

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be School Librarians of Rhode Island, formerly known as Rhode Island Educational Media Association.

Article II. Purpose

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of School Librarians of Rhode Island shall be to (1) promote the improvement of instruction through opportunities that broaden the professional knowledge, understanding and experience of its members; (2) provide leadership in defining, interpreting, and promoting effective library media programs to the community (3) serve as facilitator between the State Department of Education, Office of Library and Information Services, professional organizations and the general public.

Section 2. Legal Organization

School Librarians of Rhode Island is organized exclusively to operate an association of school librarians and related professionals as specified in Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article third hereof.

Article III. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall run from June 1 through May 31.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1. Eligibility

Any person committed to the purpose of School Librarians of Rhode Island may become a member of the organization upon payment of dues.

Section 2. Limitations

Membership shall commence with payment of dues and expire at the end of the fiscal year. Only members who have paid their dues shall be entitled to vote, hold office, and receive all benefits of membership.

Section 3. Dues

The annual dues shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of School Librarians of Rhode Island shall be held in or near October.

Section 2. General Meetings

A general meeting shall be called by the president at the written request of 10% (ten percent) of the membership.

Section 3. Quorum

The quorum consists of those who attend the meeting.

Article VI. Officers

Section 1. Officers

The officers of School Librarians of Rhode Island shall be a president, a vice-president/president-elect, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2. Terms

The term of office for the president and all other officers shall be for two years. The president and vice-president may stand for a second nonconsecutive term. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be re-elected up to a maximum of five terms.

Section 3. Duties

PRESIDENT – The president shall preside at all meetings and shall carry out the instructions of the Executive Board. It shall be the duty of the president to appoint committee chairpersons and instruct them in matters pertaining to their respective responsibilities and to turn over to the incoming President all files relating to official plans and activities. The president shall represent School Librarians of Rhode Island, or designate a representative, to other organizations.

VICE-PRESIDENT – The vice-president shall assist the president by carrying out a variety of duties as assigned by the president. The time as vice-president is intended to be preparation for being president. The president-elect shall perform the duties of the president in the absence or incapacity of the president.

SECRETARY – The secretary shall be responsible for keeping accurate notes of all regular meetings of the association and meetings of the Executive Board and preparing the annual report to the membership on an annual basis.

TREASURER – The treasurer shall be responsible for keeping a record of all receipts and expenditures of the Association, maintaining Association bank accounts; making disbursements as approved by the president and/or the Executive Board; submitting a monthly statement to the Executive Board; and preparing a written annual financial report to show the membership on an annual basis. The Treasurer and/or the President may sign checks.

Article VII. Nominations and Elections of Officers

Section 1. Eligibility of Candidates

All candidates for School Librarians of Rhode Island offices must be members of School Librarians of Rhode Island.

Section 2. Nominations by Committee

The most recent available Past-President of School Librarians of Rhode Island shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The Committee shall prepare a slate that includes the names of no more than two candidates for each vacant position. No one shall be nominated who has not consented to stand for election and serve if elected. The

Nominating Committee shall present the slate of candidates for approval by the Executive Board.

Section 3. Elections

Elections shall be conducted every two years, or as needed. A simple majority vote by those members present shall constitute election. In case of a tie vote, the members shall ballot until one candidate is successful.

Article VIII. Executive Board

Section 1. Governing Body

The Executive Board shall be the governing body of School Librarians of Rhode Island whose function shall be to carry on business of the association between membership meetings.

Section 2. Members

The Executive Board shall consist of the four elected officers together with the immediate past-president and the chairperson of each established committee. The president may select a maximum of five members at large to serve on the executive board.

Section 3. Vacancies

If the office of president becomes vacant, the president-elect shall become president completing that term of office prior to serving the following term as president. The office of vice-president then becomes and is left vacant until the next regular election. In the event the office of both president and vice-president become vacant, the past president will call a special meeting of the Executive Board for the purpose of selecting a new president from the existing members of the Executive Board. All other vacancies shall be interim appointments made by the president with the approval of the executive board until the next election when the unexpired term(s) will be filled.

Section 4. Procedures

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order will be used to transact all business and the Executive Board will set its own working rules and procedures.

Section 5. Duties

The School Librarians of Rhode Island Executive Board shall set annually School Librarians of Rhode Island priorities, goals and budget.

Section 6. Reports

Action taken by the School Librarians of Rhode Island Executive Board shall be reported to the membership annually.

Section 7. Meetings

The Executive Board shall convene at the discretion of the President, but not less than 5 times annually. Special meetings of the Executive Board shall be called by the President at the written request of 20% (twenty percent) of the members of the Board. All meetings of the Executive Board, except their executive sessions, shall be open to all members. Voting privileges at the Executive Board meetings shall be restricted to board members. Dates and places of Executive Board meetings will be published annually. The Executive Board may conduct its business through mail vote, telephone conference calls, or by electronic means. Such actions shall be reported and recorded at the next regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting.

Section 8. Quorum

The quorum consists of those who attend the meeting.

Article IX. Committees

Section 1. Establishment

The School Librarians of Rhode Island Executive Board is empowered to establish and dissolve committees. Additional committees may be established at any time by the president with the approval of the Board.

Section 2. Members

All members of the committees shall be members of School Librarians of Rhode Island. Committee chairs are appointed by the School Librarians of Rhode Island president or president-elect as appropriate.

Section 3. Standing Committees

Standing Committees shall be established to carry on the continuing work of School Librarians of Rhode Island.

Section 4. Special Committees

Ad hoc committees may be established at any time by the School Librarians of Rhode Island president with the approval of the School Librarians of Rhode Island Executive Board or by request of the School Librarians of Rhode Island membership.

Section 5. Responsibilities and Duties

The responsibilities and duties of each committee shall be defined in written form, approved by the School Librarians of Rhode Island Executive Board and recorded by the School Librarians of Rhode Island secretary.

Article X – Scholarships and Awards

Section 1. Tougas Scholarship Fund

The Tougas Scholarship Fund shall be the responsibility of the Association and shall be administered according to the established Tougas Scholarship By-Laws.

Section 2. Other Funds and Awards

The Executive Board may establish other awards and/or scholarships.

Article XI. Adoption and Amendment

Section 1.

Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the attending membership. These by laws may also be amended by a

mail or electronic vote. Two-thirds of the returned ballots is required for passage of mail or electronic vote. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guide in matters of parliamentary procedure not covered by the by-laws.

Bylaws revised October 1998, Constitution revised March 2006, Revised November 2013