# **Bylaws**

## Standing Rules and Procedures

What are they

Why do we need them?

## **Bylaws**

What are Bylaws?

"bylaw – a law of local application adopted by an organization or assembly"

- Every level of PTA from the National PTA to the local unit PTA/PTSA operates within the guidelines of their bylaws
- ❖ Bylaws are one of the most important legal documents of an organization, as it protects both the organization and it's members.
- ❖ Local units are linked to the SCPTA which is linked to the National PTA by whom they are chartered.

## Why are bylaws important?

Bylaws are the written contract between the members and their elected officials and are the key to dealing with such issues as:

- The name and purposes of the organization or association,
- Membership and dues,
- Qualifications, responsibilities and duties of the officials,
- \* The length and number of terms of those elected,
- How the finances are handled, including audits and transferring of the books,
- Duties of the board of directors and committees,
- Nomination and election procedures,
- \* Assist with conflict resolution and settle disputes



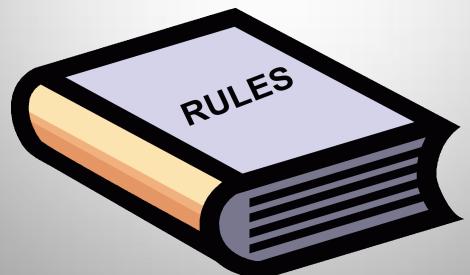


- Remember to keep your bylaws relevant to your organization or association,
- Make them clear and concise in content and meaning,
- They must be voted on by your membership,
- Bylaws are the answer to any conflicts or disputes,
- Bylaws supersede Standing Rules and Procedures,
- Must be current, SCPTA bylaws must be renewed every 3 years,
- Most importantly, they are required by the IRS to be a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization or association

#### **Standing Rules and Procedures**

Standing Rules and Procedures, what are those?

- Standing Rules and Procedures are the rules that an organization or association use to define their bylaws. They outline specifically how to carry out what is stated in the bylaws.
  - Are something every PTA/PTSA should have.



#### **Standing Rules and Procedures:**

- Define more clearly what is written in the bylaws,
- Help the organization or association run smoothly,
- Help with the efficient transaction of business,
- Help to ensure the orderly and successful transfer of duties and books from the outgoing to the incoming officials,
- May be amended at anytime,
- Are more flexible than the bylaws,
- But most importantly they never supersede the bylaws.

## **Bylaws approved:**

prior to 2012 MUST be renewed now

Bylaws approved:

in 2013 need to be renewed in 2016



#### **Contact Information:**

#### Susan Strohm

# SCPTA Bylaws and Standing Rule and Procedures Chair

843-345-1539

bylaws@scpta.org