



DISTRICT 35

Governance

Revised May 2020

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GOVERNANCE FOR DISTRICT 35

The geographical area of District 35 includes the Dryden area; east to include the Ignace area, west to include the Vermilion Bay area and north to include the Red Lake, Sioux Lookout areas.

The Red Lake area, which includes Ear Falls, is Unit 2 of District 35.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote the interests of members receiving pensions under the Teachers' Pension Act and other pension plans;
2. To have all retired members and their survivors receive the maximum benefits that are rightfully theirs under the terms of the Teachers' Pension Act and other pension plans;
3. To seek support for members in need;
4. To encourage members to participate fully in all the benefits the organization offers in accordance with the RTOERO By-Law 2018-1 and Policies;
5. To increase membership by actively campaigning at all levels to reach potential members through personal contact, and by designing programs to meet their interests and needs;
6. To use a variety of media resources to publicize and promote RTOERO activities and accomplishments to its Members, and all school board employees eligible for membership, including but not limited to: teachers, School and Board administrators, secretaries, support staff, Educational Assistants, College and University faculty, child care workers, Early Years personnel including all personnel who have worked in the educational field;
7. To develop closer relationships at the District level with organizations representing potential members, in order to explain the RTOERO objectives and to offer assistance in educating potential members, to plan ahead for retirement;
8. To provide leadership and guidance to District representatives who attend the Annual Meeting, Special Meetings and Forum of RTOERO and;
9. To promote the interests of seniors.

ARTICLE 1 - DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP

- 1.01 Members of RTOERO are normally affiliated to the local District of their choice. Membership criteria are set out in Article 1 of the RTOERO Policies.
- 1.02 Rights and Privileges of Membership are outlined in Article 2 of the RTOERO Policies.
- 1.03 The Expectations of Members are outlined in the RTOERO Code of Conduct.

ARTICLE 2 - DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

Structure of the Executive:

- 2.01 The District Executive shall consist of elected members plus chairs of the Committees, with at least one representative of the Red Lake Unit.
- 2.02 No position on the District Executive shall be designated for a representative of a non-RTOERO organization.

The Executive Board of District 35 shall consist of:

- Past President
- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Social Committee Chair
- Goodwill Committee Chair
- Membership/Recruitment Committee Chair
- Newsletter Committee Chair
- Benefits Committee Chair
- Political Advocacy Committee Chair
- Communications Committee Chair
- President or Designate of Red Lake Unit
- Maximum of two additional Executive Members

- 2.03 The Executive shall meet at the call of the President or at the request of any 2 members of the Executive.

Duties of the Executive:

- 2.04 To determine its local governance policies which shall not conflict with the By-Law 2018-1 and Policies of RTOERO, and to file a copy with RTOERO.

2.05 To hold at least one District meeting a year of the general membership which shall be the Annual Meeting of the District.

2.06 To determine the number for quorum for Executive meetings at the first District Executive meeting of the year.

2.07 To elect at a meeting of the District or appoint by the Executive, two Corporate Members who, at the RTOERO organization's expense, will represent the District at Annual and Special Meetings and Forums that are called by the Chair of the Board of Directors.

- a) The District shall be entitled to appoint or elect two Corporate Members. An individual must be a member in RTOERO as described in section 1.01 (a) to (f) of the Policies in order to be eligible to be elected or appointed as a Corporate Member by the District. Each year by June 30 the District President shall provide written notification to the Chief Executive Officer of RTOERO of the Corporate Members elected or appointed by the District.
- b) Corporate Members shall have a term of Corporate Membership for one year ending on June 30 each year. The Corporate Member shall be eligible for unlimited re-appointment or re-election by a District.
- c) The District Executive may remove and replace a Corporate Member. The removal or replacement shall be effective upon the District President providing written notice of the removal or replacement to the Chief Executive Officer of RTOERO.
- d) If at any time the District has fewer than two Corporate Members, then the District may appoint or elect an individual to fill the balance of the Corporate Member's term ending June 30. The District President shall provide written notice to the Chief Executive Officer of RTOERO of such election or appointment.

2.08 To send up to two District Observers to Annual and Special Meetings and Forums at the District's expense *should funds be available within the budget*.

- a) The District may name up to two District Observers who must be members of RTOERO in the District as described in section 1.01 (a) to (f) of the Policies. Each year by June 30, the District President shall provide written notification to the Chief Executive Officer of RTOERO of the names of District Observers.
- b) The District Observers shall have a term in such positions for one year ending June 30 each year. A District Observer shall be eligible for unlimited re-appointment or re-election.
- c) The District Executive may remove and replace a District Observer. The removal or replacement shall be effective upon the District President providing written notice of the removal or replacement to the Chief Executive Officer of RTOERO.

2.09 To Inform the Board of Directors if the District intends to form a Unit (within the District). The allocation formula for a Unit shall be determined by the District.

- a) The District Executive shall notify and seek approval from the Board of Directors of RTOERO of its intention to form a Unit (within the District). There shall be a minimum of four members on each Unit Executive, one of whom shall represent the Unit on the District Executive. The District shall determine financial assistance for Units.
- b) The District Executive shall initiate the dissolution of any Unit(s) within its District and shall seek approval from the Board of Directors of RTOERO of dissolution of a Unit. Upon receipt of the approval, the District Executive shall bring the resolution to dissolve any Unit(s) to a general meeting of the District. A vote of two-thirds majority of District members attending the general meeting is required to dissolve the Unit(s) and upon dissolution the Unit assets shall become District assets.

2.10 To establish standing and special committees, to appoint their chairs, to ratify their terms of reference, and to require a financial statement from a committee chair whose committee is receiving or spending money on behalf of the District.

2.11 To approve the annual District budget.

2.12 To approve the annual District Financial Statement and to send it to the Chief Executive Officer of RTOERO.

2.13 To send to the Board of Directors of RTOERO resolutions, for consideration, in accordance with By-Law 2018-1 which have been passed at a general meeting of the District or a meeting of the District Executive;

A Corporate Member may propose that the Directors introduce a resolution on any matter relevant at an Annual or Special Meeting by providing a detailed written description of the resolution by the District Executive or General Membership signed by the Corporate Member and the District President and sent to the CEO of RTOERO at least forty-five (45) days in advance of an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting. The Directors shall introduce such resolutions at the next Annual Meeting unless the resolution:

- (a) is to enforce a personal claim or redress a personal grievance against RTOERO or its directors, officers, members or debt obligation holders;
- (b) does not relate in a significant way to the activities or affairs of RTOERO;
- (c) is substantially similar to a resolution before the Annual Meeting in the past two years;
- (d) abuses rights conferred by this section to secure publicity; or
- (e) contravenes the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (CNCA).

- 2.14 To review the names of District candidates presented by the Awards Committee for consideration as recipients of RTOERO awards.
- 2.15 To select the project to be submitted to the RTOERO Project Service to Others Committee for its consideration.

Procedure for Electronic Voting:

- 2.16 The following procedures will be used when an electronic vote is taken by the Executive between Executive meetings:
- i. The President or designate shall propose a motion with rationale and e-mail it to the Executive;
 - ii. Members of the Executive shall vote by return e-mail via reply all within 5 days of receipt of the motion;
 - iii. A quorum of Executive must vote on the motion or it is deemed lost;
 - iv. The President shall declare the motion passed or lost and inform the Executive;
 - v. The motion and its disposition shall be reported as information at the next Executive Meeting and the minutes shall include the report.

Election of the District Executive:

- 2.17 A member of the District Executive is eligible for re-election.
- 2.18 A District Executive shall be elected at an Annual Meeting of the District for a specified period of one or two years, and an executive member's term of office shall begin September 1 of the year elected.
- 2.19 Procedures

Nominations:

- a) The Nomination Committee shall be chaired by the District Past President with at least two other Executive Members.
- b) The Chair of the Nomination Committee shall submit nominations for the elective offices of the District Executive to the Annual District Meeting which is held in May.
- c) Additional nominations for the elective offices may be made from the floor by District Members in attendance at the Annual Meeting of the District.
- d) If more than one candidate is nominated for any of the District elective offices, then a vote by secret ballot shall be held. The conducting of the election shall be the responsibility of the Past President or the Chair of the meeting, in accordance

with the procedures established by the RTOERO Governance, Bylaws 2018-1 and Policies.

- e) The Past-President or Chair of the meeting shall appoint members to distribute and count ballots.
- f) Election of a candidate shall be by majority vote of those present and qualified to vote who have cast ballots.
- g) In the case of more than two candidates for any one of the elected offices, failing a majority vote for any one candidate on the first ballot, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from the succeeding ballots until a majority is reached.
- h) In the event there are more than two candidates for an elected position and a tie vote results in there being two or more candidates dropped from the ballot at the same time, the following shall occur:
 - i. the vote results for all candidates except those in the tie vote shall stand;
 - ii. the members shall then vote to break the tie;
 - iii. the result of this vote shall establish the roster for the next vote;
 - iv. the members shall then resume the voting process on the roster;
 - v. In the event of a tie vote when there are only two candidates, there shall be a further ballot and, if the tie persists, there shall be a further ballot, and if the vote is still tied, the winner shall be chosen by a flip of the coin by the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

2.20 Resignation/Leave of Absence

- a) Should any vacancy in any office occur for any reason, at any time, such vacancy shall be filled at the earliest opportunity. Following a recommendation from the Nominating Committee, the Executive may pass a resolution appointing a substitute, for such period of time as may be appropriate under the circumstances.
- b) Any member of the Executive may resign from office upon giving a written resignation, and such resignation becomes effective when received or at a time specified in the resignation, whichever is later.
- c) Any member of the Executive, may request a leave of absence.

2.21 Removal from Office

Any elected member of the Executive may be removed from office only by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority at a District meeting, providing that notice specifying the intention to present such a resolution has been given at least thirty days in advance to the District.

Specific Duties of Executive Members:

2.22 Duties of the President:

- (a) To convene and chair the regular and special meetings of the District Executive;
- (b) To act as chair of the District Membership Meetings;
- (c) To be an ex-officio member of all District Standing Committees;
- (d) To have a general responsibility for all activities of the District organization;
- (e) To be a Corporate Member at RTOERO meetings;
- (f) To act as liaison with the RTOERO Board of Directors;
- (g) To be a Signing Officer for the District.

2.23 Duties of the Past President:

- (a) To chair the Nomination Committee;
- (b) To assist the incoming President.

2.24 Duties of the 1st Vice-President:

- (a) To perform the duties of the President when the President is unable to carry out such duties;
- (b) To chair the Governance Committee.

2.25 Duties of the 2nd Vice President:

- (a) To perform the duties of the President or 1st Vice President when the President and 1st Vice President are unable to carry out such duties;
- (b) To chair the Awards Committee.

2.26 Duties of the Secretary:

- (a) To prepare and present the minutes of District Executive and Membership Meetings, and of any special meetings called by the President;
- (b) To carry on the correspondence that is required to conduct the business of the District Executive and its membership;
- (c) To send notices of Executive, Membership, and special meetings at the direction of the President and District Executive.

2.27 Duties of the Treasurer:

- (a) To prepare an annual budget for approval by the District Executive;

- (b) To maintain in a separate trust account in an accredited financial institution all monies accruing to the District;
- (c) To receive the annual rebate of monies from the RTOERO Office;
- (d) To receive and collect charges levied by the local District, if applicable;
- (e) To pay all invoices as directed by the Executive;
- (f) To receive a financial statement for the fiscal year from the Chair of a standing or special committee that is handling District money and the Treasurer of any Unit;
- (g) To prepare and present the Annual District Financial Statement to the District Executive for approval after it has been reviewed by at least two District Members at least one month before the Annual Meeting of the District;
- (h) To submit the Annual District Financial Statement, signed by two District Executive members to the RTOERO Chief Executive Officer;
- (i) To arrange for the collection of luncheon fees;
- j) To be a signing officer for the District.

2.28 Duties of Corporate Members:

It shall be the duty of Corporate Members elected or appointed by the District:

- (a) to represent the interests of the District at the Annual and Special Meetings and Forums;
- (b) to review and discuss Annual and Special Meetings and Forums issues with District Executive; and
- (c) to report to the Executive and District Members on the business following the Annual and Special Meetings and Forums.

ARTICLE 3 - COMMITTEES; EXECUTIVE & STANDING

3.01 Executive Committees:

- (a) Awards Committee:
 - (i) The Awards Committee shall be chaired by a Vice-President who has the power to add two more members from the Executive.
 - (ii) The Awards Committee shall present the names of possible recipients of an RTOERO award to the Executive for consideration and approval. Award presentations are usually made at the Annual Meeting of the District.
 - (iii) The Executive may present an RTOERO award;
 - to District Presidents; and

- to Members who, in the opinion of the District Executive, have given loyal service to the District over a number of years.

(b) Governance Committee:

- (i) The Governance Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President and composed of a least two other Executive members.
- (ii) The Governance Committee shall be familiar with Governance By-Law and Policies, so that the Chair can be a resource to the Executive.
- (iii) The Governance Committee may recommend changes that a District might want to propose to the RTOERO Annual Meeting to amend the Governance By-Law and Policies.
- (iv) The Governance Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive for changes in the District Governance document, where applicable.

(c) Nomination Committee:

- (i) The Nominating Committee, chaired by the District Past President, shall be composed of a least two other Executive Members.
- (ii) The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall submit nominations for the elective officers of the District Executive to the Annual Meeting of the District.

3.02 Standing Committees:

- a) The District Executive will appoint a Chair for each Standing Committee and can select additional Executive Members.
- b) The term of office will be two years and shall be eligible for unlimited reappointment.

(a) Duties of Social Committee:

To be responsible for social activities as determined by the District.

(b) Duties of the Goodwill Committee:

To communicate with District 35 Members who are hospitalized, bereaved, ill or for other compassionate circumstances and those who are celebrating special days;

To serve as liaison between a District Member and the RTOERO Member Services Committee when there is a need for emergency assistance, if requested.

(c) Duties of the Membership/Recruitment Committee:

To receive the membership list from the RTOERO Office and reconcile with the District membership list;

To investigate and recommend to the Executive ways and means of increasing RTOERO and District membership for those soon-to-retire active teachers, retired

teachers and for those soon-to- retire active or retired educational support staff who are not members of RTOERO;

To personally contact potential RTOERO District 35 members;

To communicate with the RTOERO Member Services Committee through the Committee liaison person;

To assist with the organization of Retirement Planning Workshops (RPWs) at the District level.

(d) Duties of the Benefits Committee:

To assist the Membership of District 35 with information regarding RTOERO Group Benefits Program;

To communicate with RTOERO Benefits Committee through the Committee liaison person;

To recommend actions to the District Executive to support achievement of RTOERO District goals in this area.

(e) Duties of the Political Advocacy Committee:

To coordinate political advocacy with respect to issues that affect members;

To liaise with other organizations which express an interest in pursuing political advocacy at the RTOERO and Federal levels in the best interests of Members;

To communicate with the RTOERO Political Advocacy Committee through the Committee liaison person;

To recommend actions to the District Executive to support achievement of RTOERO District goals in this area.

(f) Communications Committee:

To establish and maintain a District website as required;

To prepare and distribute a newsletter to the District Membership;

To Communicate with the RTOERO Marketing and Communications Committee through the committee liaison person.

ARTICLE 4 - UNITS

Duties of the Unit Executive:

The Executive of Unit TWO shall consist of at least four Executive Members who hold one of the following positions:

- Past President
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Goodwill/Membership Committee
- Benefits Committee

It shall be the duty of the Unit Executive:

- 4.01 To hold at least one meeting a year, which shall be the Annual Meeting of the Unit, at which the President and other officers shall be elected, and as many additional meetings as desired by the members;
- 4.02 To send an Annual Unit Financial Statement, reviewed and signed by at least two Unit Members, to the District Treasurer.

ARTICLE 5 - BANKING AND FINANCES

- 5.01 The fiscal year shall commence on January 1 and shall terminate on December 31 of each year.
- 5.02 All funds accruing to the District shall be deposited in an accredited financial institution in the name of the District.
- 5.03 All accounts payable and other disbursements made by the District shall be made by cheque, signed by two signing officers.
- 5.04 The signing officers will include at least two of the following: President, Past President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Executive Member.

ARTICLE 6 - POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 6.01 Policies
 - i. Policies shall be statements of direction, in keeping with the RTOERO By-Law and Policies, which shall be used as guidelines for determining District practice.

Procedures shall be the notation of methods agreed upon by the Executive Members for dealing with day-to-day operations.

ii. Policies as required shall be appended to this District Governance document.

6.02 Procedures

i. Procedures may be amended by the Executive.

ii. Procedures as required shall be appended to this District Governance document.

ARTICLE 7 - GOVERNANCE SAFEGUARDS

7.01 Amendments to the District Governance Document:

The District Governance Document may be amended by the consent of two-thirds of the eligible District Members voting at the Annual Meeting, or at a general meeting of the District, provided that a Notice of Motion has been sent to the Members prior to the meeting; OR, by a 90% vote of the eligible district Members voting at the Annual District Meeting, previous notice not having been given.

7.02 Amendments to Appendices:

Appendices may be amended at any time by an enhanced majority vote (66%) of the Executive.

7.03 Interpretation:

Nothing in this Governance document shall be interpreted in a manner or in terms inconsistent with the RTOERO Governance Policies nor in a manner or in terms prejudicial to the best interests of RTOERO.

7.04 Meeting Procedure:

The current edition of the Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure shall be the parliamentary authority used in the conduct of all meetings of RTOERO and its committees. An opportunity to declare a conflict of interest shall be provided at each meeting.

7.05 This Governance document replaces any and all Constitutions or recent Constitution previously in force in the District.