NO SIMILAR SECTION IN PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION)

PREVIOUS

(NO SIMILAR SECTION IN PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION)

UPDATED

- d. deviates from the association’s stated missions and objectives, or
 - e. would result in a significant and substantial disruption to current operations for the Executive Board and/or the membership at large.
- B. Any action requiring Executive Board approval will require a simple majority of the voting Executive Board members outlined in Article V, Section 1 unless
- a. otherwise outlined in the Constitution or By-Laws.
- C. The Executive Board may authorize or provide guidance for any eligible action under Article V, Section 3(A) that the Executive Director requests without holding an Executive Board meeting, so long as
- a. a quorum of voting Executive Board members are actively involved in the discussion,
 - b. the need is timely and a lack of action would impede the mission of the organization, and
 - c. that action should be noted in the minutes in the next regular board meeting.
- D. All items under Article V, Section 3(A) (a-e) and (B) must be approved during Executive Board meetings unless meeting the criteria under (C).

Article VI: General Membership Meetings

PREVIOUS

Business meetings shall be held during the TAJE convention, the spring ILPC conference and other meetings called as necessary.

UPDATED

SECTION 1: MEETING REQUIREMENTS

- A. The Executive Board shall hold General Membership meetings twice per year — once in the fall and once in the spring.
- B. The General Membership meeting shall include a written update including:
 - a. a report from each of the six elected officers on their duties,
 - b. a financial report from the Treasurer,
 - c. a report on organizational operations, updates and announcements from the Executive Director,
 - d. a report from all Representatives, Programs and Initiatives leaders, Liaisons and others as deemed necessary by any Executive Board member, and
 - e. important upcoming dates and events relevant to journalism advisers in the state.
- C. The General Membership meeting shall include an opportunity for members to provide feedback to the board or ask questions about any of the following issues:
 - a. feedback on the organization,
 - b. issues in scholastic journalism education,
 - c. issues in the journalism or media industry at large,
 - d. any other issue deemed relevant by, or
 - e. any of the items in the written update.
- D. No discussion of agenda items nor votes on agenda items may take place at any official meeting without a quorum of voting Executive Board members present.
- E. A quorum shall be at least four of the six elected officers.

Article VII: Passage of Constitution

PREVIOUS

The constitution will become effective upon the approval of a simple majority of the members present at either of the meetings.

UPDATED

*Unchanged. NOTE: This section was merely in place to explain how the **original** constitution was passed at TAJE's founding. It does not affect any amendments as outlined in the following article.*

Article VIII: Amendments to the Constitution

PREVIOUS

SECTION 1: NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERS

Amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted in written form to the Executive Committee and will be published in the Association's newsletter and through appropriate electronic communication to all members and other interested parties.

UPDATED

SECTION 1: SUBMITTING AMENDMENTS

- A. Amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted by any member in writing to the Secretary within one week of an Executive Board meeting and will be published through electronic communication to all members in the meeting's Agenda.
- B. The Executive Board must approve the proposed amendment and any changes to the wording at any official Executive Board meeting before sending the changes to members.
- C. The Executive Board shall distribute ballots to general and lifetime members eligible to vote through an electronic ballot system, which shall remain open for one week.
- D. All amendments should be presented by Section rather than by Article.

PREVIOUS

SECTION 2: RATIFICATION

An amendment shall become effective upon approval of two-thirds of the members present at a TAJE business meeting or upon approval of two-thirds of the members returning ballots before a time specified. The by-laws may be amended at the organization's meeting at the TAJE or ILPC convention by a simple majority of members present.

(NO SIMILAR SECTION IN PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION)

UPDATED

SECTION 2: RATIFICATION

- A. All amendments to this Constitution must receive two-thirds approval of all voters to pass.
- B. The Constitution will be updated on the website within one week of the conclusion of the amendment's passage to reflect the changes, and all results, including vote totals, shall be sent to all members within the same timeframe.

SECTION 3: AMENDMENTS NOT REQUIRING APPROVAL

- A. Any amendment to the Constitution that corrects typographical errors, mistakes in continuity or inconsistency, or other corrections that make unsubstantive corrective or cosmetic changes do not require approval from the membership.
- B. All such corrections should be documented in the instance that any of these changes are called into question.

Article IX: Dissolution of Association

Under the dissolution of the association, the association shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the association, dispose of all the assets of the association in such manner, or to such organization organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section C(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), so the association shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as such court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

- A. Under the dissolution of the association, the association shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the association, dispose of all the assets of the association in such manner or to such organization organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section C(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), so the association shall determine.
- B. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as such court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

BY-LAWS

Article 1: **Elected** Officers and Duties

PREVIOUS

SECTION 1

The president shall prepare the programs and agendas for the meetings, arrange for meeting places, preside at the meetings and the annual convention, represent the organization in an official capacity when necessary, write a column for the website, appoint all committee chairpersons and approve disbursement of funds. During the two-year term (or during term as past-president, if unable to attend during term as president), the president will represent TAJE at one NSPA/JEA Conference. TAJE shall pay a portion of travel expenses.

UPDATED

SECTION 1: PRESIDENT

The President shall:

- A. oversee progress in all association programs, initiatives, committees and other activities as outlined by the Executive Board and/or the association's mission,
- B. send a list of items for update, discussion or vote to the Secretary for placement on all agendas,
- C. arrange all meeting locations,
- D. preside and maintain order over any association meetings as the Chair where a quorum is present,
- E. represent the association in official capacities when deemed appropriate by the Executive Board,
- F. appoint and approve all Committee chairs and Liaisons not already appointed elsewhere in the Constitution or Bylaws,
- G. appoint any other non-voting members of the Executive Board they deem necessary to fulfill the association's missions,
- H. approve disbursement of funds,
- I. communicate all formal and informal decisions in writing to the Executive Director, and
- J. attend the National High School Journalism Convention at least once during their term as President or twice if they assumed the role of President as a vacancy. TAJE will pay for a portion of the expenses.

PREVIOUS

SECTION 2

The president-elect shall become president if the office of president becomes vacant, represent the organization in the absence of the president, oversee committee chairpersons and serve as chair of the Nominating Committee.

SECTION 3

The secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the association and the Executive Committee and shall provide minutes to the Executive Committee and the general membership at conventions. Copies of the minutes should be delivered to all officers within two weeks of the meeting.

UPDATED

SECTION 2: PRESIDENT-ELECT

The President-Elect shall:

- A. represent the association in the absence of the President when the President would have otherwise represented the association,
- B. assume responsibilities of the President for Executive Board or General Membership meetings when the President is unable to,
- C. assist the President in fulfilling their duties as needed,
- D. communicate and organize responsibilities for Representatives,
- E. shadow the President to understand the duties they will assume at the conclusion of their current term, and
- F. assist the Executive Director in their efforts to organize all official elections at the Executive Director's direction, which may include but is not limited to attracting candidates, preparing amendment language, preparing ballots and communicating election-related information with members.

SECTION 3: SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

- A. prepare all agendas and minutes for Executive Board, General Membership and other called meetings that include a quorum of the association officers as established in the Constitution;
- B. collect, prepare and distribute all written reports and agendas required by the Constitution, By-Laws, or as needed by the Executive Director or member of the Executive Board, at least one week prior to all Executive Board meetings;
- C. communicate with the President and Executive Director to prepare meeting materials; and

- D. jointly oversee Scholarship Programs with the Treasurer, including assisting the Executive Director in their efforts to organize all scholarships at the Executive Director's direction, which may include but is not limited to attracting candidates and judges, communication with scholarship sponsors and donors, organizing efforts to attract new scholarship sponsors and donors and communicating scholarship-related information with members.

SECTION 4

The treasurer, with the executive director, will present financial statements and budget proposals to the Executive Committee and then to the membership at large. Copies of financial statements will be given to the Executive Committee and made available to the general membership present at the regularly scheduled meetings and at the registration headquarters at the conventions. The treasurer will act as the TAJE agent in securing an independent bookkeeper or accountant to audit the financial records as needed. The treasurer will work with the Scholarship Committee chairperson in obtaining and disbursing scholarship funds. The Executive Committee will review and approve financial records.

SECTION 4: TREASURER

The Treasurer shall:

- A. present financial statements at each of the four Executive Board meetings and two General Membership meetings,
- B. prepare a digital or paper copy of the financial statements to present to members at regularly scheduled meetings,
- C. act as the association's agent in securing an independent bookkeeper or accountant to audit the financial records as needed, which must include at least once every six years, and
- D. jointly oversee Scholarship Programs with the Secretary, including assisting the Executive Director in their efforts to organize all scholarships at the Executive Director's direction, which may include but is not limited to attracting candidates and judges, communication with scholarship sponsors and donors, organizing efforts to attract new scholarship sponsors and donors, and communicating scholarship-related information with members.

PREVIOUS

SECTION 5

The state director shall act as the TAJE's official liaison to JEA. The state director will attend one JEA convention a year and file a state report for each national convention according to JEA policy. The state director will write a column for the TAJE website updating the members of national concerns, interests and trends. The state director shall also conduct the Texas High School Journalist of the Year competition.

UPDATED

SECTION 5: STATE DIRECTOR

The State Director shall:

- A. act under the direction of the association as the official liaison to the Journalism Education Association,
- B. attend one National High School Journalism Convention per year, for which TAJE will pay a portion of the expense,
- C. file a state report for each national convention abiding by JEA policy,
- D. provide two "State of the State" messages in the fall and spring that updates members on national concerns, interests and trends, including those from JEA, that can be distributed in any normal means of association communication platforms, and
- E. conduct the Texas High School Journalist of the Year competition, including
 - a. presenting at least two informational sessions yearly either in-person at a convention, and/or digitally in a webinar, pre-recorded video, or video conference call open to all members and interested students, and
 - b. make a good-faith attempt, or designate a member of the Executive Board, to deliver and honor the award recipient in-person at their school as deemed fiscally and logistically responsible.

PREVIOUS**SECTION 6**

Past President shall advise the Executive Committee and serve as chair of the Awards Committee.

UPDATED**SECTION 6: PAST PRESIDENT**

The Past President shall:

- A. serve as a mentor to the President and President-Elect as needed,
- B. advise the Executive Board based upon their previous experience,
- C. oversee the Awards Program, which includes
 - a. preparing a slate of nominees for each award as created by the Executive Board,
 - b. communications that solicit nominations,
 - c. ensuring there are no avoidable conflicts of interest among those voting on Award nominees,
 - d. organizing the event where Award recipients will be announced including the schedule of events, and
 - e. communication with nominees, recipients, members and Executive Board members as necessary to inform them on Awards Program needs.

(NO SIMILAR SECTION IN PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION)

SECTION 7: ALL ELECTED OFFICERS

All elected officers listed above shall:

- A. attend all Executive Board, General Membership and other meetings called by the President,
- B. work yearlong to recruit and promote membership in the association, its convention and overarching mission,
- C. attend, organize and operate the annual association convention based on Convention Director needs; and
- D. work with all association employees annually — preferably at a summer meeting — to split any additional duties among the Officers, Executive Board, Program and Initiative Leaders, Representatives, Liaisons or other members.

Article II: ~~Committees~~ Programs & Initiatives

PREVIOUS

SECTION 1

The Nominating Committee, with the president-elect serving as chair, shall organize a slate of nominees to be announced in February of every other year.

SECTION 2

The Scholarship Committee shall be responsible for working with the treasurer in conducting scholarship recipient selection.

UPDATED

SECTION REMOVED

This section has A) not been used in the form of a real committee and B) is made irrelevant by the rewrite to elections.

SECTION 1: SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The association shall operate a Scholarship Program that must

- A. align with the association's missions and objectives;
- B. acknowledge needs of both educator members and students;
- C. create a set of annual goals submitted by the Secretary and Treasurer, who jointly oversee the program, for Executive Board approval at the first Executive Board meeting following the director's appointment,
- D. provide a written report on yearly progress at all Executive Board and General Membership meetings;
- E. attempt to expand the number of scholarships offered and/or the amount of those scholarships in a fiscally responsible manner; and
- F. honor important figures in the Texas high school community through naming scholarships after those individuals through a unanimous vote of the Executive Board.

PREVIOUS

SECTION 3

The Education Committee shall be responsible for researching and recommending support for scholastic journalism and other responsibilities as directed by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 4

The Membership Committee shall oversee the election and presentation of life memberships and aid the organization in soliciting new members.

UPDATED

SECTION 2: EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The association shall operate an Education Initiative that must

- A. align with the association's missions and objectives;
- B. acknowledge needs of both educator members and students;
- C. create a set of annual goals submitted by the Initiative Director for Executive Board approval at the first Executive Board meeting following the director's appointment,
- D. provide a written report on yearly progress at all Executive Board and General Membership meetings;
- E. provide members a method by which to find the educational initiatives from other scholastic journalism organizations or other professional, collegiate, government or non-profit organizations;
- F. provide or connect members to the following that are aligned with Texas state standards and industry-based standards:
 - a. curriculum and related materials,
 - b. scopes and sequences,
 - c. educational materials, and
 - d. any other material that does not create unnecessary redundancies between the association and other organizations already providing such materials and services; and
- G. research and recommend unique areas of potential support for Texas scholastic journalism educators without creating redundancies between the association and other organizations already providing such materials and services.

ORIGINAL SECTION 4 REMOVED

This is now listed as the function of the executive director & board.

PREVIOUS

SECTION 5

The Awards Committee shall oversee the selection and presentation of Trailblazer Awards, Friend of Journalism Awards, Administrator of the Year Awards and other awards as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. Section 6

UPDATED

SECTION 3: AWARDS PROGRAM

The association shall operate an Awards Program that must

- A. align with the association’s missions and objectives;
- B. create a set of annual goals and award eligibility submitted by the Program Director for Executive Board approval at the first Executive Board meeting following the director’s appointment,
- C. provide a written report on yearly progress at all Executive Board and General Membership meetings;
- D. acknowledge
 - a. outstanding new and veteran advisers,
 - b. influential members of the Texas scholastic journalism community,
 - c. school administrators and community members who go above and beyond to promote the association’s missions and objectives,
 - d. those who have championed scholastic press freedoms and First Amendment protections,
 - e. individuals who have left a profound impact on the Texas journalism landscape, and
 - f. other awards created by the Executive Board through a unanimous vote and published on the association’s website; and
- E. provide the Texas scholastic journalism community an opportunity to recognize and honor those individuals in person.

SECTION 6

The First Amendment Issues Committee shall be responsible for working with teachers, students and administrators to educate them on the importance of a free press and support them in the practice of journalistic ethics and responsibilities. The committee will work with news media and the Student Press Law Center to promote an understanding of the First Amendment.

SECTION 7

Members of each standing committee will be appointed by the chairman of that committee.

SECTION 4: LEGISLATIVE & POLICY AFFAIRS INITIATIVE

The association shall operate a Legislative & Policy Affairs Initiative that

- A. aligns with the association’s missions and objectives;
- B. acknowledges needs of both educator members and students;
- C. creates a set of annual goals submitted by the Initiative Director for Executive Board approval at the first Executive Board meeting following the director’s appointment,
- D. provides a written report on yearly progress at all Executive Board and General Membership meetings;
- E. works with teachers, students and administrators to educate them on the importance of a free press;
- F. supports teachers, students and administrators in the practice of journalistic ethics and responsibilities;
- G. works with professional news media organizations and the Student Press Law Center to promote an understanding of the First Amendment; and
- H. provide members a greater understanding of Texas-specific laws, policies and potential or current updates to laws or policies from organizations such as the Texas Legislature, Texas Attorney General, the Texas Education Agency or any other rulemaking or administrative body that would affect Texas scholastic journalism education.

ORIGINAL SECTION 7 REMOVED

There are no longer standing committees. However, a program or initiative director would have the ability to create ad hoc committees and add members to that committee in the process of fulfilling goals.

PREVIOUS

SECTION 8

Other committees may be set up when needed by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

UPDATED

SECTION 5: CREATING NEW PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- A. The President and/or a majority vote of the Executive Board may formally recognize new programs and initiatives as necessary to fulfill the goals of the President, Executive Board or association at large through a simple majority vote of the Executive Board.
- B. Unless outlined in the Constitution or By-Laws elsewhere, new programs or initiatives:
 - a. do not need to be added to the Constitution nor By-Laws unless it is so desired by the Executive Board, which would follow the appropriate amendment procedure,
 - b. must be posted in a visible place on the website along with contact information;
 - c. must be assigned a Program Director or Initiative Director by the President annually at the beginning of their term;
 - d. must align with the association's missions and objectives;
 - e. must acknowledge needs of both educator members and students;
 - f. must create a set of annual goals submitted by the Initiative Director for Executive Board approval at the first Executive Board meeting following the director's appointment; and
 - g. must provide a written report on yearly progress at all Executive Board and General Membership meetings.

Article III: Dues

PREVIOUS

SECTION 1

Active members shall pay membership fees at a rate which will be set by the Executive Committee after feedback from the membership.

UPDATED

SECTION 1: RATES OF MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Executive Board must

- A. consider the need to support the association's missions and objectives financially without placing undue burden on its membership including reviewing trends in other, similar organization dues;
- B. review and approve membership dues through a unanimous vote annually prior to Jan. 30; and
- C. communicate and explain to members all changes to association membership dues through typical communication methods including email.

Article IV: Amendments to the By-Laws

PREVIOUS

SECTION 1: NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERS

Amendments to these By-Laws shall be submitted in written form to the Executive Committee and will be published in the Association's newsletter and through appropriate electronic communication to all members and other interested parties.

SECTION 2: RATIFICATION

An amendment shall become effective upon approval of two-thirds of the members present at a TAJE business meeting or upon approval of two-thirds of the members returning ballots before a time specified. The by-laws may be amended at the organization's meeting at the TAJE or ILPC convention by a simple majority of members present.

(NO SIMILAR SECTION IN PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION)

UPDATED

SECTION 1: SUBMITTING AMENDMENTS

- A. Amendments to these By-Laws shall be submitted by any member in writing to the Secretary within one week of an Executive Board meeting and will be published through typical electronic communication to all members in the meeting's Agenda.
- B. The Executive Board must approve the proposed amendment at any official Executive Board meeting before sending the changes to members.
- C. The Executive Board shall distribute ballots to voting-eligible members eligible to vote through an electronic ballot system, which shall remain open for one week.
- D. All amendments may be voted on by Section, Article or as a single collection of changes as decided by the Executive Board.

SECTION 2: RATIFICATION

- A. All amendments to these By-Laws must receive two-thirds approval of all voters to pass.
- B. The By-Laws will be updated on the website within one week of the conclusion of the amendment's passage to reflect the changes, and all results, including vote totals, shall be sent to all members within the same timeframe.

SECTION 3: AMENDMENTS NOT REQUIRING APPROVAL

- A. Any amendment to the by-laws that corrects typographical errors, mistakes in continuity or inconsistency, or other corrections that make unsubstantive corrective or cosmetic changes do not require approval from the membership.
- B. All such corrections should be documented in the instance that any of these changes are called into question.

Article V: ~~Officer Vacancy~~ Contracted Employees

NOTE

The officer vacancy provision from **Article V** was moved to the Constitution where it belongs.

PREVIOUS

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **SECTION 1**

The association shall employ an executive director with job criteria, salary and evaluation to be determined by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2

Duties of the executive director shall include:

1. Maintaining and distributing a current membership list.
2. Attending all meetings: general, executive and conventions.
3. Conducting all elections either by mail ballot or through a secure online system approved by the Executive Committee.
4. Printing official meeting reports.
5. Maintaining organizational and financial records.
6. Other duties as directed by the president/ executive board.

SECTION 3

The evaluation of the executive director will be conducted every other year by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLES ALL OR PARTIALLY CONDENSED INTO NEW ARTICLE V

Article VI: Executive Director

Article VII: Convention Director

Article VIII: Webmaster

Article IX: Contest Director

UPDATED

SECTION 1: EMPLOYMENT

The association shall employ the following positions with job criteria, compensation to be determined by the Executive Board via an annual contract beginning June 1:

- A. Executive Director,
- B. Convention Director,
- C. Contest Director,
- D. Communications Specialist, and
- E. any other employee as determined by a majority of the Executive Board.

SECTION 2: EVALUATION OF CONTRACTED EMPLOYEES

All contracted employees will undergo an evaluation once per year that should include

- A. review progress of assigned duties,
- B. consider any adjustments to the contract, which must be approved by a simple majority of the Executive Board, and
- C. receive feedback from the employee on their job duties and performance.

**ARTICLE VIII: WEBMASTER
SECTION 1**

The association shall employ a webmaster with job criteria, salary and evaluation to be determined by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2

The webmaster will serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3

Duties of the webmaster shall include:

1. Securing a web site.
2. Setting up a TAJE web page.
3. Keeping the web page updated with the latest reports of interest to TAJE members.
4. Maintaining social media accounts.
5. Arranging for all online elections through a dedicated web service.
6. Creating and organizing forms.
7. Maintaining the listserv.

SECTION 4

Evaluation of the webmaster will be yearly with criteria to be determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE MERGED & RENAMED

The intended goal of this position is now referred to as the Communications Specialist and has been merged into Article V on Page 25.

Article VI: ~~Executive Director~~ Convention

NOTE

See Page 25 for comparison of changes to the Executive Director verbiage.

PREVIOUS

ARTICLE VII: CONVENTION DIRECTOR SECTION 1

The Executive Committee shall name a convention director(s).

SECTION 2

The convention director(s) will serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3

The convention director(s) or his or her designee will be responsible for overseeing the TAJE convention, acting as the liaison between TAJE and the selected hotel, securing the location and facilities, setting up contests and rooms, designing and printing the program, gathering speakers and presenters and overseeing convention committees.

UPDATED

ARTICLE VI: CONVENTION SECTION 1: REQUIREMENTS & APPROVAL

The Convention Director shall

- A. organize, market and operate an annual convention that aligns with the association's stated missions, goals, programs and initiatives;
- B. present any financial, operational, eligibility requirements or other convention planning needs to the Executive Board annually for approval;
- C. solicit feedback from convention attendees and provide a report to the Executive Board at the meeting immediately following the convention based on that feedback; and
- D. fulfill other obligations as listed in the employment contract.

Article ~~IX~~ **VII**: Contests ~~Director~~

PREVIOUS

SECTION 1

The association shall employ a contest director with job criteria, salary and evaluation to be determined by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2

Duties of the contest director shall include managing and administering online and on-site contests for TAJE's Fall Fiesta and Best in Texas. This includes overseeing writing of contests and contest rules, collection of online contest materials to ensure consistency and familiarity for members and recruitment, scheduling and training of contest managers and judges, and overseeing judging of contests.

SECTION 3

Evaluation of the contest director will be yearly with criteria to be determined by the Executive Committee.

UPDATED

SECTION 1: REQUIREMENTS & APPROVAL

The Contest Director shall

- A. organize, market and operate contests that align with the association's stated missions, goals, programs and initiatives;
- B. present any contest descriptions and eligibility requirements to the Executive Board for approval annually, which would then be posted on the association website; and
- C. fulfill other obligations as listed in the employment contract.

Article VIII: ~~Webmaster~~ Executive Board Representatives

NOTE

See Page 26 for comparison of changes to the previous Webmaster verbiage.

PREVIOUS

(NO SIMILAR ARTICLE IN PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION)

UPDATED

SECTION 1: REQUIREMENTS & APPROVAL

- A. The Executive Board shall create a biannual network of elected Representatives every other year that shall
 - a. represent different segments of the membership such as, but not limited to, geographic, school type, employment type, and/or demographics,
 - b. be elected to two-year terms in the same process as Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution except that
 - c. the election be held in odd-numbered years,
 - i. submit a written report of their activities to each regular Executive Board meeting,
 - d. be invited to attend the Executive Board meetings as a non-voting member,

- e. serve their representative area through
 - i. regular communication to members in their segment as a liaison between the membership and the organization,
 - ii. providing perspective to the Executive Board on issues affecting that segment of the membership,
 - iii. bring concerns to the Executive Board affecting that segment of the membership,
 - iv. complete one or more service projects during their two-year term based on the options created by the Executive Board, and
 - v. assist with the planning and execution of the organization's annual state convention.

SECTION 2: REPRESENTATIVE ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for elected representative position is:

- A. open to all general members, but
- B. unless specifically created by the Executive Board, not open for
 - a. associate memberships, and
 - b. a person whose primary employment is sales and services to schools or school employees.

SECTION 3: REPRESENTATIVE VACANCY

In the event of a vacancy of a Regional Representative, the President may choose to

- A. appoint one from an eligible member,
- B. host a special election, or
- C. leave the position vacant until the next election cycle.