

## **MESTA Constitution**

### **Article I (Name)**

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association, hereafter known as **MESTA**.

### **Article II (Purpose)**

Section 1: The purpose of MESTA shall be the advancement, stimulation, extension, improvement, and coordination of Earth Science education at all educational levels through the voluntary and donated efforts of MESTA members.

Section 2: MESTA shall operate exclusively as an educational non-profit organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 3: In the event of dissolution, all assets, real and personal, shall be distributed to the National Earth Science Teachers Association, or such organizations as are qualified as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provisions of a future United States Internal Revenue Law.

### **Article III (Membership)**

Section 1: Membership is available to those actively engaged in the teaching of Earth and Space Science and to those with an interest in Earth and Space Science education.

Section 2: MESTA is formally committed to the principle of equal opportunity for all persons, without regard to consideration of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic or national origin, race, color, political affiliation, creed, disability, or age.

Section 3: For purposes within MESTA, a member in good standing shall refer to members whose dues are current and whose conduct as a member is coincident with the aims, goals and vision of MESTA.

### **Article IV (Organization of Officers)**

Section 1: The elected officers of MESTA shall be the President, President-Elect, Past President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Director.

**Allows for former Presidents to assume Past President role in the event exiting President assumes different role in Executive Committee.**

Section 2: The Appointed Officers shall include Committee Chairpersons, Editors, Coordinators, Advisors and Board members-at-Large as appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee.

**Keeps language consistent with MESTA Bylaws**

Section 3: The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Past President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Director and (Journal) Editor. Each position (role) on the Executive Committee is discrete—there shall be no dual role individuals.

**Eliminates possibility of dual roles on executive committee.**

Section 4: The Governing Board shall consist of the Executive Committee plus the remaining Appointed Officers.

Section 5: The powers and duties of the officers, together with the method of their selection shall be prescribed in the Bylaws.

**Section 6 was moved to MESTA Bylaws Article IV, Section 7**

### **Article V (Quorum)**

Section 1: Four Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum of any scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 2: Four Executive Committee members and four additional Governing Board members shall constitute a quorum of any scheduled meeting of the Governing Board.

Section 3: A quorum of the Executive Committee and those MESTA members attending any announced MESTA General Membership Meeting shall constitute a quorum for that meeting.

## **Article VI (Removal from Office)**

Section 1: Any elected or appointed official may be removed from office for cause.

Section 2: Removal from office shall be by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Any termination of MESTA membership for persons in violation of Article III, Section 3 shall be by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

## **Article VII (Amendments)**

Section 1: Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be presented to the Executive Committee by any MESTA member in good standing. Proposed amendments shall be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee before being forwarded for approval by the Governing Board.

Section 2: Proposed amendments to this Constitution, if approved by a majority vote of the Governing Board, shall be submitted to the membership by mail and/or electronic means for ratification.

Section 3: This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those members responding to the mail or electronic ballot, or at any planned General Membership Meeting providing a Board-approved copy of the proposed amendment is made available to every member at least 5 days before the period for ratification. The Governing Board shall determine the length of the ratification period.

## **Article VIII (Organizational Liability: Liability of Officers and Representatives)**

Section 1: Documents with legal standing shall be attached to, and included as part of, this document to limit to the fullest extent of the law the liability of any MESTA Officer, Board Member, or designated Representative.

### **Latest Changes to the Constitution:**

October 1993: "Voluntary and donated" reference added to purpose of organization.

October 1993: (Journal) Editor added to Executive Committee.

October 1994: Organizational liability clause added.

October 1997: Changed membership year to coincide with fiscal year.

October 1999: Membership Director position was created and separated from the job of Treasurer.

September 2005: Renamed Executive Board as Governing Board.

September 2005: Redefined quorum for Executive Committee and Governing Board.

September 2005: Established new procedure for appointing Governing Board members, which requires the approval of the Executive Committee.

July 2008: Substitute Constitution approved by committee and sent to the Executive Committee.

August 2008: Constitution approved by the Executive Committee and sent to the Governing Board.

September 2008: Constitution approved by the Governing Board.

October 2008: Constitution approved by the general membership.

February 2018: Constitution approved by the Executive Committee and sent to the Governing Board.

February 20i8: Constitution approved by the Governing Board.