

UTICA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Last amended, April 2007

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Utica Education Association, MEA-NEA, an affiliated unit of the Michigan and National Education Associations. The Association shall be a non-profit corporation organized in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The objective of this Association shall be the improvement of education, the advancement of the interests of education and of educators, the promotion of the professional growth of its members, the improvement and protection of its members' contractual rights, and solidarity with other MEA and NEA affiliates for the benefit of all.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

- A. All persons who meet the membership requirements of the UEA-MEA-NEA will upon payment of dues as herein provided, become active members of this Association with full rights and privileges of membership. Herein after, unless otherwise noted, the term membership shall refer to active membership.
- B. All Utica Education Association members shall be members of the Michigan Education Association and the National Education Association.
- C. UEA members who retire from teaching will be given honorary membership in the UEA, and upon request will be provided with official UEA publications. These persons shall be non-voting, non-dues paying members; their number shall not be included in computing any percentages or numerical requirements pursuant to any articles of this Constitution and Bylaws.
- D. No member shall be censured, suspended or expelled without a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by the local trial body or by the local Board of Directors if no trial body exists. An appeal may be made to the regional Board of Reference or MEA Board of Reference if no regional board exists.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND GOVERNING BODIES

A. The Governing Body of this organization shall be known as the Utica Education Association Representative Assembly or UEA-RA.

1. Voting members shall consist of the officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer; Trustees; MEA-RA delegates; and representatives from individual schools and special groups, as defined in Bylaws, Article II, Section F.2. Representatives from individual schools and special groups shall be elected according to the ratio prescribed in the Bylaws to this Constitution for one year terms commencing July 1st following their election. Representation (as per By-Laws, Article II. F. 3) shall be based upon the principle of one person/one vote. MEA-RA delegates shall be elected according to the constitution of that organization.
2. Meetings shall be open to all membership and members shall be permitted to address meetings in accordance with rules and procedures established by the governing body.
3. Non-voting members of this Governing Body shall include the NEA-RA delegates, elected according to the Constitution of that organization, and UEA members serving on MEA and NEA Boards of Directors, Commissions, and Committees.
4. The ethnic representation shall be in compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Education Association and the Michigan Education Association. In the event that the ethnic representation is less than required by the Constitution and Bylaws of the MEA and NEA, rules and procedures shall be established for an at-large election to insure proportionate ethnic minority representation.

B. The Board of Directors is defined as a body whose purpose it is to review, advise and recommend as outlined by Bylaws Article IV, Section A, to the Utica Representative Assembly which is the governing body of the UEA. Members of this body are the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the UEA and Elementary, Secondary and Special Education Trustees. Three Trustees shall be elected to represent elementary schools. Three Trustees shall be elected to represent secondary schools. One Trustee shall be elected to represent elementary and secondary Special Education

teachers. The terms of office shall be two years and shall commence July 1st, following their election.

- C. 6-C Representatives/Trustees
The President shall be the first representative to the 6-C Coordinating Council. The other officers and the Trustees, according to the order in which they succeed to the UEA Presidency, shall serve as the additional representatives, up to the number provided for in the 6-C Coordinating Council Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE V - INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

- A. The rights of popular initiative and referendum shall rest with the membership of the Association. Upon receipt of a petition signed by 25% of the membership of the Association, the Representative Assembly shall authorize a vote of the membership to be held within the next fifteen (15) school days for the purpose indicated on the petition. A majority of the total active membership shall be required for its adoption.
- B. The right of recall shall rest with the membership, as prescribed in Article VIII of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP AND FISCAL YEAR

The membership and fiscal years shall be September 1st through August 31st.

ARTICLE VII - AUTHORITY

The UEA recognizes the authority of the MEA and NEA Constitutions.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by petition signed by 15% of the membership or 25% of the Utica Representative Assembly. This petition shall be submitted to the Secretary and shall be voted upon by the UEA-RA at a regularly scheduled meeting. At least one but no more than two, regularly scheduled UEA-RA meetings shall take place between receipt of the petition by the Secretary and the vote on the proposed amendment. A two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the UEA-RA is required to adopt the proposed amendment, which shall become effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise provided.