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Amended: September 6, 2003  
Amended: August 27, 2004  
Amended: September 25, 2015  
Amended: December 17, 2020  
Amended: September 17, 2021  
Amended: September 15, 2023

## CONSTITUTION

### MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WELFARE

#### Article I

##### Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Mississippi Conference on Social Welfare.

#### Article II

##### Purpose

- Section 1. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the social well-being:
- a. By facilitating the discussion of methods and principles of social services administration.
  - b. By promoting the coordination and integration of social services agencies.
  - c. By assisting persons, agencies, and institutions enlisted in this cause to increase their efficiency.
  - d. By disseminating reliable information regarding social problems.
  - e. By developing concerted action to produce practical results among Individuals and agencies engaged in social services, public and private.
  - f. By taking appropriate social action to promote the social welfare of citizens of Mississippi.
  - g. By engaging in other activities consistent with this general

purpose.

## Article III

### Membership

- Section 1. Individual membership in the Conference shall be open to all Individuals engaged in social services or interested in the purposes of the Conference and upon payment of current annual dues as established by the membership.
- a. Section 2. **University and Organizational Membership**  
Social Service organizations, institutions, or agencies may become sustaining members of the Conference by payment of an annual fee as determined by the membership. **University** and Organizational membership does allow voting privileges at the MCSW Annual Forum Business Session for one designated representative of the organization as verified by the signature on the Organization membership card.  
*(Amended 09/17/21 per membership vote, 2021 Annual Forum Business Meeting, Policy Chair, ESM), (Amended 09/15/23 per membership vote, 2023 Annual Business Meeting, Policy Chair, ESM)*
- Section 3. Organizations, institutions, or agencies who make contributions other than regular dues to the Conference shall be recognized as **patrons** **community partners**. *(Amended 9/15/23 per membership vote, 2023 Annual Business Meeting, Policy Chair, ESM)*
- Section 4. Students may attend the meeting of the Conference without paying dues but will not be entitled to any other privileges of membership. Students will be required to pay meeting registration fees established by the Conference. Any person classified as full time by the college or university attended will be considered a student by the Conference.
- Section 5. Retired board members may attend the meetings of the Conference without paying dues but will be required to pay the registration fee required of members who pay dues prior to the established and advertised date. They will not be entitled to any other privileges of membership.
- Section 6. Special membership may be determined by the Executive Board.
- Section 7. Payment of dues anytime during the program year entitles the **student, individual, university or organizational** member to the rights and privileges outlined above, from the date dues are paid through the remainder of the program year. *(Amended 9/15/23 per membership vote, 2023 Annual Business meeting, Policy Chair,*

**ESM)**

Section 8. The membership dues of the Conference may be amended at any business session of the Conference membership by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. The proposed dues changes shall be mailed to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the Conference meeting. Dues rates shall become effective upon the first day of the following program year.

Section 9. The program year runs from January 1 through December 31.

**Article IV**

**Government of the Conference**

Section 1. The Mississippi Conference on Social Welfare shall be governed by an Executive Board consisting of elected officers and chairpersons of Committees, as hereinafter set forth.

Section 2. All Executive Board members, and committee members shall be paid Conference members.

Section 3. Officers

a. The officers of the Conference shall be President, President –Elect, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

b. All officers shall serve one-year terms except for the Treasurer who will serve a two-year term. Terms shall coincide with the program year of the Conference except for the term of the Treasurer, whose term shall encompass two program years.

c. Officers will be elected by paid members of the Conference.

Section 4. The Executive Board

b. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, the Immediate past President, Historian, the chairpersons of standing committees, and the six Members-at-Large consisting of 2 members from each Supreme Court District.

c. Chairpersons of Ad Hoc Committees will attend Executive Board meetings without voting rights.

d. The Members-at-Large shall consist of two representatives from

each of the Supreme Court Districts in the State and shall serve for two-year terms. These districts will be known as the Northern, Central, and Southern districts. Terms shall be staggered so that only one Member-at-Large from each district shall be elected in each program year.

- e. The Executive Board shall have the authority to enter into Independent Contract(s) for professional services necessary to carry out Conference operations. The Executive Board will set the conditions of any contract on a purchase of service basis defining the scope of services. No contract will be submitted to the Board for vote or put out for bid without verification from the Treasurer of adequate funds available in the current year budget to cover the full expense of the contract and the Treasurer will obligate or earmark these approved funds solely for the contract expense. No contract will be issued based on projected revenue or funding. *(Amended 10/17/21 per membership vote, 2021 Annual Forum Business Meeting, Policy Chair ESM)*. An Independent Contract does not constitute an Employer-Employee relationship. Any Independent Contractor will report directly to the Executive Board. Contracts will be reviewed and negotiated as needed and at least annually. *(Amended 12/17/20 per membership vote, 2020 Annual Forum Business Meeting, Policy Chair ESM)* The Executive Board has executed and maintains an independent contract for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director reports directly to the MCSW Board. The Board determines the payment for and scope of services as part of the contract. The Executive Director contract is to be reviewed and/or negotiated as needed and at least annually by the MCSW Board. *(Amended 12/17/20 per membership vote, 2020 Annual Forum Business Meeting, Policy Chair ESM)* The grayed section above was deleted by board and membership vote on 10/17/21 as it is now covered in section e with the amended changes*(Amended 10/17/21 per membership vote, 2021 Annual Forum Business Meeting, Policy Chair ESM)*
- f. The Executive Board shall have the authority to appoint a Historian who shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board.
- g. Members of the Board shall attend all regularly and duly called meetings of Board or be represented by a Conference member in good standing who has been designated by the Board member to attend the meetings and act in his/her absence.
- h. The absence of any member of the Board from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board without sending a designated replacement, shall affect an automatic resignation of said member from the Board and a successor shall be appointed as provided by

this Constitution. The Board may waive this section by a two-thirds vote of those present or voting by written proxy at a regularly and duly called meetings.

- i. The Executive Board shall have authority to fill any vacancies which occur through resignation or death of any member of the Executive Board and members of the Nominations Committee.
- j. A quorum for the Executive Board shall be at least one-half plus one of Executive Board membership.

#### Section 5. Committees

- a. The standing committees of the Conference shall be: Program, Arrangements, Membership, Legislation, Policy Forming, Nominations, Scholarship, Social Welfare Merit, Publicity and Publications, Continuing Education, and Information & Technology Management. *(Amended 10/17/21 per membership vote, 2021 Annual Forum Business Meeting, Policy Chair ESM)*
- b. The Nominations Committee shall be composed of six (6) Members elected by the membership for terms of three (3) years, and shall elect its own chairperson from within its membership each year. Terms of the nomination shall be staggered so that only two members shall be elected each program year.
- c. All standing committees, other than Nominations, shall be Composed of up to six (6) members each to serve for a term of two (2) years. Terms shall be staggered so that only two members shall be appointed each program year. Each President shall have the authority to appoint two (2) members of each of these Committees and may appoint additional members to the Program and Arrangements Committees to serve for one (1) year only.
- d. Each President shall have the authority to designate the Chairperson of standing committees during his/her term of office, except for Nominations. The President shall have the authority to fill unexpired terms within all appointed, but not elected, committees.
- e. A member may serve on only two standing committees during a Conference year.

### **Article V**

#### **Meetings**

- Section 1. There shall be an Annual Forum of the Conference membership,
- Section 2. Special meetings of the membership shall be held upon written call of the President and a quorum of the Executive Board, or by a majority of the current membership. Notice of such meetings shall be by written notice mailed to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such special meeting. The purpose of such special meeting shall be stated in the aforesaid notice.
- Section 3. Regional meetings, planned by the Members-at-Large, will be held annually in each of the Supreme Court Districts.
- Section 4. The Executive Board shall hold regular meetings at least six (6) times in each year upon such dates and at such times as the Board may determine. Every regular meeting of the Board shall be announced at least seven (7) days in advance by written or electronic notice. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President, of the calling of a special meeting may be mandatory at the written request of three (3) members of the Board stating the object of the meeting. Special meetings shall be held after fourteen (14) days written notice has been given.

## **Article VI**

### **Voting**

- Section 1. Members qualified a vote, as hereinafter set forth, shall be entitled to one vote. A quorum for the transaction of all business of the Conference shall be one-fourth of the current membership, or fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of those voting at a business session at the Annual Forum, or at a specially called meeting.
- Section 2. All individual members who have paid membership dues during the program year are entitled to vote in all matters requiring a vote by the Conference membership.

## **Article VII**

### **By-Laws**

- Section 1. The Executive Board shall approve, for recommendation to the membership, a code of by-laws, consistent with the articles of this Constitution, for regulating the exercise of powers and duties, to be passed by the Conference with fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of those

voting at a business session at the Annual Forum or by one fourth (1/4) of the current membership.

## **Article VIII**

### **Amendments**

Section 1. The Constitution and /or by-laws of the Conference may be amended at any business session of the Conference membership by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. The proposed amendment(s) shall be mailed to the membership at least (30) days prior to the meeting.