Northern Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association (NRMERA)

Constitution

Article I: Name

A. Name. The organization shall hereafter be known as the "Northern Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association" (NRMERA).
B. Duration. The period of duration for the Northern Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association is perpetual.

Article II: Purpose

A. The Northern Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association shall be a nonprofit educational organization whose purpose is to encourage quality educational research and to promote the application of the results of such educational research in schools.

Article III: Objectives

A. To establish a responsive forum for conducting educational research in the northern Rocky Mountain region of the United States as well as other regions with similar rural and/or remote challenges to conducting educational research.
B. To promote a trusting atmosphere where graduate and undergraduate students have the opportunity to conduct and disseminate educational research.
C. To promote a trusting atmosphere where public school personnel have the opportunity to conduct and disseminate educational research.
D. To provide for the equal and collegial interaction of educational researchers among themselves and other interested professionals without regard to formal recognition of attained rank, title, or any accomplishment.
E. To establish an effective communication system for the dissemination of educational research activity and opportunity in the northern Rocky Mountain region.
F. To facilitate effective communication among the northern Rocky Mountain region.

Article IV: Membership

A. Any person who supports the purpose of NRMERA shall be eligible for membership and shall be an active member in the organization upon payment of annual dues.

B. There shall be two types of membership:
    i. Constituent Membership. All members who are representative of NRMERA's constituent states are entitled to membership functions that shall be exercised by constituent state representatives elected in accordance with provisions in the Bylaws.
    ii. At-Large Membership. All members who are not representative of NRMERA's constituent states are entitled to membership functions that shall be exercised by an at-large representative elected in accordance with provisions in the Bylaws.
C. Membership Termination
    i. When any member shall be in default in the payment of dues at the Annual Meeting, one's membership thereupon is terminated by the Executive Board until such membership dues are paid.
    ii. Membership may be reinstated at the succeeding Annual Meeting if said dues are paid for that year.

Article V: Constituent States

A. The constituent states of NRMERA include Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Article VI: Liaison Relationships

A. Liaison relationships may be established with associations, agencies, colleges, universities, and public schools with an interest in educational research.

Article VII: Officers & Representatives

A. The elected officers of NRMERA shall consist of:
    i. President
    ii. President-Elect
    iii. Secretary
    iv. Treasurer
    v. Immediate Past-President
B. The elected representatives of NRMERA shall consist of:
    i. Constituent State Representatives
    ii. At-Large Representative
    iii. Graduate Student Representative
C. The appointed officers of NRMERA shall consist of:
    i. Program Chair
    ii. Conference Mentor

iii. Editor of *Educational Research: Theory & Practice*
iv. Communications Manager

Article VIII: Executive Board

A. The Executive Board consists of the elected officers and representatives and appointed officers delineated in Article VII.
B. The elected officers and representatives shall be elected by the entire membership attending the annual conference in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Bylaws.
C. The appointed officers shall be approved by the elected officers and representatives attending the annual conference in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Bylaws.

Article IX: Meetings

A. Annual Meeting
    i. NRMERA shall hold an annual meeting each October, no later than the third weekend.
    ii. The annual meeting shall be held in a location with attention to lodging and transportation rates, accessibility, leisure opportunity, and comfort.
    iii. On the last day of each NRMERA annual meeting shall be an annual business meeting that is open to the entire membership.
    iv. The subsequent annual meeting dates and location shall be determined by the President-Elect in communication with and approval by the Executive Board, and announced to the Association's membership at the Annual Business Meeting.
B. Annual Meeting Location
    i. The annual meeting shall be held every year within a constituent state.
    ii. No one state shall host a conference more than once in a three (3) year period.
C. Open Meetings
    i. The Executive Board shall have the authority to call any other such meeting(s) as deemed necessary to conduct the business of NRMERA in concordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.
    ii. All NRMERA Executive Board meetings shall be considered as open to any member desiring to attend and participate, although without voting privileges.
D. Closed Meetings
    i. The Executive Board has the only authority to close a meeting to the membership and such action requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting members present.

ii. A meeting may only be closed for executive session if a personnel matter is being discussed. The personnel matter must be subsequently acted upon in the open meeting, although the Executive Board shall maintain the member's confidentiality.

E. Meetings of the Executive Board.
   i. Regular in-person meetings of the Executive Board shall be held immediately preceding and following the Annual Meeting.
   ii. The President shall schedule and hold a virtual mid-year Executive Board meeting.
   iii. Notice of the meetings shall be communicated to the membership through the website, email, and/or other appropriate mechanisms.
   iv. The President may, if deemed necessary, or the Secretary shall, at the request in writing of three (3) members of the Executive Board, issue a call for a special Executive Board meeting allowing for reasonable (at least two weeks prior to the meeting) notification of the Executive Board members.

Article X: Rules of Order

A. The rules of parliamentary procedure contained in Roberts' Rules of Order (latest version) shall govern the deliberations of NRMERA.

Article XI: Order of Business

A. The order of business shall be as follows at all meetings of the Association, Executive Board Meetings, and committee meetings:
   i. Call to Order
   ii. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
   iii. Reports of Officers, Executive Board, and Standing Committees
   iv. Reports of Special Committees
   v. Announcements
   vi. Unfinished Business
   vii. New Business
   viii. Adjournment
B. Any question as to priority of business shall be decided by the President without any debate.
C. This order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

Article XII: Quorum

A. Approval of a majority of the members present and eligible to vote shall constitute the declaration of a quorum for the purpose of transacting NRMERA business at the Annual Business Meeting, Executive Board Meetings, or other called NRMERA meetings.

Article XIII: Nonprofit Status

A. NRMERA is not organized for profit and no part of its funds shall inure to the benefit of any officer, member, or individual except to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.
B. NRMERA is recognized as a 501(c)(3) educational organization by the Internal Revenue Service as of October 17, 2018. NRMERA is organized as an Unincorporated Nonprofit Association under the statutes of the state of Wyoming as of September 28, 2018, ID:2018-000822432. Unincorporated Nonprofit Association status expires every five years unless an Amendment of Authority is filed with the Wyoming Secretary of State prior to expiration. An Amendment of Authority was filed on October 3, 2022. A NRMERA officer must refile the amendment before the current amendment expires.
C. Legislative or Political Activities
    i. No substantial part of the activities of NRMERA shall be the attempt to influence legislation, nor shall NRMERA participate in or intervene (including the publishing or distribution of statements) with any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
D. Operational Limitations.
    i. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, NRMERA shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by:
        a. a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law); and
        b. contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).
E. Directors and Officers Insurance.
    i. NRMERA shall carry nonprofit Directors and Officers Insurance to ensure members of the board do not incur personal liability as part of their service to the organization.
F. Dissolution Clause.
    i. Upon dissolution of NRMERA, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association exclusively for the purpose and objectives of NRMERA.

ii. This shall be done in such a manner or to such an organization organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as determined by the Executive Board.
iii. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the President of NRMERA is located.

Article XIV: Affiliation

A. NRMERA shall be affiliated with the American Educational Research Association (AERA) as a member organization of the Special Interest Group entitled State and Regional Educational Research Associations (SRERA).

Article XV: Fiscal Year

A. The fiscal year of NRMERA shall be from January 1 to December 31.

Article XVI: Constitutional Amendments

A. Proposed amendments or alterations to this constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board at any time by recommendation of any active member provided that:
    i. the member secures signatures of four other active members to the proposed amendment;
    ii. submits this petition to the Executive Board for action no fewer than 14 days prior to the annual meeting;
    iii. the amendment is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board; and
    iv. the amendment is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority and balloted division of the assembly vote of the active members attending and voting at the Annual Business Meeting.

Article XVII: Bylaws Amendments

A. Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part by the Executive Board or active members subject to a two-thirds (2/3) majority and balloted division of the assembly vote of the active members present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting.

Amendment History

- Proposed amendment made to merge the positions of Membership Manager and Webmaster to a new position of Communications Manager. First reading was on October 4, 2024, by the NRMERA membership present at the Annual Meeting in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada. A second electronic review was conducted in late October. The changes were passed unanimously. The document was adopted via electronic vote of the membership in October, 2024.
- Proposed amendment made to change the fiscal year to January 1 - December 31. First reading was on October 4, 2024, by the NRMERA membership present at the Annual Meeting in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada. A second electronic review was conducted in late October. The changes were passed unanimously. The document was adopted via electronic vote of the membership in October, 2024.
- Proposed amendments were made to revise Article V Constituent States of NRMERA, item A, to add Washington and remove Minnesota, and to update Article XIII Nonprofit Status, item B. First reading was on October 14, 2022 by the NRMERA membership present at the Annual Meeting in Billings, Montana. A second electronic review was conducted in February 2023. The changes were passed unanimously. The document was adopted via electronic vote of the membership in March, 2023.
- Proposed amendments, with the modification of Articles III, VII, VII, IX, XIII, and XV, as well as the updating of the journal title and formatting edits, were first reviewed on October 15, 2021, by the NRMERA membership present at the Annual Meeting in Ketchum, Idaho. A second electronic review was conducted in early January 2022. The document was adopted via electronic vote of the membership in January, 2022.
- Amended on November 4, 2013, with modification of Article IX, section A and B.
- Amended October 5, 2000, with the inclusion of two new constituent states: Minnesota and Nevada.