

# MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASOCIATION BYLAWS

(Revised February 2016)

## **ARTICLE I: NAME AND AFFILIATION WITH ASCA**

**ARTICLE I, SECTION 1.** The name of this association shall be the Mississippi School Counselor Association (MSCA) which received a charter as a state division of the Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA) in 1971.

**ARTICLE I, SECTION 2.** The Mississippi School Counselor Association is a state division of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) which received a charter as a state division of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) in 1971.

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

ARTICLE II, SECTION 1. The purposes of the MSCA shall be:

- A. To foster a closer relationship among school counselors and counselors in other settings.
- B. To advance the image and influence of school counselors in order to empower school counselors to address the academic, career, and social/emotional needs of each individual student.
- C. To improve the standards of counseling.
- D. To improve the relationships with other stakeholders who work with students in elementary, middle/junior high, senior high or post-secondary settings.
- E. To assume an active role in advocating for and improving counseling services for all students.

## **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

**ARTICLE III, SECTION 1.** Membership shall be open to members of MCA only. Membership shall be individual in nature. A member shall hold a school counseling license and be interested in matters related to the professional school counselor in the state of Mississippi.

**ARTICLE III, SECTION 2.** School Counselor Defined. The term school counselor, wherever used herein, shall include persons engaged in a planned program of counselor education designed to result in a degree of certification as a school counselor, employment at any educational level related to school counseling, or holding a license in school counseling.

**ARTICLE III, SECTION 3.** Severance of Membership. Association members who do not renew their membership before their membership expiration date will no longer be considered members of MSCA. Membership may be revoked for revocation of license or credential or for violation of ASCA Ethical Standards.

**ARTICLE III, SECTION 4.** Voting Privileges. All MSCA members are eligible to vote in the election of Association officers and on all matters pertaining to the conduct of business for the Association.

**ARTICLE III, SECTION 5.** State Association Meetings. The State Association shall meet at least once a year. The time and place of each meeting shall be fixed by the MSCA Executive Board.

**ARTICLE III, SECTION 6.** Nondiscrimination. The Mississippi School Counselor Association does not knowingly engage in or support activities that discriminate on any basis as addressed in ASCA's Ethical Standards for School Counselors.

#### **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

**ARTICLE IV: SECTION 1.** Officers and Terms of Office.

- A. The officers of the Association shall be the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four work setting Vice Presidents representing the following levels of education: Elementary, Middle/ Junior High, High School, and Post-Secondary. The President may, at their discretion, appoint a parliamentarian to serve on the Executive Board as well.
- B. A person elected to a position of Elementary, Middle/Junior High, or High School work setting Vice-President shall be employed as a practicing professional counselor in THAT work setting. A person elected to the position of Postsecondary work setting Vice President shall be employed as a counselor educator, or a Postsecondary counselor or Counselor Supervisor with 50% of their current assignment related to school counseling.
- C. All officers with the exception of Treasurer and Parliamentarian shall be elected at large from among the individual members of the Association. The Treasurer and Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President.
- D. All candidates for offices of the Association shall be a member of MCA and preferably ASCA, and should have been a member of MSCA for at least one year.
- E. The President-Elect shall automatically become President of the Association after the commencement of the term of office as President or upon the death of Resignation of the President.

- F. The Immediate Past-President shall serve for two years following the expiration of the term as President.
- G. In case of resignation or death of any officer other than the President, the Executive Board shall appoint a person to serve the remainder of the term of office.
- H. An elected officer shall not be a candidate to succeed himself/herself in the same office. However, a President-Elect succeeding to the office of President shall serve his term as President in addition to serving whatever may remain of the unexpired term of the resigned or deceased President. The Immediate Past President shall not be a candidate for office during the two years immediately following his/her term as Immediate Past President.
- I. The term of office for all officers shall be two years and shall be from July 1 to June 30. The Elementary Vice-President and the High School Vice-President will be elected in odd years and the Middle/Junior High Vice-President and the Postsecondary Vice-President will be elected in even years.

**ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2. Duties of Officers.**

- A. The president shall serve as the presiding officer of MSCA and as a member of the Board of Directors of MCA. The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall have the authority to appoint all committees and perform such duties as are inclined to the office, or as directed by the annual meeting. At the end of his/her term, the President shall submit the annual report to the President of MCA as required in the MCA By-Laws.
- B. The President-Elect shall preside in the absence of the President and perform other such duties as directed by the Executive Board or annual meeting.
- C. The Immediate Past President shall be chairperson of the Election Committee and shall perform other such duties as directed by the Executive Board or the annual meeting.
- D. The Secretary shall keep the records of all meetings of the Association, and shall perform other such duties as are incidental to the office.
- E. The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records and pay those expenditures incurred in the conducting of the affairs of the association as approved by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall be responsible for submitting to the Executive Board a budget for the Association prior to the annual meeting. A financial statement shall be made for the annual meeting.
- F. The Vice-Presidents shall represent their educational level in planning and input for the Executive Board.
- G. The Parliamentarian, when appointed by the President, shall rule on any question of proper parliamentary procedure.

**ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3: COMPENSATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.**

Members of the MSCA Executive Board will NOT be paid for services rendered to the organization. In like vein, members of the Executive Board should avoid situations that pose a conflict of interest. MSCA Executive Board members should refrain from using their position on the Executive Board to obtain special privileges, services, or goods.

**ARTICLE V: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE V, SECTION 1. Amendment.** These Bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the Delegate Assembly or a majority vote at a general membership meeting as provided in this section.

- A. These Bylaws may be amended by majority vote of current members at a general membership meeting as provided in this section.
- B. Copies of amendments proposed under the provision of the foregoing paragraph shall be distributed to members prior to the vote.
- C. In the event the attendance at the general membership meeting does not constitute a quorum, Bylaws amendments may be approved by mail ballot, electronic ballot or other means approved by the Executive Board. In such case, amendments shall be approved by a majority of ballots or votes received.