

# Missouri Interscholastic Press Association Constitution

Adopted October 2002; Amended July 2016, March 2018, July 2018

## Article I – Name

1.01 This organization shall be known as the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association.

## Article II – Purposes

2.01 To work with students and advisers around the state of Missouri to further journalism education.

2.02 To provide support and recognition for scholastic journalists, advisers and their schools.

2.03 To hold an annual Journalism Day each spring.

2.04 To support through participation and instruction a summer workshop, perhaps in partnership with another organization.

2.05 To acquaint students with career and college possibilities for their field of communication.

2.06 To continue to educate advisers and administrators in the field of journalism education and publication advising.

2.07 To encourage all publication advisers to become state certified in journalism and to seek additional certification by the Journalism Education Association.

2.08 To serve as a liaison for individual schools in efforts to get state departments, universities and colleges, and organizations, such as the NCAA, to approve journalism courses as English courses.

2.09 To encourage school administrators to hire certified journalism teachers to serve as journalism instructors and to serve as advisers to publications.

2.10 To encourage all journalism instructors and advisers of publications to become members of the Journalism Education Association.

2.11 To support [schooljournalism.org](http://schooljournalism.org) website, newsletter and social media.

## Article III – Membership

3.01 Membership in MIPA shall consist of regular, associate and honorary individual memberships.

3.02 Regular memberships shall consist of (1) publication advisers; (2) instructors in journalism, printing, art and photography of public, private and parochial secondary and middle schools. Regular members may vote on the election of officers, they may hold office and they shall receive all publications of the association. They are entitled to all services provided by the association.

3.03 Associate memberships shall be open to individuals outside the field of education who have a strong personal interest in scholastic journalism. This would include professional practicing journalists in all media, college students majoring or minoring in journalism, and former advisers and instructors in areas listed above. Dues for associate members will be less than those of regular members as associate members would not have voting rights. Associate members may receive the association's office publications, may participate in and assist with plans formulated for meetings, but they may not hold office or vote on the election of officers.

3.04 Honorary memberships shall consist of past presidents of MIPA who have retired from active teaching. They may not vote, they may not hold office, and they will not pay dues, but they may assist in the planning of meetings. They shall receive all publications of the association.

## Article IV – Officers

4.01 Officers of the association shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer.

To qualify for office, a candidate must be a regular member in good standing and be proposed by the Nominating Committee or be placed in nomination at the business meeting on Journalism Day when the election will occur. Officers shall be elected for a two-year term in even-numbered years.

4.02 No person shall be in charge of more than one elective office in the association.

4.03 All written records of each office shall be transferred to succeeding officers at the time of election or directed by the Board of Directors.

4.04 Any elected MIPA officer may be removed from office for failure to abide by the constitution and/or failure to perform the duties of the office by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. An appeal may be made by the elected official at a special or regular meeting of the membership following Board action. A vote to override the Board of Directors may be taken and adopted if passed by 2/3 vote of voting members attending the meeting.

4.05 The President will serve as the liaison between the host campus or convention site for Journalism Day and other MIPA activities. The President shall also have general and active management of the affairs and property of the organization at business meetings and Board of

Director meetings. The President and his/her designee will notify board members of all meetings at least 10 days in advance of the meetings.

4.06 The Vice-President shall seek out membership around the state and work on encouraging enrollment at summer workshops. The Vice-President shall also perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors, and in the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the president.

4.07 The Secretary will coordinate the publishing of MIPA publications, including but not limited to the listserv, posts on the MIPA website, newsletters, etc. The secretary shall also supervise the maintenance of the current files and records of the association and shall perform such additional duties as assigned by the Board of Directors. The secretary will act as the second signer on the MU bank account, held in a bank of the Board of Director's choosing. The secretary shall keep an accurate record of all regular business of Board meetings and prepare an annual report to be printed online.

4.08 The Treasurer works with the host campus or convention site to negotiate contracts, ensure accuracy of bills, collect incoming monies, pay bills, etc. to maintain financial solvency of the organization.

## Article V – Board of Directors

5.01 Voting members of the Board of Directors shall consist of the president, the vicepresident, the secretary, the treasurer, the immediate past president and two representatives from each region (St. Louis, Kansas City, South of Highway 50, North of Highway 50). Each regional representative will be elected by its region to serve for two-year terms.

5.02 The executive board shall meet at least one time annually and at other times when deemed necessary. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the president of the association on 10 days notice to each director either in person or by mail, e-mail, or telephone.

5.03 A member of the Board of Directors may resign at any time by notifying the president of the association in writing, and such resignation shall take effect immediately upon its receipt by the president.

5.04 Vacancies on the Board of Directors arising from death, resignation, removal or otherwise shall be filled by appointment by the president of the association for the unexpired term.

5.05 Should the office of the president be vacated by death, resignation, removal or otherwise, the immediate past president, as acting chair of the Board of Directors, shall have the Board polled about filling the position.

5.06 Any regular member of the association shall be eligible for appointment to the Board of Directors.

5.07 A quorum for the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of those in attendance at a meeting.

## Article VI – Committees

6.01 Special committees may be appointed by the president to perform such duties as may be delegated by the president or the Board of Directors. Such committees shall be directly responsible to the president. The president shall select the committee chair and may select committee members or delegate the responsibility to the chair.

6.02 Examples of committees can include, but are not limited to: marketing, membership, summer workshop, speakers, judges, contest, Journalism Day, regional events, web and social media, mentors, etc.

## Article VII – Dues

7.01 The Board of Directors shall set the annual dues payable to the association for regular and associate memberships at its first meeting each year.

7.02 Dues shall be payable annually by Nov. 1. Dues received after Nov. 2 are subject to a \$25 late fee.

## Article VIII – Fiscal Year

8.01 The fiscal year of the association shall begin on July 1 each year and end on June 30 each year. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to change the dates of the beginning and end of the fiscal year provided that the Board of Directors shall notify the association members of any changes in the fiscal year dates at least 30 days prior to the current year.

8.02 The Board of Directors will create a budget for each fiscal year, which will include revenues and disbursements for Journalism Day, contests, and other MIPA endeavors as seen fit.

## Article IX – Amendments

9.01 This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting of the board, provided that at least 5 days written notice is given to the board of specifically worded changes desired.

9.02 The board of directors may not adopt any amendments which would afford pecuniary gain, incidentally or otherwise to its members.