

Minnesota Debate Teachers Association
-Constitution-
November 2009

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Minnesota Debate Teachers Association.

Article II – Purposes

Section A, Charitable and Educational Purpose: This organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

In particular, this association is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Sections 170(c), 501(c)(3) and 2055(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). Within the framework and limitations of the foregoing, the specific primary purpose of this association will be to promote and support academic debate in the State of Minnesota by various means, including but not limited to providing a professional organization for debate coaches and administrators, as further described in this Constitution and the Bylaws of the association.

For such purposes, and not otherwise, this association shall have and may exercise all powers that are afforded to this association by the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act and by any future laws amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto; provided, however, that this association shall not carry on any activity not permitted to be carried on by a corporation that is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a) of the Code as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or by a corporation that is described in, and contributions to which are deductible for federal income and estate tax purposes under, Sections 170(c) and 2055(a) of the Code.

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. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

All references in this Constitution to a particular section of the Code shall include the corresponding provisions of any future federal tax law.

Section B, Prohibited Activities: No part of the net income or earnings of this association shall, directly or indirectly, inure to the benefit of any person having a personal and private interest in the activities of the association, but this association may pay reasonable compensation for services rendered to this association in furtherance of its purposes set forth in Article II hereof. No substantial part of the activities of this association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation, except pursuant to an election under, and as permitted by, Section 501(h) of the Code, and this association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. Except as permitted by applicable law, this association shall not lend money to, or guarantee the obligation of, any director or officer of this association.

Section C, Mission: It shall be the overall mission of this association to pursue the following goals:

Subsection 1: To promote and upgrade educational-competitive debate in the state of Minnesota by the promulgation of training through experiences which can:

- a. Contribute to the total growth of the student.
- b. Ensure increased speaking skills in the individual.
- c. Provide essential theory, principles and specialized techniques of debate that are directly essential in our democracy.
- d. Develop skill in critical thinking, reasoning, analysis and the use of evidence.
- e. Develop the ability to work cooperatively with others.

Subsection 2: To work for the welfare of school children, the advancement of education and the improvement of instructional opportunities.

Subsection 3: To develop and promote the adoption of such ethical practices and standards of preparation and participation as mark a professional association.

[Amended Article II adopted Nov. 2007.]

Article III – Membership

Section A: Regular membership shall be open to all present and past high school debate coaches and assistants, and junior high debate coaches and assistants in any school; public, private or parochial in the state of Minnesota.

Section B: Affiliate membership shall be open to persons who are not eligible to become regular members; who may upon payment of dues enroll as affiliate members, with all the rights and responsibilities of regular members, except the right to vote, to hold office or to represent the Association.

Section C: Revocation of Membership. The Executive Board may suspend from membership or expel any member who shall have violated the ethics of the coaching of debate

and/or the education profession, and may reinstate a member who has previously been suspended or expelled from the Association.

Article IV – Officers

Section A: The officers of the Association shall consist of a president, a vice-president who shall be president-elect, the immediate past president, a secretary and a treasurer.

Article V – Executive Board

Section A: The Executive Board shall consist of the five officers and the sectional representatives. It shall be the executive authority of the Association.

Section B: Whenever a majority of the Executive Board shall agree that an officer has been grossly negligent of the duties designated in the bylaws or is incapacitated, they shall declare the office to be vacant and shall immediately name a replacement to fill the unexpired term as provided in the bylaws.

Article VI – Amendments

Section A: The Association may adopt amendments to this constitution by a 2/3 majority of those voting at its semi-annual meetings, providing that the amendments have been introduced at the preceding meeting or have been distributed to the membership at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Amendments may also be adopted by a 2/3 mail vote of the membership.