

Constitution of the Ossining Teachers Association
Dated November 1995 at Ossining, New York
Amended June 2007 at Ossining, New York

Article I - NAME: This organization shall be called the Ossining Teachers Association

Article II - PURPOSES:

SECTION 1 - To advance the standards of the teaching profession.

SECTION 2 - To arouse commitment to a genuine spirit of professional ethics.

SECTION 3 - To support the hiring of certified personnel only, and the employment of such staff within the area of their certification.

SECTION 4 - To secure conditions necessary for the optimum performance of teachers and schools.

SECTION 5 - To promote the welfare of its members

SECTION 6 - To protect the rights of its members

SECTION 7 - To promote mutual assistance and cooperation among organizations of teachers.

SECTION 8 - To cooperate with parent-teacher organizations and other civic bodies having educational objectives.

SECTION 9 - To interpret to the public the problems, functions, and progress of the Ossining Public Schools.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 - There shall be three classes of members: active, affiliated, and honorary.

SECTION 2 - All members of the professional staff, exclusive of administrative personnel, shall be eligible for active membership.

SECTION 3 - Active members of the Association must also be members of the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

SECTION 4 - Persons employed by the District directly or indirectly assisting teachers, but not including administrative personnel may become affiliated members.

- a. Affiliated members shall form their own chapters with their own Constitution.
- b. The Board of Officers of the Ossining Teachers Association shall set annual dues for affiliated chapters.
- c. This Constitution shall supercede any Constitution of an affiliated organization.

SECTION 5 - Former members of the Association who have retired from active service in the schools, and such others as the Association may choose to designate, shall be honorary members.

SECTION 6 - The Association shall show no discrimination toward individuals on the basis of gender, color, race, national origin, sexual orientation, handicapping condition, political beliefs or activities.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1 - There shall be an Executive Board comprised of a President, a 1st Vice-President, a 2nd Vice-President, a Secretary, Treasurer and an Executive Board Intern of this Association.

SECTION 2 - These officers shall be elected by ballot of the active members during the month of May, and shall hold office for two years.

SECTION 3 - There shall be a Board of Officers comprised of Building Vice-President for each of the schools in the Ossining District. Each building has the option of electing 1-3 Vice-President(s) whose numbers will be determined at the discretion of the Executive Board.

SECTION 4 - Each such Building Vice-President(s) shall be elected by ballot of the active members in that school during the month of May, and shall assume office on July 1, and shall hold office for two years.

SECTION 5 - There shall be delegates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) according to the number prescribed by the Constitution of those organizations. The President of the Association shall be the ranking delegate at both conventions. The remaining delegates as required for each convention shall be elected by ballot of the active members during the month of May.

SECTION 6 - Past Presidents who have remained active members of the Association may attend meetings upon the invitation of the members of the Executive Board.

SECTION 7 - There shall be a Faculty Council in each school consisting of the Building Vice-President(s) and the Building Representatives of that building.

SECTION 8 - There shall be Faculty Council members for each school in the District, the number of which shall be one for every ten (or major fraction thereof) OTA teaching staff, exclusive of administrators.

SECTION 9 - These Faculty Council members shall be elected concurrently with the Building Vice-President(s) by ballot of the active members in each school and shall assume office for two years.

SECTION 10 - There shall be a Representative Council consisting of the members of the Executive Board plus the Board of Officers, all the Faculty Council Members, and OTA Standing Committee chairs.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - Meetings of the members of the Association in each school shall be held in that school on a regular basis and shall be presided over by the Building Vice-President(s) in that school.

SECTION 2 - Such meetings may be superceded by a general meeting of all members of the Association.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 - An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed at any Representative Council meeting and shall be acted upon at a subsequent Representative Council meeting, but not later than the second subsequent Representative Council meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment shall be sent to each active member of the Association, after which it shall be submitted to a vote of the entire membership by written ballot. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes returned shall be required to adopt the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE VII - BYLAWS

SECTION 1 - Bylaws to this Constitution are hereby authorized. Such Bylaws will provide for those particulars, which are not specifically prohibited by this Constitution or its amendments.

SECTION 2 - The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those active members present at a general meeting of the District membership, a quorum being present, or by paper ballot provided that notice in writing of the proposed amendment has been filed with the Secretary and presented to the entire membership at least one week prior to said meeting. The notification can be sent via electronic communication or posted on the OTA website. Members will be alerted by Building Vice-President(s) that there is information on the website or in electronic mailboxes.

ARTICLE VIII - RECORDS

Accurate records of the proceedings of all bodies of this Association shall be kept, and shall be open to the examination by any active member upon written request to the President.