

CONSTITUTION OF THE GREATER ST. LOUIS SPEECH ASSOCIATION
RATIFIED AUGUST 18, 2015

Article I: Name

1. The name of the organization shall be the "Greater St. Louis Speech Association."

Article II: Purpose

1. The purpose of the Greater St. Louis Speech Association is to enable high school students to enjoy social, cultural, and intellectual development through competitive speech and debate.

Article III: Membership

1. **Criteria:** Institutions are eligible for membership in the association if they meet the following criteria:
 - 1.1. Secondary schools for students in grades 9 through 12, and
 - 1.2. Located in the St. Louis combined statistical area, and
 - 1.3. In good standing with its state activities association.
2. **Membership dues:** Annual dues of one hundred dollars per institution shall be assessed and paid by the beginning of October or at the time membership is sought. The officers of the association may through a majority vote make exceptions to annual dues for membership.
3. **Termination of membership:** Membership may be terminated voluntarily by the member or by the association under the following conditions:
 - 3.1. Nonpayment of annual dues by the beginning of October and/or
 - 3.2. Just cause, including failure to abide by the association constitution and operations manual as determined by the officers of the association through a majority vote.

Article IV: Voting and meetings

1. **Voting:** Institutions are eligible to vote as soon as annual membership dues have been paid. Member institutions are eligible to vote on any issue put before the association. Member institutions who have paid annual dues for the school year immediately prior to the August meeting remain eligible to vote at the August meeting regardless of whether their annual dues have been paid for the current school year.
2. **Meetings:** Meetings of the association shall be held in August and April at a time and place determined by the officers of the association through a majority vote.
3. **Quorum:** One-fourth of the members shall constitute a quorum and the action of a majority of members present and voting shall be the action of the association.
4. **Special meetings:** Special meetings of the association may be called by a majority vote of the officers of the association. Notice of special meetings of the association shall be given by the secretary-treasurer to all members, and shall state the date, time and place as well as the purpose of the special meeting. One-fourth of the members shall constitute a quorum and the action of a majority of members present and voting shall be the action of the association.

Article V: Officers

1. **Officers:** The officers of the association shall be the president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and four other positions titled directors. The four directors shall be divided into two classes of two directors each.
2. **Term:** Officers shall take office at the August meeting of the association and shall serve for a term of two years.
3. **Elections:** The officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the April meeting of the association. The first class of two directors, the vice president, and the secretary-treasurer shall be elected in April of even-numbered years, and the second class of two directors and the president shall be elected in April of odd-numbered years.
4. **Removal:** Motions requesting the removal of an officer for not performing the duties of his/her office may be entertained at any meeting of the association. Such action requires approval of two-thirds of the membership present and voting.
5. **Duties:** Officers shall by majority vote determine and/or alter the operations manual of the association, including tournament operations, rules, and scheduling.
 - 5.1. President--The president shall preside at the meetings of the association, shall make committee appointments, and shall otherwise be responsible for the conduct of the business of the organization.
 - 5.2. Vice President--The vice president shall assist the president as may be requested by him/her, and shall perform the duties of the president in his/her absence or in the event of his/her inability or refusal to act.
 - 5.3. Secretary/Treasurer--The secretary/treasurer shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of the meetings of the association and distributing copies of these minutes to all current members at least a week prior to the next meeting, and shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of this constitution, and shall maintain a list of members, and shall be responsible for keeping and receiving records of all the funds of the association, and shall deposit such funds in a depository approved by the officers, and shall pay authorized expenses upon order of the officers, and in general, perform all duties incident to the office of secretary/treasurer.
 - 5.4. Directors--The directors shall be responsible for voting at officer meetings, and they shall carry out tournament-related and management duties as directed by the president.
6. **Past President:** The past president shall serve as an ex-officio officer providing assistance to the president and other officers until a transition has been completed.
7. **Vacancies:** Whenever there is a vacancy among the officers, an officer shall nominate a replacement who shall take office upon majority vote of the remaining officers.

Article VI: Amendments

1. This constitution may be amended by a three-fifths majority vote of the association members present and voting at any meeting of the association.