

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the organization shall be “Rhode Island Guild of Home Teachers,” and may also be referred to by its acronym, “RIGHT.”

### ARTICLE II – MISSION AND PURPOSE

RIGHT is an organization of families committed to educational excellence and freedom. The goals of RIGHT are to promote home education for those wishing to teach their children at home and to support efforts that protect parental authority and educational freedom. RIGHT believes every family has the constitutional and moral right to educate their children. RIGHT operates on the basis of Biblical principles by upholding the Judeo-Christian ethic.

### ARTICLE III – PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS

- Section 1. Parents have the ultimate responsibility for the education of their children.
- Section 2. Educational excellence and freedom are always to be pursued and are best achieved with strong parental involvement.
- Section 3. The Biblical family provides the best and most stable environment in which learning occurs, and as such it is to be protected and promoted.
- Section 4. Children should be encouraged to grow in spirit and soul, as well as mind and body; therefore, moral and spiritual instruction must be a major emphasis of any proper education.
- Section 5. Children should be taught good citizenship and constructive ways to participate in the local community.

### ARTICLE IV – STATEMENT OF FAITH

- Section 1. We believe “All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness.” II Timothy 3:16
- Section 2. We believe “through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” Romans 5:12
- Section 3. We believe “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the only begotten Son of God.” John 3:16-18
- Section 4. We believe that Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God. John 10:30
- Section 5. We “testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God.” John 4:14-15

### ARTICLE V - OFFICERS, CHAPTER LEADERS AND COMMITTEES

- Section 1. The officers of RIGHT shall be elected and installed for a term of one year by the Chapter Leaders at the Annual Meeting, from a slate presented by a Nominating

Committee the chairman of which shall be appointed by the Governing Board. The officers of the organization shall be State Coordinator (functioning as president), Chapter Coordinator (functioning as vice president), Legislative Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers shall also be Active Members. Officers may serve more than one term. Outgoing officers shall, within one month of the end of their term, deliver to their successors all records and other materials belonging to the office. Officers must agree to uphold the Constitution and Bylaws.

- Section 2. There shall be an Executive Board consisting of the organization officers. The Executive Board shall meet at discretion of the State Coordinator in order to conduct routine business. Members of the Executive Board are elected annually in accordance with Section 1 of this Article. The Executive Board shall appoint any committee chairman, the chairman in turn may appoint their own assistants to the number they desire.
- Section 3. Vacancies in office occurring during the year shall be filled by a nomination from the Executive Board, to be voted upon at the next meeting of the Governing Board. If less than one-quarter of the organization year remains, such vacancies shall be filled by the Executive Board.
- Section 4. The State Coordinator presides at meetings of the Executive Board, and of the Governing Board, and at state-wide meetings. He/she shall appoint Committee Chairmen (the Chairmen in turn to select their own assistants to the number they desire.) He/she shall maintain the RIGHT membership list; oversee the implementation of statewide events and activities; advise new and prospective members regarding homeschooling in the state; and direct members and other homeschoolers to resources available through chapters, the newsletter, or members of RIGHT.
- Section 5. The Chapter Coordinator shall assume the responsibilities and duties of the State Coordinator in the event of his/her absence or disability. He/she shall direct new members to their local Chapter Leaders. He/she shall oversee the application of new and renewing chapters, help coordinate state events and support chapter leaders; advise new and prospective members regarding homeschooling in the state and direct them to resources available through chapters, the newsletter, or members of RIGHT.
- Section 6. The Legislative Director shall be responsible to stay informed of legislative activity at the state and federal level. He/she shall evaluate and set direction for new legislation and communicate the same to elected representatives at the state and federal level; report on current legislation to RIGHT through the RIGHT email list, newsletter and at state meetings, maintain communication with Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), and assist homeschoolers in affecting change in their local homeschool policies.
- Section 7. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings and develop and maintain archives of organization history. He/she shall provide access to minutes and archives to any member for inspection at any reasonable time. He/she shall keep a separate list of policies. Said policies are to be added to the Constitution as a yearly update.
- Section 8. The Treasurer shall pay bills and keep a record of all transactions. He/she shall prepare and analyze a financial report for each meeting and prepare and analyze an annual budget for the August meeting. He/she shall be responsible for monthly bank reconciliations. He/she shall be responsible for filing a 990EZ form for the current year if receipt activity deems it necessary. He/she shall provide access to books and records to any member for inspection at any reasonable time.

- Section 9. There shall be a Governing Board consisting of the Executive Board and the Chapter Leaders. Governing Board meetings shall be held in the months as stated in Article VII Section 1, and may be attended by any Member, without vote. Special meetings may be called by the State Coordinator or by the Governing Board. The duty of the Governing Board is primarily to pass budgetary and policy items. A Quorum of fifty percent (50%) of the current number of Chapter Leaders and three-fifths (3/5) of the Executive Board members is required to hold a meeting.
- Section 10. The Chapter Leaders of the organization shall be any Active Members who organize meetings on a regular basis for a minimum of five (5) Member families. Chapter Leaders represent their Chapters on the Governing Board. Chapter Leaders shall organize meetings of local home school families on a regular basis. They shall keep the Newsletter Committee informed of monthly activities of the chapter, and distribute information packets as needed to new members in their area. The Chapter Leader must agree to uphold the Constitution and By-laws of the organization. The Chapter Leaders will serve as voting representatives for their chapter on the Governing Board.
- Section 11. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of three Members, the chairman of which shall be appointed by the Governing Board, excluding members of the Executive Board. The slate shall be presented at the March Meeting. The officers shall be elected by the Governing Board to a one-year term at the Annual Meeting.
- Section 12. If and when any Governing Board member is found to be in confessional or ethical non-compliance with the Constitution of this organization, then there shall be a hearing before the Governing Board to consider the matter, with two (2) weeks' prior written notice given to the party or parties involved. If the matter remains unresolved, the Governing Board may determine that the said Board Member(s) be dropped from the Governing Board. This shall be done by a two-thirds vote at either a regular meeting of the Governing Board or a special meeting of the Governing Board.

#### ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP FEES AND BUDGET STRUCTURE

- Section 1. The amount of the annual membership fee shall be proposed by the Executive Board, submitted to the Chapter Leaders normally at the March Governing Board meeting, but no later than one (1) week prior to the Annual Meeting, and adopted at the Annual Meeting.
- Section 2. Membership fees shall be payable at the time of joining the organization, and shall be submitted annually 30 June thereafter. If the membership has not been renewed by 30 August, the membership will be terminated.
- Section 3. The fiscal year shall be from 1 July to 30 June.
- Section 4. The annual report shall be reviewed by the Governing Board at the August meeting, at which time a provisional budget will be formed. The budget will be adopted by the Governing Board for the upcoming school year at the September meeting.

#### ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

- Section 1. The Annual Meeting will be held in May for the purpose of electing officers, adopting the annual membership fee and conducting such business as may come before the meeting. Other meetings of the Governing Board will be held in the months of August (annual "pre-budget" planning), September (Autumn/Winter event expenditures), January (Spring event expenditures), and March (Nominating Committee).

## ARTICLE VIII – MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTERS

- Section 1. There shall be two (2) classes of membership: Active and Associate as defined in Section 2 of this Article.
- Section 2. (a.) Active Membership  
(1.) Active membership shall be open to any home schooling family residing in Rhode Island or adjacent towns, who is willing to support the Constitution of the organization.  
(2.) Each Active Member family shall have one vote within their local Chapter.
- (b.) Associate Membership  
(1.) An Associate membership shall be open to those with an interest in home schooling, but who do not otherwise qualify under Section 2(a).  
(2.) An Associate Member will not be called upon to assume an office, lead a Chapter or to serve as a Committee Chairman, and may not vote.
- Section 3. Membership is open through local home education support groups, or Chapters, which are in agreement with the Constitution of this organization.
- Section 4. It is expected that all Chapters will support RIGHT in the work of the organization, to insure that its purposes are met, as defined in Articles II and III.
- Section 5. Chapters in good standing shall be authorized to use “RIGHT” as a portion of their names if so desired, and may also use the RIGHT insignia on any of their printed or promotional materials.
- Section 6. Applications for membership as a Chapter must be submitted to the Executive Board and accepted by a majority vote at a meeting of the Governing Board. Each Chapter shall designate itself geographically.
- Section 7. Chapters will be required to make application or renew their membership on an annual basis at the beginning of each fiscal year by reaffirming their commitment to Section 3 of this Article. At this time, updated membership rolls and any changes in Chapter Leaders will be noted.
- Section 8. If and when any member Chapter is found to be in confessional or ethical non-compliance with the Constitution of this organization, then there shall be a hearing before the Governing Board to consider the matter, with two (2) weeks’ prior written notice given to the party or parties involved. If the matter remains unresolved, the Governing Board may recommend to the general membership that the said member Chapter be dropped from membership. This shall be done by a majority vote at either a regular meeting of the Governing Board or a special meeting of the Governing Board.

## ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Governing Board and presented to the membership in the newsletter.

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I – DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Section 1. Committees serve under the policies set by the Governing Board in accordance with RIGHT's mission and purpose. Committee chairs or volunteers are removed or replaced at the discernment of the Governing Board based on non-compliance with the

constitution or inadequacy in fulfilling their duties.

Section 2. Newsletter: To edit, publish and distribute the organization's publication "The Home Spun News" in eleven issues by the first of the months of August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May, and June/July.

Section 3. Legislative Alert: To assist the Legislative Director in notifying the membership on pending state or federal bills via a state-wide email list.

## ARTICLE II – POLICIES

### Section 1. - Record keeping and correspondence

- a. The secretary is to keep a separate list of policies. Said policies are to be added to the Constitution as a yearly update. – adopted 8/30/05
- b. The Governing Board may solicit a vote via email for time-sensitive decisions as long as the entire board is contacted for the vote, including those who do not have email access.
- c. A yearly membership list will be printed for the archives in September of each year. Each chapter leader will receive a list showing only the member's names. - adopted 8/30/05

### Section 2. – Money and Dues

- a. There will be a cap of \$500 total with a maximum of \$50 per student to be given annually in June to any RIGHT student member who has qualified for a National event, or a student deserving of such an award as sanctioned and approved by the Governing Board of RIGHT. - adopted 8/30/05.
- b. If a chapter has no chapter leader, they shall not be eligible to receive any monies pertaining to said chapter that would normally be allocated to them. There shall be no voting privileges or a position on the governing board by a chapter representative. – adopted 01/12/06
- c. Pro-rated policy on dues. Any new member joining after January, will receive credit towards their next year's renewal, and will be notified of such in a welcome letter. Any new member joining after March, will automatically be renewed through to June of the following year. – adopted 3/9/06

### Section 3. – Advertising

- a. Tutors and teachers offering services at the request of a chapter leader may have their classes announced in the chapter events without mention of the teacher or associated business. – adopted 8/27/06
- b. Proposal to raise advertising rates to \$12 for 1/4 page, \$24 for 1/2 page, and \$48 for a full page advertisement. adopted 8/27/06

Proposed 7/19/2005 by Michael Wroblewski and Amy Brock

Revised 7/19/2005 by the RIGHT Governing Board

Approved 7/19/2005 by the RIGHT Governing Board: Amy Brock, S.C.; Jeannette Westcott, C.C.;

Michael Wroblewski, L.D.; Joanne Wallace, Secretary ; Mandy Clark, Treasurer; Linda Norton - Coventry; Jen Curry - South Central; Pat Leduc - West Bay; Jackie Martinelli - North East; Ann Marie Deluca & Melonie Massa – East Bay

Policy update 1/03/07 RIGHT Governing Board

