

## EEA Constitution and Bylaws Committee Update

The EEA Constitution and Bylaws Committee met on Monday, May 19, and Wednesday, May 28, dedicating approximately six hours across both evenings to thoroughly review and revise our governing documents. We are pleased to report that the revision process is now complete.

We are currently awaiting confirmation from the Budget Committee regarding Executive Committee stipends. Once this step is finalized, the revised Constitution and Bylaws draft will be submitted to the Ohio Education Association (OEA) for review to ensure it meets all compliance requirements.

Pending OEA approval, the final draft will be shared with the general membership before the start of the next school year and will be presented for a vote at our opening convocation in August.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in strengthening our association's foundation.

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## What are the constitution and bylaws of a teacher's union?

And why do they matter to you?

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### What Is the Constitution?

The **Constitution** outlines the **core purpose and structure** of the EEA. It includes:

- The union's name and mission
- Who can be a member
- Leadership positions and affiliations (OEA, NEA)
- Basic governance framework

It's the “**big picture**” **document** that defines what the union is and why it exists.

## What Are the Bylaws?

The **Bylaws** are the **detailed rulebook** that governs daily operations. They explain:

- How elections are run
- What your union dues support
- Officer roles and responsibilities
- How committees are formed
- How contract votes are held
- Member rights and due process

They help ensure that **everyone knows the rules**—and that **those rules are followed**.

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## Why Are They Important?

Purpose	Why It Matters to You
<b>Legal Compliance</b>	Keeps the union in good standing under state/federal labor laws
<b>Fairness &amp; Transparency</b>	Ensures decisions—like elections or contract votes—are handled openly and democratically
<b>Your Rights</b>	Protects your voice, your vote, and your ability to participate fully
<b>Strong Leadership</b>	Clearly outlines what officers do—and holds them accountable
<b>Contract &amp; Bargaining Power</b>	Details how bargaining teams are chosen and how you vote on contracts
<b>Unity &amp; Professionalism</b>	Promotes solidarity, clear ethics, and respect among members

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## Why Should Members Care?

Understanding the Constitution and Bylaws:

- Empowers you to participate and lead
- Helps you hold union leadership accountable
- Protects your rights as a professional educator
- Strengthens our collective voice as a union

**Questions?**

Reach out to a building representative or an EEA officer. We're here to help.

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**Thank you** to all of the C & B Committee Members:

- Linda Aguiñaga
- Victoria Caldwell
- Dan Falk (Chair)
- Maria Friday
- Bridget Graney
- Sarah Harding
- Vickie Jenkins
- Molly Knight
- Debbie Meredith
- Kirsten Molter
- Linda Repko (Labor Relations Consultant)
- Gricell Rivera
- Sally Roth