

BY-LAWS OF THE OCEANSIDE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

AFT LOCAL 1631
NYSUT/NEA LOCAL 18-085

NYSUT, NEA, AFT, AFL-CIO

Article I

- A. This Federation shall assist and support in promoting the objectives of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the New York State United Teachers/National Educational Association (NYSUT/NEA).
- B. It may extend assistance and support to any other educational organization, group of teachers, union or group of unions, whose objectives, in the opinion of the membership, it is in their interest to promote.

Article II – Maintenance of Membership

- A. Membership in this local and its affiliates shall be granted upon application and upon initiation of dues deduction as the Executive Committee may determine.
- B. A member shall be considered active in this local so long as he/she has paid his/her annual dues during the calendar year.
- C. A member shall have active status in the AFT and in any other affiliates to which this local pays per capita dues, as long as his/her annual dues are regularly paid by payroll deduction. The Membership Chairperson shall notify in writing any member whose annual dues are more than three months in arrears that his status in terms of national and other affiliations is endangered.
- D. Employees who pay an agency fee who desire to become a member of the Oceanside Federation of Teachers (OFT) and all of its affiliates may do so according to Article II Section A.
- E. All members shall be bound by the decisions of legally constituted bodies i.e., Executive Committee, membership, building and affiliate chapters. Any member who may act in contravention of such decisions shall be subject to censure.
- F. The Executive Committee shall hear all charges brought against any member under this provision and shall determine the penalty, if any.

Article III – Privileges of Membership

- A. Members shall have the right to attend all membership meetings.
- B. Members shall have the right of voting, of being elected to office, and of serving on committees.

- C. All members shall be entitled to receive such benefits as this local, acting alone or through its affiliates, can establish, providing, however, that any benefits derived from any affiliate to which this local pays per capita dues shall be available only to dues paying members.

Article IV – Dues and Assessments

- A. Each member shall pay a given sum as dues; this sum to be used in a general expense fund for such organizational purpose as the Executive Committee may determine.
- B. Dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee.
- C. In recognition of their lower earnings, lower rates of dues may be set for employees of the Oceanside School District, otherwise eligible for membership, who are not in the category of certified professional employees.
- D. The Executive Committee shall have the power to make special assessments.
- E. The fiscal year of the OFT shall be the calendar year.

Article V – Powers and Duties of Officers

- A. The duties of the elected officers shall be listed in a document entitled Executive Committee Job Descriptions.
- B. In the event of the resignation, removal or incapacity of the President, the Executive Vice President shall succeed to the office of President, and a member of the Executive Committee shall fill the office of the Executive Vice President.
- C. Mid-term vacancies in all other officer positions shall be filled for the remainder of the term by presidential appointment with Executive Committee approval.
- D. The elected officers shall constitute a Board of trustees for the allocation of any funds, such as a Welfare Fund, which shall come to the treasury of the OFT for the benefit of the members of the bargaining units represented by this organization.
- E. The elected officers shall constitute the OFT Memorial Scholarship Committee and shall annually recommend scholarship recipients to the Executive Committee for their approval.

Article VI – Stipend Positions

The services of the officers and members of the Executive Committee of the Oceanside Federation of Teachers shall be reimbursed for all union-related expenses and services rendered. The Executive Committee shall set all stipends.

Article VII – Committees

- A. The affairs of this organization shall be explored, initiated, and executed by appropriate committees.
- B. The duties and makeup of the Executive and Administrative Committees are outlined in Article V and Article VI (B) of the Constitution.
- C. Standing committees shall be established as follows:
 - 1. Grievance
 - 2. Welfare and Benefits
 - 3. Community Relations
 - 4. Publications
 - 5. Membership
 - 6. Political Action
 - 7. Retirement
- D. The chairpersons of the standing committees shall be appointed by the President and shall have membership on the Executive Committee.
- E. Ad hoc committees shall be established to deal with various matters, e.g. contract negotiations, elections, as they arise. The chairperson shall be appointed by the President and shall have membership on the Executive Committee until the work of the committee is completed.

Article VIII – Affiliation and External Relations

- A. Delegates to the NYSUT/NEA Convention shall be elected by the membership as needed except for the President who shall be ranking delegate.
- B. Delegates to the NYSUT/NEA Convention shall represent this local in E.D. 18 and one of their number shall serve as chairperson of the delegation, and shall have membership on the Executive Committee.
- C. Delegates to the AFT Convention shall be elected by the membership as needed except for the President who shall be the ranking delegate.
- D. Delegates to the Long Island Labor Council shall be appointed by the President. Should more than one delegate be required, one shall be designated as ranking delegate and shall have membership on the Executive Committee.
- E. Joint union-administration committees, established by the OFT under contract with the Oceanside School District for the exploration of matters of mutual concern, shall have teachers as chairpersons, appointed by the President, who shall have membership on the Executive Committee.
- F. The teacher member of the PTA Executive Council, if selected in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the Constitution, shall have membership on the Executive Committee.

Article IX – Elections

- A. Elections shall be under the supervision of a committee appointed by the President.
- B. The nine officers shall be elected to a two-year term beginning on July 1.
- C. Any tenured member in good standing with a minimum of 1 year of Union related service shall be eligible for election to any office.
- D. Nominating Procedure: Adequate notice of forthcoming elections and the opportunity to make nominations shall be provided to the membership. Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the elections committee chairperson and/or the Recording Secretary and shall be supported by the signatures of ten members. Names of nominees shall be published prior to the date of election.
- E. Elections shall be conducted on the appointed day by the Building Representatives in each building. Secret written ballots shall be employed. Ballots shall be counted, recorded and stored by the Election Committee.
- F. The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, recommend candidates to the membership.
- G. Building Representatives shall be elected no later than June 15th and may serve for two years, unless the chapter chooses to elect for a shorter term.
- H. Delegates to the NYSUT/NEA Convention and the AFT Convention, other than the ranking delegate, shall be elected as needed and in accordance with dates set by these affiliates. Such elections shall follow similar democratic procedures and shall be conducted by the elections committee.

Article X – Auditing

Competent, professional auditors shall audit the records of this Federation at the end of each fiscal year. The report thereof shall be available to the membership upon request.

Article XI – Parliamentary Authority

Parliamentary authority shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

Article XII – Quorum

At least one-third of the active membership must be present to conduct the business of a meeting.

Article XIII – Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority of the active members at any membership meeting.