

VSCA BYLAWS AMENDMENTS PROPOSAL

10/9/23

Proposed bylaws amendments are in blue. It is helpful to review our current bylaws first. Only the bylaws sections with proposed changes are cited below.

Current VSCA By-Laws

Proposed Amendments to By-Laws:

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP:

II. Section 1. Types of Membership.

This Association shall include **six** types of membership: Professional, Regular, **Retired**, Emeritus, Student and Affiliate.

II. Section 2. Requirements of Membership.

In order to qualify for one of the **six** types of membership, an individual must meet the following requirements for the membership being sought.

a. Professional Membership. A Professional Member must be employed as a school counselor, or otherwise must devote at least 50 percent of the time in activities related to school counseling whether directly or in a supervisory capacity. A Professional Member must hold a master's degree from an accredited college or university, with a minimum of 30 semester hours, or equivalent of graduate credit in courses related to counseling, and must be employed in school counselor related activities. The member must hold a school counselor or guidance certificate or license, if such certificate is available from those states where the member is employed. Any person who has attained status as a Professional Member shall retain that status for all purposes. Any such person shall not be eligible for an elected office of the Association if the election occurs more than two years after any such person discontinues employment or supervisory activity in school counseling.

b. Regular Membership. A Regular Member shall be employed as a counselor, or otherwise must devote at least 50 percent of the time in activities related to counseling whether directly or in a supervisory capacity, and hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, with a minimum of 15 semester hours or equivalent, of graduate credit in courses related to counseling.

c. Retired Membership. A retired member is any individual who has retired from the school counseling profession.

d. Emeritus Membership. Emeritus Members, as voted by the Board of Directors, shall enjoy all privileges of membership but shall be exempt from the payment of dues. **Those eligible include**

(i) A person has been a member for at least 20 years and has attained age 65. (ii) A person has served as **VSCA President (prior to 2018)** or Chair of the Board of Directors. (iii) A person is currently representing School Counselors at the Virginia Department of Education.

e. Student Membership. A Student Member must be engaged in a planned program of school counselor education designed to result in a degree or certification as a school counselor. No person shall be eligible to be or continue as a Student Member who is otherwise eligible to become a Professional Member or Regular Member.

f. Affiliate Membership. Any person interested in counseling, not eligible for any other type of membership, may become an Affiliate Member.

II. Section 5. Rights and Privileges.

Professional, Regular, **Retired**, Emeritus, and Student Members shall be eligible to vote, indicate motions of parliamentary proceeding, and shall be eligible for **committee membership, committee leadership,** elective office, or appointment to the Board.

II. Section 6. Severance of Membership.

a. A member may be dropped from membership for any conduct that tends to injure the Association, or adversely affect its reputation, or which violates principles stated in the VSCA By-Laws. ~~A Committee on Ethics~~ **The Board of Directors** shall consider any charges made over *the signature of six VSCA members who are in good standing*. A member shall be permitted to resign from membership, whether the charges are true, subject, however, to the right of any accused member to file an appeal to and have a hearing before the Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final.

ASCA By-Laws (APPROVED JULY 2022)

ARTICLE II, SECTION 2. Requirements of Membership. In order to qualify for one of the four types of membership, the following requirements must be met for each category of membership being sought.

II-2a. Professional Membership. School counseling professionals who hold a master's degree or higher in school counseling or the substantial equivalent and are employed as school counselors, supervisors of school counselors or school counseling at the school, district, or state level, or professors of counseling in a graduate program that prepares school counselors are eligible for Professional membership.

II-2b. Retired Members. Professional members in retirement are eligible for Retired membership.

II-2c. Student Membership. Students enrolled in a master's level program that prepares school counselors are eligible for Student membership.

II-2d. Affiliate Membership. Individuals who have an interest in school counseling, who are not eligible for any other type of membership, are eligible for Affiliate membership.

ARTICLE II, SECTION 5. Severance of Membership. Association members who do not renew their membership before their membership expiration date will no longer be considered members of ASCA.

Membership may be revoked for revocation of license or credential or for violation of ASCA Ethical Standards, following procedures described in ASCA policies and procedures that address Membership.

* Membership level

Member - \$50.00 (USD) Subscription period: 1 year No automatically recurring payments

Retired - \$25.00 (USD) Subscription period: 1 year No automatically recurring payments A retired member is any individual who has reached the age of 55 and has retired from the counseling profession.

Student - \$25.00 (USD) Subscription period: 1 year No automatically recurring payments Must be enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree program for school counseling and NOT currently employed as a school counselor.

Amendment 2
STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Current VSCA By-Laws:

Does not exist

Proposed Amendments to By-Laws:

ARTICLE II: Section 7. Statement of Nondiscrimination

The Virginia School Counselor Association does not knowingly engage in or support activities that discriminate on any basis as addressed in federal guidelines and ASCA's Ethical Standards for School Counselors.

Amendment 3
TREASURER/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR POSITION

Proposed Amendment to By-Laws:

ARTICLE V: ADDITIONAL POSITIONS AND DUTIES:

V. Section 1: **Finance Manager/Treasurer**

- a. **Finance Manager/Treasurer shall be contracted by the Board of Directors annually. b. The roles and responsibilities of the Finance Manager/Treasurer shall be defined and carried out in accordance with the VSCA Financial Policies & Procedures Handbook and Scope of Services, subject to the provisions of its Bylaws, policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors.**

Amendment 4

COMMITTEE CHAIR

V. Section 2: Committee Chairs.

Committees shall be established to accomplish specific tasks within specific timeframes in accordance with the ~~Mission, Vision~~ **Governing Policies & Procedures** as adopted by the Board of Directors. These committees shall carry out the work of VSCA.

- a. Committee Chairs shall be appointed by the **Executive Director, or in the absence of the Executive Director, the Board of Directors, and** serve one-year terms.
- b. Committee Chairs may serve consecutive terms.
- c. Committee Chairs may be removed at any time by the Board of Directors if the Board determines it to be in the best interest of the Association.

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Amendment 5

ADDITIONAL POSITIONS AND DUTIES

Current VSCA By-Laws:

Does not exist

Proposed Amendments to By-Laws:

ARTICLE V: ADDITIONAL POSITIONS AND DUTIES:

V. Section 3: Additional Appointments. The Board of Directors may create other positions as needed to accomplish the work of the association in accordance with the current By-laws and Governing Policies & Procedures.