

THE BY-LAWS OF THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST EDUCATORS OF NORTH-AMERICA

RENA, The Reconstructionist Educators of North America, is a professional group for people leading schools in Reconstructionist congregations and other educators committed to the values and vision of Reconstructionist education.

RENA in Hebrew means both "spirited song" and also "shout." As Reconstructionist Educators of North America, we have come together to share the joy we find in Jewish educational leadership. But we're also here to speak up to help our voices be heard for Jewish education.

ARTICLE ONE: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Reconstructionist Educators of North America (RENA).

ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

The Reconstructionist Educators of North America (RENA) serves the needs of and acts as an advocate for Reconstructionist educators serving in a variety of settings.

RENA will:

1. provide an organizational framework and support group for Reconstructionist Education Directors;
2. clarify and develop the roles of Reconstructionist Education Directors within their individual institutions and within JRM, the Jewish Reconstructionist movement;
3. advocate within individual institutions and within JRM for the needs of education programs and educators;
4. promote development of long-term goals and vision for Reconstructionist Jewish Education; and;
5. promote sharing of current practices and goals in Reconstructionist education in the areas of curriculum, personnel issues, administration of youth and adult education programs;

RENA is an affiliate organization of the Jewish Reconstructionist movement (JRM).

In the event that RENA is dissolved and remains dissolved for a period exceeding two years, the remaining net assets shall revert to the Jewish Reconstructionist movement.

ARTICLE THREE: MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Membership in RENA is open to:

- Individuals who are currently serving Reconstructionist congregations as Directors of Education or Assistant Directors, or those who are recognized as fulfilling these functions by their congregation, whether or not they are compensated
- Directors of Jewish Early Childhood programs in Reconstructionist congregations
- Paid Youth Directors in Reconstructionist congregations
- Paid Family Educators in Reconstructionist congregations
- RRC graduates who function as Education Directors
- Former RENA members who are working as Jewish educators in non-Reconstructionist settings

Section B: Religious school teachers, administrators or lay leaders such as, but not limited to, School or Education committee chairs or members, are not eligible for RENA membership, unless they fulfill one of the categories of membership in Section A.

Section C: RENA will offer affinity groupings for the following constituencies:

- Early Childhood Educators
- Family Educators
- Youth Educators
- Educational Directors
- Consultants/Jewish Agency/Federation Employees

Each affinity group will be able to participate in special conference calls, workshops and other RENA-sponsored events only for their constituency. The RENA board will include, whenever possible, a representative from each constituency.

Section D: Dues shall be collected by RENA at the beginning of each fiscal year. The schedule of dues shall be established by the RENA Board.

ARTICLE FOUR: VOTING

Section A: Any member shall have full voting privileges in meetings of RENA. Members shall not be allowed to vote by proxy but may vote through electronic or phone communication.

Section B: Voting on all issues *at a* regular, in-person meeting shall be by voice vote. The Chair

may call for a show of hands at his/her discretion. No vote can take place without a quorum (as defined in Article Five, Section F). For voting related to elections see article six. For voting related to amendment of these By-Laws see article nine.

Section C: All votes will require a simple majority for passage except where noted in these By-Laws.

Section D: The Chair shall not cast a vote except in the case of a tie. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote.

ARTICLE FIVE: MEETINGS

Section A: RENA shall meet no less than once annually unless prevented by some unavoidable occurrence. Meetings shall be scheduled during the JRM Convention or the RENA Conference.

Section B: Meetings shall generally be conducted in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order" (latest edition) except where any given practice conflicts with law or with these By-Laws.

Section C: The Chair shall chair all meetings. The Secretary shall act as the Parliamentarian of all meetings.

Section D: The Chair will call for agenda items no less than two weeks before the meeting. The Chair will compile the agenda and contact members with the agenda no less than one week before the meeting. Members with urgent business shall notify the Chair before the beginning of the meeting for inclusion in the agenda. Inclusion of an urgent business item is at the discretion of the Chair.

Section E: Minutes will be emailed to the membership by the Secretary no more than one week after each meeting and will be approved or modified at the following meeting.

Section F: A third of the current membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any full meeting of RENA. Five Board Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business at a board meeting.

ARTICLE SIX: ELECTIONS

Section A: Elections shall be held every two years. The Chair shall appoint a member of the RENA Board to take charge of the election process.

Section B: Any member of RENA may be elected to hold any position within the organization, if eligible according to the criteria outlined in Article Seven, Section A.

- Section C: Any position not filled during the election process shall be appointed by the Chair within two weeks.
- Section D: At the Chair's discretion, s/he may hold a special election for vacant positions rather than appointing a member to fill the position. Such elections shall be conducted in the same manner as all regular elections.
- Section E: The Board member in charge of elections shall announce the opening of nominations to the RENA membership and accept nominations for all positions. The Board member will then create a list of candidates for all positions and submit that list to the membership for election.
- Section F: Election of RENA Board members shall be conducted by a show of hands. At the Chair's discretion, s/he may call for a ballot vote.
- Section G: In the event of a tie, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote. If the Chair is on the ballot for that office, the next highest Board member not on the ballot for that position shall cast the deciding vote.

ARTICLE SEVEN: BOARD MEMBERS

- Section A: In order to stand for election to the RENA Board, a qualified member (as described in Article Three: Section A) must be affiliated with the Reconstructionist movement; through employment by a Reconstructionist congregation, employment by the Reconstructionist movement or because they are a member in good standing of the RRA.
- Section B: Board members of RENA shall serve a term of two years (unless occupying a position vacated by another board member before an election) and without pay. The RENA Board shall consist of the following members:
1. Chair
 2. Vice Chair/Treasurer
 3. Secretary
 4. Membership
 5. Conference Chair
 6. Conference Call
 7. Outreach
 8. Youth and Camping
 9. Hesed Liaison
 10. Reconstructionist Movement Representative

Section C: The Director of Education for the Reconstructionist Movement, if any, shall be a non-voting member of the RENA Board who may participate in all matters at the discretion of the Chair.

ARTICLE EIGHT: RESIGNATION AND DISMISSAL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Section A: Any elected official may resign at any time during their term by giving written notice to the Chair.

Section B: In the event of the resignation of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall assume the title and responsibilities of the Chair effective immediately.

Section C: Any Board member of RENA, whether elected by the membership or appointed by the Chair may be removed at any membership meeting by a three-fourths majority vote of the members present, provided there is a quorum, but such removal shall be without prejudice or malicious intent.

Section D: The Chair shall fill any position vacated by resignation or dismissal within two weeks.

ARTICLE NINE: AMENDMENT OF POLICIES

Section A: Pirkey Avot 2:16 reads: It is not up incumbent upon you to finish the work, neither are you free to refrain from it. In the spirit of Reconstructionist values, these By-Laws should be reviewed and amended periodically by the membership to reflect the current sense of the membership in turning our values into practice.

Section B: By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of returned ballots, with at least half of current membership returning ballots.

1. For voting following a conference: Proposed amendments will be sent to the membership no less than three weeks ahead of the conference.

After discussion at the conference, the Chair or Vice-Chair will set up a process for e-mail voting and allow two weeks for votes to be submitted.

2. By e-mail, without a conference meeting: Any proposed amendment to these By-Laws will be sent to the membership one month ahead of the close of a vote by e-mail. At least one conference call will be set up for discussion of proposed amendments prior to the start of voting. The Chair or Vice-Chair will set up a process for e-mail voting and allow two weeks for votes to be submitted.

Section C: Any member wishing to amend these Policies will submit amendments in writing to the Chair no less than two months prior to a regular meeting.

Section D: Amendments shall be reviewed and discussed at the nearest RENA Board Meeting and, if approved by the RENA Board, submitted to the membership for consideration.

Section E: The Chair shall inform the membership of any amendments on the agenda no less than one week prior to the regular meeting.

Section F: Once approved, amendments become effective immediately unless otherwise noted in the amendment itself.

ARTICLE TEN: ENABLING CLAUSES

Section A: Upon its approval by the membership of RENA, these By-Laws shall be the By-Laws of RENA.

Section B: Any policy, circumstance, or procedure not provided for by these Policies shall be left to the discretion of the members.