

Coastal Georgia Home School Association
Articles of Association

Article I - Name

The name of the Association shall be Coastal Georgia Home School Association (CGHSA).

Article II - Mission Statement

CGHSA is a Christian organization, the members of which are like minded Christian home educators dedicated to observing the Biblical commands of Deuteronomy 6:4-10, Proverbs 22:6, and Ephesians 6:4. We promote home education as the Scriptural design for education whereas institutional education is an alternative to the home. We believe that every family has the God-given legal and constitutional right to home educate in the State of Georgia, regardless of their philosophy of education or religious affiliation. CGHSA is not a church nor is this organization meant to replace the ministry of the local church to the home education family.

Article III - Purpose

CGHSA is organized exclusively for the purpose of providing service and support to Christian home education families within the State of Georgia including but not limited to the following ways:

- * By maintaining contact with other support groups on a local, state and national level.
- * By taking action where necessary to protect the future freedoms of home education in the State of Georgia and in our nation.
- * By disseminating information and resources helpful to home education families.
- * By promoting sound, high-quality home education programs by parents or legal guardians for the purpose of developing Christ like character, and which will satisfy the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional growth needs of their children.
- * By helping parents evaluate and choose the best curriculum to meet their specific needs.
- * By instituting whatever other programs or services in the future as may be deemed necessary by the membership of this organization.
- * By providing regular meeting times for mutual support and encouragement.
- * By coordinating field trips and other experiences with special educational and social value.

Article IV – Statement of Faith

We believe:

- * The Bible to be the inspired, infallible, divinely preserved word of God, the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
- * That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- * 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.
- * 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 any personal works whatsoever, can be saved.
- * 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 provided atonement by the shedding of His blood.
- * That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict mankind, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for Godly living and service.
- * In the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in the lord Jesus Christ, and the individual doctrinal differences that may exist, outside the aforementioned, should not hinder that unity of Christian home educators.
- * That God created man and woman after His own Image, and that God has ordained marriage, consisting of one man and one woman, to be the foundation of the family and to be the only legitimate and godly expression of sexuality.

Article V – Educational Philosophy

- * Parent's Responsibilities: We believe God in His Word has given us the responsibility and authority to educate our children in a Godly manner. (Colossians 3:17, Deut. 6:6-8, 11:18-21, Proverbs 22:6, Colossians 2:8, Luke 6:40)

- * Children's Ministry and Learning Readiness: We recognize children mature at different rates and should be taught according to that maturity level and learning readiness. However, we believe God holds us responsible to educate our children in an orderly and systematic fashion. (Deut 6:6-8)
- * God-Centered: We refute humanistic thought and actively teach God as the creator of the Universe and adherence to godly morals and principles of life.

Article VI – Membership (We discussed this needing clarification)

Section 1: Specifications

Membership is open to all interested in home education, who are in agreement with the statement of faith, and have paid dues. It is necessary for all CGHSA Steering Committee members and support group leaders to be in agreement with this CGHSA doctrinal statement and educational philosophy.

CGHSA does hereby reserve the right to refuse the use of the CGHSA name and/or endorsement on any activity, project, literature or program not approved by the CGHSA board in advance. Any activity, project, literature or program carried out on an individual or group basis must be Biblically non-offensive and Christ-like in manner to receive the approval, backing and use of the CGHSA name.

We are establishing this position to avoid conflict that could arise within a support group with differing motivations and philosophical approaches to education.

Section 2: Benevolence

It shall be within the discretion of the Steering Committee to grant membership without full payment of dues to applicants who cannot afford to pay regular dues.

Section 3: Expectations

It is expected that all members will support CGHSA with annual dues in the amount set by the Steering Committee to cover operational expenses, and in the work of the Association to ensure that its purposes are met. Further, it is expected that all members will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Statement of Faith and purpose of CGHSA in order to contribute to a positive image of our group in the community.

Section 4: Applying for Membership

Those interested in membership shall read and sign the application, which will contain CGHSA definition, purpose, and statement of faith. Applications for membership must be submitted to the Membership Chairman of the Steering Committee.

Payment of dues establishes a membership in the Association.

Section 5: Term of Membership

Members will be required to renew their membership on an annual basis at the beginning of each year by paying dues. The "year" shall be taken to be July 1 through June 30. At this time, updated membership roles and any changes in leadership will be noted.

Section 6: Revocation of Membership

Membership may be terminated at the member's request or absence in paying annual dues.

Article VII – Steering Committee

Section 1: Composition

The affairs of the Association shall be governed by a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall be comprised of five Association member husband/wife couples. Each couple will have one qualified vote per couple. If a Steering Committee member is unable to attend a meeting, his or her spouse may vote in their absence. Additional members of the Steering Committee shall be added by two in order to maintain an odd number. All elected Committee members shall hold membership status as prescribed in the Articles, and:

- * Must be the parent (guardian) of home-educated children and must be actively home educating. Exceptions to be reviewed by the Steering Committee.
- * Must be an active participant of the Association

Section 2: Methods of Selection and Terms

Elections shall occur prior to the annual spring meeting of the Association where the Steering Committee Members will be elected. The first Steering Committee will remain as appointed by leadership members set forth in May 1995, consisting of 1-3 year term member, 2-2 year term members, and 1-1 year term member. Subsequent elections, to begin April 1996, will only replace those whose terms are one year with all new terms to be for two years. This is necessary to establish staggered terms to facilitate continuity. The Steering Committee shall appoint a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and a Secretary/Treasurer from among the members at the first meeting of the season. Other offices, positions and committees may be created and staffed by the Steering Committee as the need arises. At least 60 days prior to the annual meeting, the Steering Committee shall begin the process of selecting nominees and requesting nominations from the general membership in order to compile a list of qualified nominees to fill the number of vacancies on the steering committee. The list of nominees shall be submitted to the general membership. A written ballot shall be used to vote. In the initial election, the two or three members receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected. In the event of a tie for any position to be elected, a run-off vote of such position shall be conducted immediately following the general vote. In the event of a second tie, the toss of a coin shall be made to determine the position.

Section 3: Removal

- * A Steering Committee member may be removed from the Steering Committee or from office for confessional or ethical non-compliance with the statement of faith, statement of purpose or by laws of this organization, or for conduct unbecoming a leadership member.
- * The absence of a Steering Committee member from two consecutive meetings of the Steering Committee without an acceptable reason shall be considered sufficient cause for removal.
- * Once cause has been established and the matter cannot be resolved, removal shall be by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

Section 4: Filling of Vacancies

Any member of the Steering Committee who is unable to fulfill his elected duties may resign by submitting a written letter of resignation to the Chairman. When a position of the Steering Committee Membership becomes vacant, the Steering Committee shall select, by a two-thirds vote, someone to fill the office until the next annual meeting or election.

Section 5: Compensation

No Steering Committee Member or Officer shall receive compensation for any services he may render to the Association. However, any Steering Committee Member or Officer may be reimbursed for his actual expenses incurred in the performance of his duties, under rules established by the membership or the Steering Committee.

Section 6: Meetings

Regular meetings of the Steering Committee shall be held twice yearly, at such place and hour as may be fixed by the Committee or the Steering Committee Chairman. Special meeting of the Steering Committee shall be held when called by the Steering Committee or by any two Steering Committee Members.

Section 7: Quorum

A quorum shall constitute a majority number of the Steering Committee Members at a duly called meeting.

Section 8: Committee Action Without Meeting

The Steering Committee Members shall have the right to take any action in the absence of a meeting that they could take at a meeting, by obtaining the approval of a majority plus one of the Steering Committee members. Any action so approved shall have the same effect as though taken at a meeting.

Section 9: Powers

The Steering Committee shall have the power to do the following:

- * Conduct all business necessary to fulfill the purposes of the Association.
- * Delegate authority to the Steering Committee Chairman and/or other officers of the appointees to act on behalf of the Association.

Section 10: Duties

It shall be the duty of the Steering Committee to do the following:

- * Cause a complete record to be kept of all its acts and affairs and to present a statement thereof at the annual meeting of the Association or at any special meeting.
- * Supervise all officers and agents of this Association and see to it that their duties are properly performed.
- * Hold at least three regular Committee meetings annually.
- * Elect Steering Committee officers.
- * Propose the agenda for the school year.
- * Review all applications for membership and act upon them.

Article VIII – Duties of the Officers

Section 1: Chairman

The Steering Committee Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Steering Committee, shall see that orders and resolutions of the Committee are carried out, shall represent the Association and/or the Committee, as instructed by Committee, shall perform all responsibilities delegated to him by the Committee, shall cause to be kept a complete record of all actions and affairs of the Association, and shall assure membership records are maintained.

Section 2: Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman shall act in the place and stead of the Steering Committee Chairman in the event of his absence, inability or refusal to act, and shall exercise and discharge such other duties as may be required by the Committee.

Section 3: Secretary

The Secretary shall record the votes and keep the minutes of all meetings and proceedings of the Committee, and present a statement thereof at the annual meeting of the Association or at any special meeting.

Section 4: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and deposit all moneys of the Association and disperse all funds as directed by resolution of the Steering Committee, shall sign all checks, shall keep proper books of account, shall make available all financial records and shall present an itemized fiscal report at each regular meeting of the Steering Committee, and shall prepare an annual budget and a statement of income and expenditures to be presented to the membership at the regular annual meeting with printed copies available for distribution.

Article IX – Association Meetings

Section 1: Business Meetings

An annual meeting of the Association shall be held at a place and time to be determined by the Steering Committee, during the month of May of each year.

Section 2: Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings may be held for the purpose of encouragement and instruction of the teachers.

Section 3: Closed Meetings/Activities

Only members are allowed to attend functions specified as “closed” by the Steering Committee.

Article X – Miscellaneous

Section 1: Budget and Dues Structure

The budget and annual dues shall be developed and approved by the Committee, and submitted to the members at the Annual Meeting. Dues will be based upon the number of member families and the projected budget.

Section 2: Check Signing

All checks shall require the signature of the Treasurer, provided that the Committee may provide alternate arrangements.

Section 3: Amendment

Any article may be amended, by a majority vote of the Steering Committee, followed by a majority vote of the general membership.

Amended May 21, 2010