

# **Guidelines for the Election of Resolutions Committee Members**

## **Adopted by the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Rules (March 2008)**

NEA Standing Rule 7 governs the election of state Active, Retired, and Aspiring Educator Resolutions Committee members, and the appointment of at-large ESP, classroom teachers in higher education, and administrator members. The Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules will be responsible for monitoring the election of Resolutions Committee members and alternates.

### **1. Allocation of Resolutions Committee Members**

Standing Rule 7.B provides that the registered delegates to the Representative Assembly from each state will elect as many members and alternates to the Resolutions Committee from among the state and local delegates in the state delegation as each state has NEA state directors. The Retired delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly will elect as many members and alternates to the Resolutions Committee from among the Retired delegates as the number of Retired directors. The Aspiring Educator delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly will elect as many members and alternates to the Resolutions Committee as the number of Aspiring Educator directors. Nominations of Aspiring Educator members to the Resolutions Committee will be open to all eligible NEA Aspiring Educator members.

At-large members of the Resolutions Committee will be appointed by the NEA president as may be necessary to assure compliance with the requirements set forth in Article V, Section 1(d), (e), and (f) of the NEA Constitution and that ethnic minorities comprise at least twenty (20) percent of the committee.

### **2. Open Nominations**

Open nominations will mean a procedure by which every eligible delegate, or otherwise eligible member, will have the opportunity to nominate or be nominated for the positions of Resolutions Committee member or alternate, subject to any limitations required in the Constitution and Bylaws and also to any other reasonable restrictions uniformly imposed.

### **3. Election**

Positions, including vacancies, on the Resolutions Committee that are filled at the Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly by the state, NEA-Retired, or Aspiring Educator Program will be filled by a regular election procedure.

Elections will be by secret ballot. Secret ballot will mean a procedure for voting on slips of paper (or a voting machine) on which the voter may vote in secrecy. Regardless of voting procedure, the identity of the voter must not be disclosed as the marked ballots are submitted and counted.

Voting will be by those delegates present and will take place at the third business meeting of the state delegations and by the Retired and Aspiring Educator delegates at the time and place designated in the Annual Meeting program by the NEA president except as may otherwise be approved in advance by the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules. If the number of candidates for Resolutions Committee positions is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled, elections may be waived, and the candidates declared elected to the positions in question. The report of election results must be submitted

on the proper form to the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules before the close of the fifth business meeting of the Representative Assembly.

NEA Standing Rule 1.E provides that meetings of state delegations will be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* or such other parliamentary authority as the state delegation may recognize. The state delegation may adopt special rules that supplement or substitute for that parliamentary authority as long as such procedures do not conflict with the NEA governing documents as interpreted by the Representative Assembly, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee. For example: Although NEA elections are usually decided by majority vote, the governing documents are silent as to whether a Resolutions Committee election will be determined by majority or plurality vote. Therefore, a state—and by extension NEA-Retired and the Aspiring Educator Program—may adopt a rule specifying that Resolutions Committee elections will be determined by plurality vote or majority vote.

#### **4. Challenge Procedure**

A challenge to the election of a Resolutions Committee member will be made in writing to the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules within 24 hours after the challenger knew or reasonably should have known of the basis for the challenge.

#### **5. Terms of Members**

The terms of members of the Resolutions Committee will commence September 1. The terms of state, at-large, and retired members of the Resolutions Committee will be for one (1) year, two (2) years, or three (3) years, and no person will serve more than six (6) years as a state member, as an at-large member, or as a Retired member. The terms of Aspiring Educator members of the Resolutions Committee will be for one (1) year, and no person will serve more than two (2) terms as an Aspiring Educator member. Service as a Resolutions Committee member prior to September 1, 2008, will count toward the six (6) year and two (2) year term limits.<sup>1</sup> A state, at-large, or Retired member of the Resolutions Committee will immediately relinquish his or her position when such member ceases to be a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.

#### **6. Term Structures**

State affiliates and NEA-Retired may vary the terms of Resolutions Committee member positions from not less than one (1) to no more than three (3) years. The length of term of individual Resolutions Committee member positions will be determined by each state affiliate or NEA-Retired. Not all members from the state affiliate or NEA-Retired must be elected for the same length of term. The state affiliate or NEA-Retired may have some delegates running for one (1) year terms, others running for two (2) year terms, and others running for three (3) year terms, all on the same ballot. If the length of term varies, the electorate should be informed of the term for which each candidate is running.

The eligibility for terms by delegates seeking nomination and election to individual member positions is determined by each state affiliate or NEA-Retired. For example: A state affiliate or NEA-Retired may adopt a policy whereby a delegate may be elected to a multiple-year Resolutions Committee term that

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<sup>1</sup> Service as a Resolutions Committee member prior to September 1, 2008, refers to years of service accrued by members beginning in 1993-94, the first year that term limits on the Resolutions Committee were established by action of the 1993 Representative Assembly.

they cannot complete due to the six (6) year maximum service as member. As such, prior service on the Resolutions Committee would not restrict a delegate from election to a multiple-year term.

At-large members of the Resolutions Committee will be appointed by the NEA president as may be necessary to assure compliance with the requirements set forth in Article V, Section 1(d), (e), and (f) of the NEA Constitution and that ethnic minorities comprise at least twenty (20) percent of the committee. The length of term of individual at-large Resolutions Committee member positions is determined by the appointing president.

A state affiliate or NEA-Retired, or the NEA president in the case of at-large members, may modify the term of any seat provided it is open for election, and the modification is not in conflict with NEA Bylaw 3-13(b) which states that each vacancy on an NEA committee will be filled for the remainder of the term.

## **7. Vacancies**

Pursuant to NEA Bylaw 3-13(b), vacancies on the Resolutions Committee will be filled by election at the Representative Assembly or as otherwise designated for the remainder of the term. A vacancy will include actions where an elected member of the Resolutions Committee:

- A. Ceases to be a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly<sup>2</sup>;
- B. Ceases to be employed in the category represented, or in the case of NEA-Retired and Aspiring Educator members ceases to be a member in the category represented;
- C. Is absent two (2) consecutive meetings of the Resolutions Committee;
- D. Is ineligible to complete their term upon reaching the six (6) year maximum as a state member or as a retired member, provided the state or NEA-Retired permits its members to be elected as such.
- E. Resigns their position for any reason not specified in A, B, C, or D above.

## **8. Years of Service on the Resolutions Committee**

- A. Resolutions Committee members will accrue one (1) year of service for each annual attendance at one (1) or both of the winter or summer meetings of the Resolutions Committee.
- B. "Attendance" will be defined as present for one half or more of the sessions associated with each meeting for which attendance is recorded.
- C. Pursuant to NEA Bylaw 3-13(b), absence of a member from two (2) consecutive meetings will constitute resignation, and a member will not accrue one (1) year of service for that year.

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<sup>2</sup> A state, at-large, or retired Resolutions Committee member that has not been successfully elected as an NEA delegate or whose term as an NEA delegate has expired will cease to be a delegate prior to the first business meeting of the first Representative Assembly to which they are not eligible to attend as an elected delegate.

- D. A member will not accrue one (1) year of service for resigning their position in advance of the committee's first meeting.

## 9. Alternate Service on the Resolutions Committee

- A. NEA Standing Rule 7.B provides that the procedure for filling vacancies on the Resolutions Committee between meetings of the Representative Assembly will be as follows: If the number of vacancies exceeds the number of alternates elected to fill vacancies, additional alternates will be appointed by the governing board of the state affiliate or by the NEA Aspiring Educators Committee, if feasible, or appointed by the president of the state affiliate or the chairperson of the NEA Aspiring Educators Committee. Retired member vacancies will be filled as provided in the bylaws of NEA-Retired.
- B. Determination of the order of alternates is the prerogative of the state affiliates, NEA-Retired, and the Aspiring Educator Program, respectively (e.g., alternates may be ranked by order of votes, assigned as alternate for a specific committee member, or as otherwise determined by the state affiliate, NEA-Retired, or the Aspiring Educator Program). The number of alternates elected need not equal the number of regular committee positions.
- C. Upon notification to NEA of assignment by the state affiliate or NEA-Retired or the Aspiring Educator Program, an Alternate Resolutions Committee member may temporarily serve in the absence of a regularly elected member. Such service will not be counted toward the term limits for years of service on the Resolutions Committee.
- D. Upon notification to NEA of appointment by the state affiliate or NEA-Retired or the Aspiring Educator Program of a vacancy in accordance with Section 7 of these guidelines, an Alternate Resolutions Committee member will become a regular member of the Resolutions Committee. Such appointment will constitute membership on the Resolutions Committee. Members appointed in advance of the winter meeting will accrue service in accordance with Section 8 of these guidelines. Service by members appointed after the winter meeting will not be counted toward the term limits for years of service on the Resolutions Committee.
- E. As determined by the state affiliate or NEA-Retired in multiple-year term structures, an Alternate Resolutions Committee member may be certified to fill the vacancy of a multiple-year term for which they are eligible until a regular election is held, or may be certified to fill the vacancy of a multiple-year term for which they are eligible for the remainder of the term, provided this is clearly stated in the nomination and election procedures conducted by the state affiliate or NEA-Retired.
- F. Persons ineligible to be elected as members of the Resolutions Committee will be ineligible to be elected as alternates.

Situations that do not fall within the scope of either Section 8 or Section 9 above will be reviewed by the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules on an ad hoc basis provided that not more than one person will be credited for a single year of service as a member of the Resolutions Committee.