

# **Louisiana High School Rally Association Constitution**

## **Gordan A. Cain Center**

### Article I – Name

The Association shall be known as the Louisiana High School Rally Association (LHSRA).

The Louisiana High School Rally Association is a voluntary, non-profit, educational association of middle, junior, units of a school (i.e. 8-12 grades in a K-12 school, or ninth grade centers), home schools, and senior high schools that are recognized by the Louisiana State Department of Education and the colleges and universities that coordinate the district and state competitions each year. Through it, they work cooperatively in adopting standards for supervising and regulating those interscholastic activities and contests that may be delegated by the member schools to the jurisdiction of the Association.

All District and State rallies shall comply fully with the Louisiana High School Rally Association, its rules, regulations, and policies as stated in its Constitution, all supporting documents, including, but not limited, to Eligibility Rules, General Information, Literary Contest Descriptions, Open Event policies, Calculator Usage Policy, Special Testing Accommodations, and Honors and Awards Policy.

### Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Louisiana High School Rally Association is to provide opportunities for students to achieve a greater awareness of the importance of education in these critical times, and gain a renewed determination to develop their talents to the maximum by promoting keen competition and a desire for excellence, and in recognizing academic endeavors on a statewide level. Furthermore, it is an enlightened way of recognizing and rewarding students who excel in that for which all schools are primarily established, academic pursuits.

### Spirit of Rally

The intent of the District and State Rallies is to foster a sense of fair competition among the participating schools. The integrity of the Spirit of Rally may only be maintained if no competitor is given an unfair advantage regarding academic credentials such as the following eligibility rules:

Students who are native speakers of a foreign language participating in that language's rally competition events

Students who attempt to compete in events for which advanced credit has been earned or having been earned for courses in advanced standing, such as competing in Physical Science after completing a course in Chemistry.

Other rules and statements regarding unfair advantage can be found in LHSRA documents including, but not limited to Eligibility Rules, General Information, and the Calculator Usage Policy.

### Article III – Membership

#### Section 1. Membership

Membership of this Association shall be open to all State approved middle, junior, units of a school (i.e. 7-12 grades in a K-12 school, or ninth grade centers), home schools, and senior high schools who have qualified their students for participation.

#### Section 2. Classification

The record of registration at the close of the first month of the school year as given on the official annual report to the Louisiana Department of Education shall be taken as the basis for classification.

#### Classification of Schools

Division	Inclusive Number of Students
I	1001 & up students
II	501-1000 students
III	251-500 students
IV	151-250 students
V	1-150 students

NOTE: Unit schools (K-12) use 9-12 grade enrollments as basis for classification. Middle, junior, 9th grade centers, and other special schools use the annual report for purposes of classification.

Section 3. Dues

An annual membership fee recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly of Principals (GAP) shall be paid to the Louisiana High School Rally Association by the first Friday of December each year. Schools remitting dues after this date, but prior to the first Friday of February of the following year are to be assessed a \$75 late fee in addition to regular divisional dues. Dues and late fees are as follows:

Division	Dues	Late Fee
I & II	\$180	\$75
III & IV	\$160	\$75
V	\$140	\$75

Failure to remit dues by this February date will disqualify participation in district and state rallies. These dues and late fees will be reviewed every three years with the next review being made during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1. Officers

The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice President, Executive Director, and an Associate Executive Director (ex-officio). The President and Vice President shall be elected by a majority vote from among voting delegates of member schools at the annual meeting of the Association. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the host university/college. The Associate Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Director and must be a staff member at the host university/college.

Section 2. Terms

President and Vice President shall be elected for two (2) years and cannot be elected for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Section 3. President

(a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and shall call special meetings as provided in Article V, Section 3.

(b) The President shall countersign all checks and in the event that he/she becomes incapacitated, or unavailable, the Vice President shall assume this responsibility.

(c) He/she shall be responsible for appointing committees as necessary.

(d) The Immediate Past President shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee for an additional term.

#### Section 4. Vice President

(a) In the event that the President resigns or becomes ineligible in the Association, the Vice President shall become President for the remainder of the unexpired term of office.

(b) Should the Vice President resign or become ineligible in the Association or ascend to the Presidency, a new Vice President shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, and shall serve for the duration of the unexpired term of office.

#### Section 5. Executive Director

(a) The Association's Executive Director shall be appointed by the host university/college and shall keep a written record of the business of the Association, administer the activities of the Association, interpret the Constitution, perform those duties that may be assigned by the membership and/or the Executive Committee, and provide all District and State Literary Rally tests.

(b) The Executive Director shall be in charge of all receipts and disbursements, and shall present an annual financial report to the Association.

#### Section 6. Associate Executive Director

(a) The Associate Executive Director shall assist the Executive Director. Particularly, the Associate Executive Director shall assist in the administration of the Association, execution of rally activities and events, and correspondence with schools/district rally entities.

(b) The Associate Executive Director shall assist in the preparation of membership files, records, and financial reports of the Association.

(c) The Associate Executive Director shall serve at the discretion of the Executive Director, and shall serve as an ex-officio officer of the Association.

## Article V – Executive Committee

### Section 1. Members

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Presidents and District Rally Directors, or their designees, of the District Rallies, and the officers of the Association.

### Section 2. Quorum

Six (6) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

### Section 3. Power

The Executive Committee shall have full power to act for the Association on emergency matters during the interim of its annual meeting and may meet as often as necessary.

### Section 4. Duties

The Executive Committee shall serve as a rules committee and act upon any rules(s) infraction, concerns, or appeals.

### Section 5. Rally Dates

The Executive Committee shall set District and State Rally dates.

## Article VI – Meeting

### Section 1. Meeting

There shall be one meeting of this Association to be held on the same date as the State Literary Rally. Time and place will be designated in the State Rally Association Bulletin. A quorum shall consist of those member schools that attend the meeting.

#### Section 2. General Assembly of Principals (GAP)

Voting at the annual meeting (GAP) shall be restricted to a Principal, Assistant Principal, or a designee who is authorized by letter from the school principal. Each school shall have one (1) vote. All business coming before the GAP shall be decided by majority vote.

#### Section 3. Voting

Principals, Assistant Principals, or designees must register with the Executive Director prior to the meeting in a manner to be determined by the Executive Director. All Executive Committee members have voting privileges at the annual meeting.

### Article VII – Activities

#### Section 1. Events

The LHSRA is responsible for Literary, Drama, Music, Speech, and Special Open Foreign Language Events.

#### Section 2. Governing Agency

The LHSRA shall be the governing agency of all District Rallies and is reflected in the annual bulletin of the Association.

#### Section 3. Literary Tests

The LHSRA shall provide all District and State Literary Rally tests.

### Article VIII – Parliamentary Authority

All rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Louisiana High School Rally Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and any special rules of order the Louisiana High School Rally Association may adopt.

### Article IX – Amendment of the Constitution

## Section 1. Rules

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the Executive Director at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the Association.

## Section 2. Proposed Amendments

All proposed amendments shall be mailed to the membership at least one (1) week prior to the annual General Assembly of Principals meeting.