

Article I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Rhode Island American Federation of Teachers/Retirees aka RI AFT/R.

Article II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be the social and economic well-being of its members through active participation in the social, economic, cultural, and political life of the communities throughout the State of Rhode Island and the United States of America.

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. (a) The membership of this organization shall include retired members of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, members of their respective families and friends and supporters of retired members.

(b) Membership for individuals who are non-pension beneficiaries of the Employees Retirement System of Rhode Island shall be at the Associate level and at the dues rate set forth in Article V, Section 1. (b).

(c) Upon their retirement, RIFTHP members in good standing shall be inducted as members in good standing upon payment of dues for their first year of membership by their sending local.

(d) Potential new retiree members whose dues are not paid by their former local will be provided with the opportunity to join the chapter.

Article IV

OFFICER

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, the chairpersons of standing committees, the immediate past president, and at least one retiree representative from each local affiliate of the RIFTHP. In the event of a local

affiliate vacancy, the President shall contact the leadership of the local affiliate for a recommendation to fill the vacancy.

Section 4. The President of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers & Health Professionals shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Board.

Article V

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. (a) The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of this organization by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present providing that notice of the proposed change has been sent to each member thirty (30) days before the meeting and providing a quorum is present.

Article VI

PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) in the latest edition, shall govern the organization in all cases to which it can be applied and in which it is not inconsistent with the Constitution, the By-Laws, or special rules of the organization.

BY-LAWS

Article I

OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall function as the chief officer and shall supervise and interpret the Constitution and the affairs of the organization. The President shall preside at all general membership meetings and shall be an *ex-officio* member of all committees. The President shall be authorized to appoint all committee chairpersons and any ad hoc committee chairpersons required for special programs. The President shall be the ranking delegate to all state and national conventions.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall carry out those duties prescribed by the President and shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the latter.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings of the organization and of the Executive Board and shall present them at the next meeting. The Secretary

shall handle all correspondence including letters to be sent at the request of the President and shall be responsible for the communication of all notices and newsletters to the members and shall record and read to the membership all correspondence received by the organization.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall receive, record, and disburse all funds received, paying out the same. Authorization for expenditures shall be required by the President. The Treasurer shall provide a financial report at each Executive Board and membership meeting and shall submit a written report at the Annual Meeting in May.

Article II

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting in even numbered years.

Section 2. Officers will serve for a two-year term and may be re-elected for any number of consecutive terms.

Section 3. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall notify members in March of even numbered years that the Nominating Committee is seeking self-nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 4. Candidates seeking office shall make their intention to run known to the Chair of the Nominating Committee 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting in even numbered years. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall notify the membership of all declared candidates at least 15 days in advance of the election, by mail.

Section 5. In the event that there are no self-nominations for specific office(s), nominations for the office(s) will be solicited from the floor.

Section 6. Election of officers shall be by simple majority vote which may be by voice or written ballot.

Section 7. Officers shall be elected from the names submitted by the Nominating Committee or names placed in nomination by members at the Annual meeting.

Article III
MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be at least two meetings of the organization during each fiscal year, including the Annual Meeting to be held in the month of May.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall convene as often as is necessary.

Section 3. Twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Robert's Rules of Order, (Revised) shall be the authority on all questions of parliamentary procedure.

Article IV
COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President and Executive Board shall establish standing committees necessary to the operation of the organization. These shall include the following:

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| a. Membership | e. Newsletter |
| b. Legislative | f. Sunshine |
| c. COPE | g. Social |
| d. Nominating | h. Scholarship |

Section 2. The President shall appoint the chairperson of all Committees. Each Committee shall consist of at least three members who may be recommended by the Executive Board, the Chairperson of the Committee, or who may wish to volunteer to serve.

Section 3. *Ad hoc* committees shall be created by the President as needed. The membership of *ad hoc* committees shall be determined as in Section 2 above.

Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed in the month of March of the year of the election of officers.

Section 5. Sunshine Committee shall donate a uniform memorial donation upon a member's death to [the chapter scholarship fund](#). The amount of the uniform donation will be determined by the Executive Board and changed as deemed necessary.

Article V

DUES

Section 1. (a) Dues shall be paid per fiscal year. The amount of dues shall be determined by the Executive Board and changed as deemed necessary. This amount paid by new members at or following the spring meeting shall constitute membership for the ensuing year. Members who have paid dues in advance of one year shall not be subject to any dues increase until renewal is required.

Section 1. (b) Associate members as set forth in Article III, Section 1(b) shall have dues set at the rate determined by the Executive Committee **and changed as deemed necessary**, excluding the set aside for the Legal Defense Fund as set forth in Section 4. of this article.

Section 2. Effective October 1, 2025, the R.I. AFT/R shall allocate and segregate from its dues revenue **two dollars (\$2.00)** per member per year. This portion of dues shall be allocated to the R.I. AFT/R COPE account. For the purpose of this section, membership shall be determined by the number of dues paying members whose dues are current as of September 30, 2025, and each September 30th thereafter. **This set aside shall not apply to new members whose first year dues are paid by a sending local affiliate.**

Section 3. Effective October 1, 2025, the R.I. AFT/R shall allocate and segregate from its dues revenue one dollar (\$1.00) per member annually, such dues set aside are to be transferred to the Paula Akers Memorial Scholarship account. For the purpose of this section, membership shall be determined by the number of members as of September 30, 2025, and each September 30th thereafter.

Section 4. Effective July 1, 2025, the R.I. AFT/R shall allocate and segregate from its dues revenue **one dollar and thirty cents (\$1.30)** annually, such dues set aside are to be transferred to the Legal Defense Fund account. The account shall be used exclusively for the purpose of protecting and defending the statutory and constitutional rights afforded to R.I. AFT/R members as a result of their public service.

Section 5. A **full** member in good standing, upon reaching his/her 85th birthday shall become a lifetime member and pay no dues. **Lifetime membership eligibility shall require at least five (5) years of chapter membership in good standing.**

Section 6. Honorary members shall not be assessed.

Section 7. The Fiscal Year shall be July 1 through the following June 30th.

Article VI

Benefits

Section 1. Members in good standing shall be eligible to enroll in any group plan provided by the chapter and/or its affiliates.

Section 2. A spouse of a member who dies may remain eligible for access to benefits by enrolling as an associate member at the next membership renewal period.

Section 3. A member who withdraws membership shall cease eligibility and shall be removed from enrollment in any group plan upon the expiration of the most recently paid premium.

Article VII

AFFILIATIONS

RI AFT/R shall be an affiliate of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, the American Federation of Teachers, the RI-AFL-CIO, [the RI ARA](#), and such other groups and organizations as is deemed proper by the Executive Board and the membership.