

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ORGANIZATION OF TEACHER EDUCATORS IN READING (OTER)

REVISED MAY 2004

**Constitution and Bylaws of the
Organization of Teacher Educators in Reading**

Article I

The name of this organization shall be the Organization of Teacher Educators in Reading.

Article II

The Organization of Teacher Educators in Reading is affiliated with the International Reading Association as a special interest group.

Article III

Purpose and Nature

The purpose of the organization is to facilitate communication among its membership; provide a forum for debate and discussion of current issues regarding improvement of reading instruction; assist in the development of quality teacher education programs through recommendations for preservice and inservice; stimulate research in reading, and disseminate information regarding significant investigations; seek improved competence at all levels of reading instruction; and arrange conferences which will further the objectives of the organization.

Article IV

Membership and Dues

Section 1: Membership is open to individuals who are members of the International Reading Association and are actively engaged in programs for the preparation and education of teachers of reading.

Section 2: Organizational membership is open to recognized organizations concerned with the improvement of reading instruction.

Section 3: Honorary membership may be approved by the organization following recommendation of the Executive Board.

Section 4: Annual dues, determined by the Executive Board and approved by the membership, shall be payable to the Treasurer before voting privileges are granted.

Article V

Officers, Elections, and Terms of Office

Section 1: The officers of the organization shall be: President, President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2: Officers shall be elected by the membership attending the annual business meeting. Terms of office for the President and President-elect shall be one year. Terms of office for the Secretary and Treasurer shall be two years, with the Secretary and Treasurer elected on even and odd years respectively. The President-elect shall become President after serving a term in the office of President-elect or upon the resignation of the President.

Section 3: The President shall preside at all meetings; appoint with the approval of the Executive Board, the Editor and Managing Editor of Publications and the Membership Director; and conduct the business of the organization.

Section 4: The President-elect shall chair the Program Committee, preside at any meetings in the absence of the President, assist the President upon request in conducting the business of the organization, and succeed to the office of President.

Section 5: The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the organization and of the Executive Board and distribute the minutes of the annual meeting to the membership within thirty (30) days of their meeting.

Section 6: The Treasurer shall receive and distribute funds for the organization as authorized by the Executive Board, keep an accurate record of receipts and disbursements, present a written financial statement at the annual meeting, present a proposed budget for approval for the Executive Board at its first meeting, and submit all records for audit annually.

Section 7: Two (2) Delegates-at-large, elected in alternate years at the annual business meeting, shall represent the membership at the Executive Board meetings for two-year terms of office.

Section 8: A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Executive Board for the remainder of that term of office.

Article VI

Executive Board

Section 1: The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of the organization, the immediate past President, the two (2) Delegates-at-large, the Editor and Managing Editor of Publications, and the Membership Director.

Section 2: The Executive Board shall meet preceding the annual meeting and at the call of the President.

Section 3: The Executive Board may be called into virtual session by the President, provided 1) all members of the Executive Board receive one week's notice and 2) the virtual meeting is made available to all members of the Board. Actions of a virtual session of the Executive Board shall be ratified at the next regular Executive Board meeting.

Article VII

Business Meetings

Section 1: The annual meeting of the organization shall be held at the national convention of the International Reading Association.

Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board provided thirty (30) days notice has been given to members.

Article VIII

Committees

Section 1: Standing Committees shall be Membership, Program, and Nominations.

Section 2: The chair of each committee shall select, with approval of the Executive Board, members to serve on their respective committees.

Section 3: The Membership Committee, chaired by the Membership Director, shall be composed of the Delegates-at-large and other appointed members who will be responsible for actively promoting membership in the organization.

Section 4: The Program Committee, chaired by the President-elect, shall be composed of the Delegates-at-large and other appointed members who will be responsible for arranging all details in connection with the meetings and programs held by the organization.

Section 5: The Nominations Committee of three members, chaired by the immediate Past President, shall be representative of varied geographical locations and professional interests. The Nominations Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees eligible for election to office, and present this slate to the membership in the spring prior to the annual business meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual business meeting. All nominees must be members in good standing of OTER and IRA for at least the previous two years and willing to serve, if elected, so their consent must be obtained prior to their names being placed in nomination.

Article IX

Amendments

Section 1: These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the organization by a 2/3rds vote of the membership present provided that:

a. the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the Executive Board for their review sixty (60) days prior to the business meeting, and

b. the membership has been informed of the proposed changes at least thirty (30) days prior to voting.

Article X

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: This organization recognizes the same parliamentary authority used by the International Reading Association.