

CHEA Constitution

Revised 9/27/2004

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the organization shall be Christian Home Educators of Arlington, a Christian charter.

PURPOSE

The Purpose of the organization is to provide support to parents who educate their children at home. Support will include services such as field trips; small group meetings for closer fellowship and for mutual education, spiritual, academic, and emotional encouragement; regularly scheduled large group meetings for information on curricula and assistance in choosing appropriate curriculum, and for special Christian speakers, workshops, and coordinated efforts of political and legal concern; a newsletter.

LEGAL STANDING

Romans 13:1 "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God." (NIV) In light of this verse, CHEA acknowledges the following legalities associated with its operation: CHEA is an unincorporated nonprofit association under the Texas Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act, (art. 1396-70.01, Texas Civil Statutes, September 1, 1995). The TUUNA Act:

- 1) treats CHEA as a legal entity separate from its members and officers, which, among other things, protects CHEA's membership from personal liability for legal claims made against CHEA;
- 2) does not require CHEA to make any filings with the state of Texas;
- 3) requires CHEA to maintain "correct and complete books and records of account for at least THREE YEARS after the end of each fiscal year" and "make them available to the members of the association for inspection and copying upon request" (Section 11(a) of the Act);
- 4) authorizes the attorney general to inspect said records "to determine if a violation of any law of [Texas] has occurred" (Section 11(b) of the Act).

Additionally, CHEA is also categorized by the Federal Government, under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 501(c)(7) of the IRS, as a tax-exempt social club. The IRC:

- 1) does not require CHEA to report or file any information with the IRS or any office of the federal government;
- 2) enables CHEA to obtain an Employee Identification Number (EIN), which is required to operate a bank checking account as a non-profit organization;
- 3) does not allow charitable donations to CHEA to be considered tax-deductible.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Section A. Requirements of Membership:

Christian Home Educators of Arlington shall be composed of home schooling families who desire to be affiliated.

Membership shall be restricted to those individuals who concur with the Confession of Faith and agree to abide by the Constitution of the charter.

Membership dues will be paid per family each August 15 and any need for an increase in dues will be determined each year by the officers with the approval of the membership in regular business meetings. Special provision will be made for those who desire to be members, but are unable to pay the dues. If a family joins during the current school year, the next year's dues will still be due August 15 of that year.

Section B. Confession of Faith

1. I BELIEVE the Bible to be the verbally Inspired and only Infallible, Authoritative, Inerrant Word of God. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21)
2. I BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, John 10:30; John 10:37-38)
3. I BELIEVE in the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:25; John 2:11; Hebrews 9:12; Colossians 1:14; John 11:25; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16)
4. I BELIEVE that man is sinful by nature and that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential and an absolute necessity for his salvation. (Romans 3:19,23; John 3:16-19, John 5:24; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6)
5. I BELIEVE in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life. (Ephesians 5:18; Ephesians 4:30; I Corinthians 3:16; I Corinthians 6:19-20)
6. I BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, those who are saved unto eternal life and those who are lost unto eternal punishment. (John 5:28-29)
7. I BELIEVE in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-28)
8. I BELIEVE in the creation of man by the direct act of God. (Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 5:1-2)

Section C. Meetings

The time, date, place, and frequency of general meetings shall be decided by a majority vote of the organization's membership.

All general meetings of the organization shall be conducted in the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE III

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Section A. Family

We believe that the family is the basic governmental, social, and spiritual unit created by God. In it the child gradually learns self-government, social relationships, and develops a relationship to the Creator and Savior (Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20). The family also provides protection from over-extensive government and over-stimulating social involvements.

We understand family to mean one male and one female parent with one or more children, all related by the institution of marriage, though we realize the exception of a single parent.

We reject homosexual marriage or homosexual orientation because it is contrary to Scripture and the intentions of God in creation (Romans 1:18-32). As well, we reject transitory co-habitational relationships as being equally in violation of God's laws and incapable of providing the long-term nurture and instruction needed by children and commanded by God (Proverbs 1:8-9; Proverbs 2:1-11, Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4). In view of this, no homosexual or merely co-habitational "parents" are eligible for membership.

Section B. Parental Rights and Responsibilities in Education

We believe the ultimate responsibility for the education of children belongs to parents (Deuteronomy 4:9; Deuteronomy 6:1-25; Deuteronomy 4:1-4; Ephesians 6:4). Thus, we believe this is an inalienable right given by God which the State can neither create, destroy, nor alter. Parents may allow another to teach some of the cognitive information that children need to know, but all education must be under the control and supervision of the parents.

We believe education in the home to be the best form of education, but we recognize that many parents cannot educate at home for valid reasons and we support the right of parents to send their children to private Christian schools.

Section C. Nature of Education

We believe that all education is religious in nature since one's view of the world and life is inevitably involved in teaching (Proverbs 2:1-8; Proverbs 3:1-2; Proverbs 6:20-23; Matthew 28:18-20). Every discipline of knowledge, whether it be subjects such as mathematics, science or history, will have as its final reference point a theistic or humanistic view of reality (Colossians 1:15-20; Colossians 2:8-15), and there is no neutral academic discipline.

Thus, we believe that all social, physical, and cognitive knowledge should have as its beginning the fear of God and its end, the glory of God. (Proverbs 1:7, Romans 11:33-36)

ARTICLE IV

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR OFFICERS

1. The leadership of a Christian home school support group should never include those who are non-Christian or who fail to acknowledge the inerrancy and authority of the Bible.
2. The leadership of a Christian home school support group must be comprised exclusively of born-again Christian couples whose spiritual and temporal values provide suitable examples for other Christian home schooling families to follow.
3. The officers of the organization shall consist of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and a Membership Secretary. New officers shall be nominated by the current officers, and be voted on by the membership in a General Meeting. Nominations can also be taken from CHEA members.

4. The President shall provide the oversight for the organization through the other officers and persons appointed by him. He shall preside over and call all meetings of the organization, secure the meeting place, work with the Treasurer in the disbursement of funds, speak for the organization, and secure suitable speakers for the General Meeting. He will also obtain an appreciation gift for the speakers.

5. The First Vice President shall exercise the duties of the President in his absence. He/She shall also serve as the editor of the newsletter.

6. The Second Vice President shall serve as the activities director, and will maintain and implement the telephone tree.

7. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping a record of each meeting and handling any correspondence necessary. He/She shall also receive funds and disburse payments and provide at each meeting an accounting of this activity. Records shall be reviewed or audited annually or as determined by the officers.

8. The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for receiving the membership registration forms, keeping them filed in an organized manner, keeping a current yearly roster, and providing copies of the roster to the other officers. This job would also include picking up the mail at the post office, distributing it accordingly, and mailing rosters to the people joining during the year. This officer will prepare and distribute the new member packets.

9. Length of term of officers shall be 2 years. The terms of the officers will be staggered such that at most 3 of 5 officer positions expire at any given time. The officer terms will expire in August of any given calendar year as follows:

- President, Second Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer: even numbered calendar years
- First Vice President, Membership Secretary: odd numbered calendar years

ARTICLE V

EXECUTION AND AMENDMENT

This Constitution shall become effective upon approval by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a General Meeting called for that purpose.

This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present and voting at a General Meeting of the organization provided written notice of the proposed amendment is mailed to all members at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting.