

# Wisconsin School Social Workers Association

## Chapter A: WSSWA Constitution

### Article I (A) - Name

The name of the organization is the Wisconsin School Social Workers Association and is referred to as WSSWA.

### Article II (A) - Purpose and Function

The purpose of the Wisconsin School Social Workers Association is to promote the total growth and development of all school-aged children and their families through the application of social work knowledge and skills. The functions of WSSWA are:

1. To promote sound professional practice among school social workers in Wisconsin.
2. To stimulate the development and more effective use of school social work services in Wisconsin.
3. To encourage and enable the educational and professional growth of social workers in Wisconsin schools.
4. To study, recommend and/or support legislation, public school policies, and standards pertinent to the needs of children and the profession of school social work.
5. To maintain liaison relationships with state and national associations, organizations and educational institutions whose purpose includes the education and development of children.
6. To support efforts to grow the profession by attracting, preparing, and retaining high quality school social workers in Wisconsin schools.

### Article III (A) -Membership

All persons licensed as school social workers are eligible for regular and contributing membership in WSSWA, including the privileges of voting, making motions and holding office.

**Contributing membership** is available to all persons licensed as school social workers and includes the privileges of voting, making motions, and holding office. Contributing membership fees include a donation, with the additional funds going to support the organization's activities.

**Student membership** is available to all students in a recognized program of social work study, whether graduate or undergraduate.

**Retired membership** is available to all retired school social workers. Retired membership includes all privileges of membership, including voting, making motions and holding office.

**Associate membership** is extended to those in allied professions and social workers in other settings who are supportive of this organization's purpose and functions. Associate membership offers all privileges of membership, with the exception of voting, making motions and holding office.

**Liaison status** may be extended to representatives of state and national associations, organizations, and educational institutions whose purpose includes the education and development of children. Liaisons pay no dues and have all the privileges of membership with the exception of voting, making motions, and holding office. Liaisons are invited to participate in board meetings and contribute to discussion and action as representatives of their organization.

**Dues** - The amount and method of collection of dues shall be determined by the WSSWA Board of Directors. The WSSWA Board may establish reduced membership fees for Retired and Student memberships.

## **Article IV (A) - Board of Directors**

### **Section I - Board Members and Officers**

The WSSWA board will consist of up to 15 board members. Board members must be current members of WSSWA. The officers of WSSWA shall be President, President Elect, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer.

### **Section II – Nomination, Elections, and Terms of Office**

**Nominations** – The WSSWA Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the WSSWA Board of Directors. The Nominations and Awards Committee will notify the membership of expiring terms of office at least 6 weeks before the November board meeting and gather nominations. The Committee will prepare and present a slate of candidates to the WSSWA board and membership. All nominees for the Board of Directors must be current members of WSSWA, or will become a member prior to joining the Board of Directors.

**Board Elections** – Elections shall be by secret ballot and by a majority vote of the membership who vote in the election. The Nominating Committee shall distribute a ballot to Regular, Contributing and Retired members at least one month prior to the Fall Board meeting when new officers will officially assume office

**Terms of Office** – Officers must be elected board members. Terms of Office for President shall be two [2] years, and for Past President and President Elect shall be one [1] year, beginning at the Fall Board meeting. Terms of office for the Secretary and Treasurer shall be for two [2] years beginning at the Fall Board meeting. Board members will serve for two [2] year terms. A board member whose term is expiring may indicate they wish to be on the ballot for another term. An Officer whose term of office has not been completed when their board seat is expiring may elect

to complete their term of office. In this case, their name will not appear on the ballot and they will hold their board seat until they are no longer an Officer.

**Election of Board Officers** – Officers of the Board of Directors will be elected by a majority of the current board members. The President and President-Elect shall have served on the board for at least one year before being elected. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer shall be voted on during alternating years.

### **Section III – Vacancies and Removal of Officers and Board Members**

**Vacancies** – Vacancies occurring before the expiration of terms of office shall be filled by the Board of Directors and persons so chosen shall serve until the term expires.

**Removal of Officers and Board Members** – For due cause, officers and board members may be removed from office at any meeting of the Board by a three-quarters [3/4] vote of the members present, providing that notice of such intent has been submitted to the subject at least ten [10] days prior to the meeting.

## **Article V (A) - Professional Development**

### **Section I – State Conference**

WSSWA shall sponsor an annual School Social Worker state conference which shall be open to anyone who wishes to attend.

### **Section II – Midwest School Social Work Council Conference**

WSSWA may host the Midwest School Social Work Council Conference in the year when Wisconsin is designated by the Midwest School Social Work Council as the state to host the Midwest Conference.

## **Article VI (A) - Amendment(s) to the Constitution**

Proposed amendments to the constitution shall be first submitted to the Board at least 10 days in advance of any Board meeting. If approved by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board, such amendment(s) shall be sent to the WSSWA membership for its consideration. The membership shall have at least 10 days to vote. Approval is by a simple majority.