

SYRACUSE LOVING EDUCATION AT HOME

BY-LAWS

1. Purpose

Syracuse Loving Education At Home (Syracuse LEAH) exists to support Christian families in homeschooling and to promote homeschooling in the Syracuse area. Syracuse LEAH members represent the diversity of traditions within the Christian faith who are united in their commitment to home education. Syracuse LEAH is not a church, nor meant to replace the church fellowship. Syracuse LEAH is a local chapter of New York State Loving Education At Home.

Aspects of this support include:

- a. Support and training for parents through the monthly adult meeting and the newsletter. The organization provides opportunity for informal support and fellowship.
- b. Educational services for children including group lessons and educational events. Some examples might include science fair, arts fair, history fair, field trips, and group lessons such as swimming, art, book clubs, etc.
- c. Socialization experiences for the children and member families. Some examples might include holiday parties, hay rides, sleigh rides, roller skating events, etc.
- d. Updates on legal and legislative issues to inform homeschoolers and to facilitate coordinated response.

2. Membership

- a. Membership is open to all families homeschooling or considering homeschooling in the greater Syracuse area. Members should understand, and are expected to comply with the Christian, Biblical orientation of Syracuse LEAH.
- b. It is expected that all members support Syracuse LEAH with their annual dues and participation in committee work to insure that organization objectives are met.
- c. Families in their first year of homeschooling will be exempt from regular committee participation to insure their major efforts go toward their homeschool. They may, however, be asked to assist in a limited way.
- d. Membership applications will be subject to approval by the coordinating committee. The coordinating committee reserves the right to deny membership or to dismiss any member who the coordinating committee determines has harmed the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, homeschooling, the Bible as the Word of God, and/or Syracuse LEAH.

3. Organizational Structure

The officers of Syracuse LEAH will consist of Head Coordinator(s), Treasurer, Secretary, and Coordinators responsible for Membership Services, Program Planning, Educational Services, Social Activities, and Legislative Action. Offices may be filled by individuals or couples. All Officers shall subscribe to the Statement of Faith which is attachment 1.

Coordinators will be responsible to insure the committees carry out their area of responsibility. They will insure coordination of the organizational calendar, allow quick communication, easy decision making, and philosophical unity within the organization.

The Coordinating Committee, which shall consist of all Officers, shall function as the Executive Committee or Board of Directors of Syracuse LEAH. The Coordinating Committee shall have the authority to set policy and decide issues which can not be resolved by a single Coordinator, adjust budget category amounts within the approved total expenses, fill vacancies on the Coordinating Committee, and call and set the date and place of membership meetings. The Coordinating Committee shall meet no less than 4 times per year.

- a. Head Coordinator(s)** - Responsible for the overall functioning of the organization. Leads the Coordinating Committee meetings and the annual business meeting. Assigns members to committees. Coordinates the dates of activities and functions sponsored by the organization.
- b. Treasurer** - Responsible for keeping financial records, providing regular financial reports, and preparing the budget.
- c. Secretary** - Responsible for recording of Committee meetings and Annual Business meeting.
- d. Coordinator(s) for Membership Services** - Responsible for the membership, sales, publicity, and greeting functions.
- e. Coordinator(s) for Educational Services** - Responsible for field trips, arts fair, science fair, history fair, and group lessons.
- f. Coordinator(s) of Social Activities** - Responsible for parties, refreshments, graduation, and special activities.
- g. Coordinator(s) of Program Planning** - Responsible for planing the monthly adult meetings.
- h. Coordinator(s) of Legislative Activity** - Responsible for informing membership about legislative action.
- j. Special Committees**
 - 1. Audit Committee** - 2 members shall be appointed by the Coordinating Committee. The Audit Committee shall review the financial procedures of Syracuse LEAH and report at the Annual Meeting.
 - 2. Nominating Committee** - A Nominating Committee shall be composed of 3 officers (appointed by the Coordinating Committee) and 3 members elected by the Membership. Any member may nominate a member to the Nominating Committee.

4. Election of Officers

- a. The Nominating Committee shall submit a slate of officers to the membership 2 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b. Election shall be by majority of members (every adult of member families) present. Election shall be by secret ballot unless there are no contested nominations.
- c. The term of office shall be from July 1 to June 30.
- d. There is no maximum number of terms an Officer shall be permitted to serve.

5. Budget and Dues Structure

- a. The budget and annual dues shall be developed by the Treasurer, approved by the Coordinating Committee, and submitted to the membership at least 2 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. It is expected the dues will cover the operating expenses of Syracuse LEAH.

Additional fees may be charged for parties and other special events.

- b. The membership and fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30.
- c. If Syracuse LEAH dissolves itself, any assets shall go to New York State LEAH.

6. Meetings

- a. The Annual Meeting of Syracuse Loving Education at Home shall be in May. The business of the Annual Meeting shall be the election of Officers, adoption of the budget and dues structure, adoption of amendments to the By-laws, and other business.
- b. Special meetings may be called by the Coordinating Committee or 10 members may petition the Coordinating Committee with a proposed agenda. The Coordinating Committee shall call a special meeting within 30 days. A Notice of Special Meeting shall be mailed to all members at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting date and shall include the topics to be considered. Only these topics shall be dealt with in the Special Meeting.

7. Agreement To Amend

As a part of our application for recognition of group exemption from federal income tax we agree that each of our subordinates will make the following amendment to their organizing document. A representative copy of this document was enclosed with our application. For subordinates that are corporations, the amendment will be filed with the appropriate state agency. For subordinates that are unincorporated associations, the amendment will be adopted in the manner provided by our internal rules of operation.

- a. The following provisions will be added to the organizing document:
 - 1) The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - 2) No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
 - 3) Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.
- b. Article I of the governing document for each subordinate organization will be amended to include the correct name of the subordinate.
- c. The governing document will be legally adopted by each subordinate in the following manner:

- 1) The governing document will be signed by at least two members of the governing body of the subordinate.
- 2) The governing document will be dated with the date of adoption.

8. Amendment of By-Laws

- a. Amendments may be proposed by any committee or any 10 members and submitted to the Coordinating Committee.
- b. Proposed Amendments shall be distributed to the membership at least 2 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
- c. Amendments must be approved by two-thirds of the members present and voting at the Annual Meeting.
- d. The Syracuse LEAH Purpose (Article 1), the Statement of Faith (Attachment 1) and the last sentence in the first paragraph of Article 3, All Officers shall subscribe to the Statement of Faith, cannot be altered or deleted. (Only additions for the sake of clarification to Article 1 or Attachment 1 can be made by a unanimous vote of the Coordinating Committee).

Adopted May 9, 1988

At the First Annual Meeting of Syracuse LEAH

Amended May 1st, 2000

Amended May 4, 2003 to include the Agreement to Amend.

Attachment 1:

SYRACUSE LEAH STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe:

1. The Bible to be the inspired, infallible, divinely preserved Word of God, the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
2. That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, and His imminent bodily return in power and glory.
4. That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only those who put their faith in Jesus Christ alone, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, can be saved.
5. That salvation is the free gift of God brought to the sinner by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin.
6. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict mankind; indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
7. In the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that individual doctrinal differences which may exist, outside of the aforementioned (#s 1-6), should not hinder the unity of Christian home educators.