

# CONSTITUTION OF THE OCEANSIDE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

AFT LOCAL 1631  
NYSUT/NEA LOCAL 18-085

NYSUT, NEA, AFT, AFL-CIO

## Article I

This organization shall be known as the Oceanside Federation of Teachers (OFT), Local 1631.

## Article II – Philosophy and Goals

- A. To raise the standards of the teaching profession.
- B. To secure the conditions essential to the best professional service.
- C. To promote the welfare of the community through our work in the schools.
- D. To provide better educational opportunity for all.
- E. To advance the professional and economic interests of those who work in the schools through collective bargaining.
- F. To cooperate with fraternal organizations within the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).
- G. To continue a cooperative relationship with the labor movement.
- H. To promote the active participation of our members in all matters relating to the educational process.
- I. To establish and support democratic school administration.
- J. To maintain, within this local, an organization fully responsive to its membership.
- K. To negotiate and support fair and just contracts with the Oceanside School District.

### **Article III – Membership**

- A. All certified professional employees of the Oceanside School District who are not charged with the supervision of their colleagues, shall be eligible for membership.
- B. Other categories of employees of the Oceanside schools shall be eligible for membership, providing that such membership shall not be inconsistent with Federation responsibilities to the American labor movement and providing that appropriate dues and levels of representation are established in the By-Laws.
- C. Retired members shall be permitted to maintain special membership in accordance with appropriate provisions of the By-Laws.
- D. Membership shall be granted only upon the payment of dues. Members more than three months in arrears shall be declared in bad standing and shall be denied the rights of membership.
- E. Where authorized in law or in contract, the Treasurer shall collect from eligible employees in the bargaining units represented by this organization, who choose not to join it, a given sum in lieu of dues, commonly called an agency fee, in return for the representational services provided by the Oceanside Federation of Teachers. Such sum shall not accord membership rights to the employees in question.

### **Article IV – Chapters and Councils**

- A. The members of the Oceanside Federation of Teachers shall organize chapters based on the building or affiliate unit to which they are assigned. Each such chapter may have its own constitution, providing, however, that no provisions of such constitutions be inconsistent with the constitution and by-laws of this local.
- B. The elected representatives of the building chapter or affiliate unit shall be the Representatives to the Executive Committee.
- C. Those levels wherein the membership is divided into more than one chapter shall establish joint councils in which each chapter shall be represented. Such councils may establish their own rules of procedure, providing, however, that such rules shall not contravene the Constitution or By-Laws of this local nor the policies of the Executive Committee.
- D. The chairpersons of the councils shall be the Vice Presidents at each level.

## **Article V – Executive Committee**

- A. The establishment of policies and procedures for the functioning of this local and decisions regarding the expenditure of funds shall be the responsibility of an Executive Committee consisting of the following:
  - 1. The elected officers.
  - 2. Two (2) elected Building Representatives from each elementary and middle faculty and three (3) per high school and the elected chairpersons of each affiliate unit.
  - 3. Past President and past Executive Vice President may serve in an advisory capacity.
  - 4. Any other members as designated by Officers:
    - a. Committee chairpersons.
    - b. Ad hoc appointees.
    - c. Teacher officer of the PTA Council.
    - d. Professional Development Center liaison.
- B. The Executive Committee may authorize the payment of specific sums as stipend to any of the foregoing providing such position is described as salaried in the By-Laws.

## **Article VI – Officers**

- A. The officers of this organization shall be a President, an Executive Vice President, a Vice President for the high school, a Vice President for the middle school, a Vice President for the elementary schools, a Vice President for the affiliates, a Financial Secretary, a Recording Secretary and a Treasurer.
- B. The elected officers shall constitute an administrative committee for the purpose of implementing the policies of the Executive Committee and the wishes of the membership of this local.
- C. The President shall represent this organization in all conventions and meetings with our state and national affiliates, other organizations, the Board of Education, the Oceanside School District and the public and shall be ranking delegate among delegates to NYSUT/NEA the AFT, or any other delegation wherein more than one representative of this local is called for.

## **Article VII – Meetings**

- A. Membership meetings shall be scheduled by the Executive Committee as needed.
- B. Membership meetings shall be scheduled in response to petitions signed by ten members of each of the three levels.
- C. No work stoppages shall be initiated without discussion at a membership meeting and the approval of two-thirds of the membership, present and voting.
- D. Proposed contracts between the Oceanside Federation of Teachers and the Oceanside School District shall be submitted to the membership at a general membership meeting prior to signing. A majority vote of the membership shall be required to ratify any such contract.

## **Article VIII – Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active membership present and voting at a membership meeting or filing written ballots. Notice of a proposed amendment must be posted three weeks prior to voting.