

**CONSTITUTION**  
**OF**  
**THE PENNSYLVANIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**

**PREAMBLE**

The Pennsylvania Academy of Science created the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science to organize a statewide affiliation of interested science students with the following objectives:

To promote greater participation in science activities among the youth of Pennsylvania.

To provide opportunities for the development of students as thinking people.

To improve the quality of achievement in the sciences through encouraging students to participate in scientific research and to develop original ideas.

To foster an understanding of the operation of the scientific community through close association with leaders in the scientific disciplines.

To seek the improvement of science club activities through cooperative Regional and State Meetings and to increase the opportunities of getting better acquainted with members of other science clubs.

To encourage the development of scientific attitudes and humanistic ideals about the world and therefore, through the field of Science each student can develop a sense of service to all.

# **PJAS CONSTITUTION 2008 PAGE ONE**

## **ARTICLE ONE--NAME**

**Section one**--The official name of this organization shall be the PENNSYLVANIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

## **ARTICLE TWO--ORGANIZATION**

### **Section One--State Director**

The State Director shall be elected according to the current Constitution of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. The Regional Directors and Directors-at-Large will recommend a nominee for the position of State Director to the Nomination Committee of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science one year before the end of the term of the current State Director. The State Director of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science shall represent the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science at the Pennsylvania Academy of Science meetings.

### **Section Two--Directors**

**Paragraph One**--Past State Directors of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science will serve as Directors-at-Large as long as they are active members.

**Paragraph Two**--The State Director of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science will officially appoint the Regional Directors, the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, and the Treasurer. All Regional Directors and the aforementioned officers shall be members of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. The State Director may appoint Eastern and Western Advisors, and Executive Secretary. and a Director-at-Large subject to the vote of a simple majority of those present at a State Meeting.

### **Section Three--Terms of Office**

All terms of office begin September 1 (one) of the year of appointment and end on August 31 of the following year. All appointments are to be made by the State Director and approved by a simple majority of the Regional Directors at their earliest convenience at a fall or State Meeting unless otherwise indicated by the said body. The term of office for those five listed below shall be for three years concurrent with the term of the State Director, the exemption being the office of Regional Director whose term is life.

1. Secretary
2. Treasurer
3. Chairman of Judging
4. Executive Secretary
5. The Eastern Advisor and the Western Advisor

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### **Section Four--Administrative Personnel**

**Paragraph One**--The administrative personnel of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science shall consist of The President, The President-Elect, The Time and Place Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science; and The State Director, Recording Secretary, Directors-at-Large, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Regional Directors, Chairperson of the Judging Committee of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science.

**Paragraph Two**--The office of the Executive Secretary shall be an appointed position for the purpose of helping to coordinate the State affairs. He/She is directly under the authority of the State Director and may be, but need not be a Regional Director. The appointment shall be made by the State Director and approved by the vote of a simple majority of the Regional Directors at a State Meeting.

**Paragraph Three**--The Eastern and Western Advisors shall take office in September of the year of their appointment. They are the Advisory Committee. Regions One to Five inclusive comprise the Eastern Region and Regions Six to Ten inclusive comprise the Western Region.

### **Section Five--Advisory Committee and State Advisory Council**

**Paragraph One**--The Advisory Committee shall help the State Director make any necessary decisions concerning the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science business when it is not possible to contact all the Regional Directors because of time.

**Paragraph Two**--A State Advisory Council shall be appointed by the State Director. Its purpose is to aid the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science. The Council shall meet at least once a year at the State Meeting or at the convenience of the State Director. The Council shall be composed of interested persons from the scientific, educational, industrial, and political communities. No vote is needed for appointment but an announcement of appointment must be made by the State Director to the Directors at the next Director's Meeting.

### **Section Six--Other Committees**

**Paragraph One**--Other committees of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science shall be appointed at the Regional Directors' Meeting by the State Director and approved by the vote of a simple majority of the Regional directors present

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**Paragraph Two**--The State Director is an ex-officio member of all committees so voted. The State Director may or may not vote while attending a committee meeting. The State Director may not be a member of a nominating committee.

### **Section Seven--Vacancies**

Should a vacancy occur in any office at any time with the exception of the office of State Director, this vacancy is to be filled as soon as possible by the State Director. The appointments made to fill the office shall be approved by the vote of a simple majority of the Regional Directors at the earliest possible meeting. Appointments will be for the remainder of the unfilled term.

### **Section Eight--Resignations**

Should any person wish to terminate his/her office, he/she must submit his/her request in writing at least two months prior to the State Meeting to the State Director.

### **Section Nine--Removal from Office**

**Paragraph One**--Should it become necessary to remove a person from office with the exception of the State Director, the following procedure shall apply:

- a.** Two regions must submit in writing a list of charges and reasons for the person's removal from office to the Eastern and Western Advisors.
- b.** If the problem cannot be settled at the Advisor level, the Advisory committee then forwards to the State Director all of the documentation of what was said, what was done, and the reason why it could not be settled at the Advisor level.
- c.** If the State Director cannot resolve the charges or reasons for removal from office that have been submitted, then the State Director adds what he did to the documentation and everything is read at the first available Directors' Meeting and recommendations will be made by the Directors.
- d.** If by the next available Directors' Meeting nothing is resolved as stated by the State Director, the approval of a two-thirds majority of all the Directors is needed for removal from office.

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## **ARTICLE THREE--MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section One--Student Membership**

**Paragraph One**--Membership in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science shall be available to all of the young people in grades seven through twelve who attend eligible schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Paragraph Two**--Affiliate membership may be available for pupils in grades five and six who are interested in science, computers, and mathematics and who are conducting studies based upon methods of scientific inquiry. Affiliate members may not participate in Regional or State meetings; however, they may come as visitors if space is available. The affiliate clubs or classes are encouraged to conduct local meetings for the presentation of the results of their investigations

**Paragraph Three**--Application for membership shall be made to the Regional Director by the sponsor or teacher from eligible schools.

**Paragraph Four**--Each Regional Director shall send a list of the member schools of the region to the State Director.

### **Section Two--Dues**

The dues for membership in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science and the State percentage of those dues for the coming year shall be set at the Spring Meeting each year by the vote of a simple majority of the Regional Directors present.

### **Section Three--Alumni and Patron Memberships**

Adult members of the educational, scientific, industrial and political communities may become patron members of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science by a contribution of service or financial aid for any fiscal year. These memberships are honorary. Cards of recognition will be issued by the State Director or the Regional Director for distribution.

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## **ARTICLE FOUR--MEETINGS**

### **Section One--State Meeting**

The annual State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the Time and Place Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science; and the State Director, members of the Hosting Region, and Eastern and Western Advisors of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science at least three to five years in advance if possible. If it is announced at a Directors' Meeting that no decision concerning a time and place for any State Meeting can be found, then the decision is left to the floor.

### **Section Two--Research Project Papers**

**Paragraph One**--At a State Meeting science research project papers shall be presented by the eligible seventh through twelfth grade school students and shall be evaluated by competent judges from the scientific and educational communities.

**Paragraph Two**--Student eligibility for participation in the State Meeting is determined by the achievement of a First Award at a Regional Meeting. No Student can present more than two papers.

**Paragraph Three**--The Metric System is to be used as the measuring system for all research.

### **Section Four--Regional Directors' Fall Meeting**

There shall be a meeting of The State Director, other State Officers, Regional Directors, Directors-at-Large, the State Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science and from the Pennsylvania Academy of Science the President, President-Elect and The Time/Place Chairperson in the fall of each year called by the State Director. The time and place of this meeting will be announced by the State Director of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science at the State Meeting

### **Section Five--Organizations of Regions**

**Paragraph One**--An advisory council for each region should include interested science teachers, mathematics teachers, computer science teachers, school administrators, college personnel, and industrial scientists. The Regional Director shall be chairperson of this "Advisory Council" or "Advisory Committee."

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**Paragraph Two**--The function of the Advisory Council shall be to plan the programs of meetings for the Region. Seminars, lectures and workshops may be held as deemed advisable in each region. All eligible schools in the region are to be notified of the plans and of the type programs to be presented.

### **Section Six--Regional Meetings**

**Paragraph One**--Each Regional Director shall organize a regional meeting at which time research project papers will be presented by eligible students and evaluated by competent judges according to the criteria of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science. There is a limit of two presentations per student.

**Paragraph Two**--The time and place of each meeting will be determined by the Regional Director. The Regional Director will notify the State Director concerning these details.

## **ARTICLE FIVE--AMENDMENTS**

### **Section one--Amending**

**Paragraph One**--This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all of the Regions. A Regional Director may appoint a representative to vote for the Regional Director at this Directors' Meeting.

**Paragraph Two**--Amendments must be read and passed at two separate annual Directors' Meetings, either two fall Directors' Meetings or two spring Directors' Meetings, before the amendment becomes part of this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE SIX--REVISIONS**

### **Section One--Authority**

The Constitution, which was effective as of May 16, 1999, is hereby revoked and repealed, and this revised Constitution shall be effective May 18, 2008.

# **PJAS CONSTITUTION 2008 PAGE SEVEN**

## **ARTICLE SEVEN--ORDER OF BUSINESS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **Section One--Order of Business**

All meetings of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science shall follow the Order of Business and Rules of Procedure attached hereto, and made a part hereof, provided, however, that all questions of procedures not governed by said rules, shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

1. Opening of Meeting
2. Reading of Minutes of Previous Session and Approval
3. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee
4. Reports of Committees
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Adjournment of Meeting

### **Section Two--Voting on Motions**

**Paragraph One**--The Regional Directors or their representatives shall cast votes on all motions or shall abstain from casting a vote. Voting shall be by Region with each Region having only one vote. Those regions with more than one Director must agree on whether to vote or to abstain. The Chairman of Judging shall have one vote. Directors-at-Large have one vote each. Passage of any motion will be by a yes vote of a majority of those present, unless the Constitution calls for a greater than majority vote for passage. The President, President-Elect, and the Time and Place Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science are ex-officio members at the Directors' Meetings and may vote or abstain from voting.

**Paragraph Two**--The State Director may hand the gavel over to the secretary and cast a vote only if the vote will create a tie, which is a negative vote, or break a tie which is a positive vote. The gavel is returned after the vote.

**Paragraph Three**--Ex-officio Members of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science and the State Director of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science may not cast a vote on the Nominations Committee of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science for the nomination of the "New State Director" according to Robert's Rules of Order. The nomination of the "Next State Director" shall be decided by the Directors of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science by a simple majority vote of all of the Directors and Directors-at-large. If a Director cannot be present then the Director shall appoint a representative to cast a vote. The name of the nominated person shall be forwarded to the Nominations Committee of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science where, at their meeting, they will vote for the next Director of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science.



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**Paragraph Four**—A motion made and passed by a two-thirds vote of all of the regions with a roll call vote at a State Meeting or Director's Meeting shall become the second part of our constitution called the **Bylaws** of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science. Not all motions carried by a two-thirds vote have to be included in the Bylaws. An announcement shall be made by the State Director that this motion is for inclusion in the Bylaws of the PJAS.

1. These Bylaws cannot change or alter the Constitution of PJAS.
2. These Bylaws may not further explain any part of the Constitution of PJAS.
3. These Bylaws cannot alter the Constitution or Bylaws of the PAS.
4. These Bylaws are the result of motions explaining the current view of the Directors in reference to sponsors, judges, participants, parents, and chaperones

### **ARTICLE EIGHT--FISCAL POLICY AND AUDIT OF BOOKS**

#### **Section One--Finances**

**Paragraph One**--The fiscal year for the Regions and the State shall run from July1 (one) to June 30.

**Paragraph Two**--Each Region must submit to the designated auditing firm by August 1st two (2) copies of the fiscal report for the previous report period. A budget for the current year must be submitted to the State Treasurer by August 15<sup>th</sup>. The State Treasurer shall send to all Regional Directors a summary of the State Account.

**Paragraph Three**--Failure to meet these deadlines will mean that the Region shall be put on probation for 1 (one) year. As a result of this probation, the affected region will not present its papers at the next State Meeting unless the problem is corrected or the probation is revoked by the State Director.

#### **Section Two--Audit**

The State Treasurer's books and all Regional Directors' books will be audited by a (C.P.A.) Certified Public Accountant according to the current rules of the Internal Revenue Service pertaining to non-profit organizations.

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## **Section Three--Financial Obligations**

Any Region that has not cleared up the obligations by the close of the State Meeting is considered in default and that Region's students may not participate in the next State Meeting. A list of all defaulted Regions shall be given to all Regional Directors at the fall meeting. By clearing its obligations three months prior to the State Meeting, the Region is said to be in good standing. The State Director can waive the penalties expressed herein for one (1) year. On February 1 (one) the State Director must send to all Regional Directors a list of those Regions in good standing.

## **Section Four--Budget**

The State Director must submit a budget of expenditures, which also reflects plans for travel for the year. The travel limit will be five thousand (5000) miles and shall be paid for at the current IRS figure for travel per business mile. Approval for this budget shall be made at the State Meeting in the Spring and approved by vote of a simple majority of the Directors present.

## **Section Five--Bonding**

**Paragraph One**--The Treasurer and the State Director of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science shall be bonded each year by a reliable bonding company. This will be paid for by the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science State funds. The bonding shall be for at least \$50,000 each.

**Paragraph Two**--The Regional Treasurer and the Regional Director handling the State Meeting shall be bonded by a reliable bonding company. This bonding shall be paid for by the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science State funds. The bonding shall be for at least \$250,000 for the time of six months from the receipt of the State Funds to their disbursement for the paying the State's obligations for the State Meeting. If the monies collected exceed the \$250,000 then the bonding shall be for ten percent (10%) above the collected amount. If the time of six months runs out then the Regional Treasurer and the Regional Director shall be re-bonded for another three months.

**Paragraph Three**—The Regional Treasurers and the Regional Directors of each region shall be bonded by a reliable bonding company. The amount that they shall be bonded for shall be commensurate with the usual amount that they budget for and spend each year.

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**Article Eight, Section Five, Paragraph Three** is the physical end of the PENNSYLVANIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE Constitution.

Prepared by the Constitution Committee for May 18, 2008 changes.

=====Duane Keenan and Stanley Tracton=====