

THE SCHOOLMEN'S CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

.... FOUNDED 1902

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
CONSTITUTION



Revised 1965
Reprinted 1976
Reprinted 1992
Revised 1995
Revised 2003
Reprinted 2007

Article VII

Dues

Section 1. The annual dues of all dues-paying members shall be set by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. All dues shall be payable as the Executive Committee shall specify.

Section 3. By *February 15th*, the Treasurer shall submit to the Membership Committee a list of members delinquent in the payment of dues. The Membership Committee shall contact such members and report the results to the Executive Committee *at the March meeting*.

ARTICLE VIII

Equity

Section 1. Matters of Equity shall extend to questions concerning the liquidation, transfer, removal or sale of the physical assets or surrender of the CHARTER OF THE CLUB.

Section 2. All rights to such equity shall be vested in active and Emeritus members in good standing for at least ten (10) years.

Section 3. All matters pertaining to ARTICLE VIII (Equity) must be approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the active membership in good standing. The procedure for securing this vote shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

A proposal to amend the Constitution and By-Laws shall be made in writing at a regular meeting of the Executive Committee and shall be acted upon at the next regular Club meeting.

Each member shall be notified of a proposed amendment through the Club letter issued prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered. At least twenty-five (25) members must be present when an amendment is acted upon and three-fourths (3/4) of the members present shall be necessary to pass the amendment.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

The SCHOOLMEN'S CLUB's mission, clearly defined in its Constitution is, "To promote the social and professional aspects of educational life in the City of Philadelphia and to aid in the betterment of educational conditions. From its debut, the Schoolmen's Club members and their accomplishments have proven noteworthy in the enhancement of public education in Philadelphia. The Clubs' beginnings and the resultant paradigm shift were fundamental in the improvement in the delivery of public education in the city and beyond.

Began in 1902, the Schoolmen's Club is now a 105 year old professional and fraternal organization of educators from the School District of Philadelphia and related areas. At the turn of the century, there was no consistent program designed to induct principals and teachers into their roles or to improve their leadership, management or teaching skills once they were appointed. The Schoolmen's Club filled that void and has a rich history of service to educators and children.

The Club's earliest beginnings were initiated by a deep concern for reform. The Club began with a nucleus of courageous Philadelphia educators in the midst of a movement of radical change. It was George Gideon who proved to be the man with the understanding, vision, and contacts that men needed to band together divergent elements into a congenial group of fellowship. At that time (1902-1905), the Board of Education was composed of one member from each political ward appointed by the Board of Judges. Each ward had a local Board of School Directors who administered the ward schools, including the teachers as well as all the other professional and service employees. Politics was the order of the day. The names of some of the active Schoolmen of that day are well remembered by the names given to many schools - Gideon, Sayre, Morrison, Jacobs, Cornman and Edmonds to name only a few. In 1905, the Club applied for its official charter which was granted in September 1909, incorporated as, THE SCHOOLMEN'S CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA.

A signer of the Club charter, Armand J. Gerson, who later became Associate Superintendent of Philadelphia Public Schools, remembered his association with the Club this way, "I was a young man when I was admitted to membership in the Schoolmen's Club...I recall vividly the inspiration and excitement of those early days, To be accepted and welcomed by older Schoolmen with whom I had hitherto admired a respectful distance, to enter into a cordial relationship with leaders in our public school system, to participate in forward looking programs. All this meant something in my personal life and in my professional development impossible to overestimate." Alfred V. Sayre, elementary school principal and a signer of the Club charter, spoke of those times when he wrote, "The Schoolmen's Club has ... a record of fine professional spirit and good fellowship."

In the period during the world wars, the Club weathered the many struggles of society through the strength of its fellowship and growth. While continuing to concentrate on the nurturing of individual members, a women's auxiliary was formed to provide more opportunities for female educators. During the 1930's dues were reduced to \$10.00 from \$15.00 and the club sold its home and rented rooms at

ARTICLE V

Membership

Section 1. The membership shall be divided into Active, Honorary, Associate and Emeritus Classes.

Section 2. *Individuals* who are or who have been engaged in the practice of the teaching profession and/or identified with the interests of education shall be eligible to active membership. They shall pay full dues and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of the Club, including an equity in all its property subject to the provision of Article VIII.

Section 3. Honorary Members shall be *any person* who has rendered *exemplary* service in the cause of education and shall have all the privileges of *Life* members. They shall be proposed by the Membership Committee and approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Emeritus Members. Active members who have been retired from active educational work because of superannuation or disability shall become Emeritus members and shall not be subject to dues, and shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of active members.

Section 5. All special cases concerning membership not provided herein shall be resolved by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. All Proposals of members must be made in writing to the Membership Committee *on the official Club application* accompanied with the first year's dues and must be signed by three (3) members of the Club in good standing. *Upon the proposal of the Membership Vice President, the name(s) of the new members will be presented to the Executive Committee. The majority vote of the members present shall be required to be elected to membership.*

The Corresponding Secretary shall send to each member of the Club a notice giving the names, position, and/or school of each *member*.

Section 7. Resignations from membership shall be made in writing to the Recording Secretary and shall be presented to the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

Section 8. On the death or resignation of an active member, interests in the Club property and other assets shall revert to the remaining active members.

Section 9. The Executive Committee shall have the right to limit the number of the members elected to the Club.

Section 3. *The Program/Social Committee, under the leadership of the Program Vice President, shall consist of at least three (3) members. They shall be responsible for all activities.*

Section 4. *The Professional Development Committee, under the leadership of the President, shall consist of at least three (3) members. They shall be responsible for all professional development activities*

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Club shall be held at the times and places set by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Club may be called by order of the President, or by order of the Executive Committee, or on the written request of five per-cent of the members of the Club who are in good standing.

Section 3. The annual meeting of the Club is the regular December meeting.

Section 4. Notices of every Club meeting shall be sent to each member at least five (5) days previous thereto. Notices of special Club meetings shall state the purpose thereof, and no business other than that stated shall be acted upon at such meetings.

Section 5. A quorum of all Club meetings shall be ten per-cent (10%) of the members except for those meetings at which amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be acted upon.

Section 6. The order of business for general Club meetings shall be arranged by the Executive Committee.

Section 7. The order of business at Executive Committee meetings shall be:

- a. Reading of the minutes
- b. Treasurer's Report
- c. Reports of other Officers
- d. Committee Reports
- e. "Old" Business
- f. "New" Business
- g. Adjournment

In all parliamentary questions, "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be the governing authority.

Section 8. Attendance shall be recorded at Executive Committee Meetings. Executive Committee members absent three or more times will be removed at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

the Robert Morris Hotel for meetings. In 1956, the Club moved to a rental on the ground floor of 1526 Cherry Street. In 1957, the Club sponsored an Open House. Attendees gathered in a large meeting room with substantial furniture and room for 75 people. There was a game room and two smaller meeting rooms. The walls were adorned with a rich history chronicling people, events, writings and the club song which was written by Frank Wade and John Waldman. In the Club's traditional spirit of collegiality, outside groups, as well as Club members enjoyed the use of this house. The Club later rented space in the Drake Hotel and then when it was converted into condominiums, it was purchased. Its use by Club members was declining and the facility was rented for private use and later sold. Executive meetings are now held at the offices of the Commonwealth Association of School Administrators and events held at schools, restaurants, and local catering hall facilities.

Continuing traditions, the Club today has annual programs to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of our School Board Presidents, Superintendents, Regional Superintendents and other educational leaders within the School District of Philadelphia. In the 1980's the Club began the tradition of awarding a "Certificate of Service" to an outstanding student at the closing exercises of each elementary and middle school in Philadelphia. Beginning in 1992, the annual Holiday Dinner has become the occasion to recognize outstanding contributions made by educators and supporters of education. The awards are a highlight of the event. In 1992, the Club welcomed women educators as members following 92 years of being a mens only club. The first woman president was installed in 2004.

Much has transpired during the past ten decades reflected in 25th, 50th, 75th, and 100th Anniversary Programs, each of which accentuated both professional development and social activities developed during the preceding quarter century. Today the Club proudly sponsors seminars and workshops for aspiring administrators. Engaging in outreach, the Club members organize study groups of educators to examine educational trends and developments within the context of the School District and the country. The fall and spring programs feature top political, government and educational officials outlining their positions on education and then engaging in dialogue with members.

Integral to Schoolmen's Club are the networking opportunities that have been continually afforded the membership to meet with others at all levels of the School District of Philadelphia in social settings that promote a spirit of camaraderie free from the constraints of their respective missions in the workday world. The Schoolmen's Club has become the "Gold Standard" for educators aspiring for promotion in the School District.

Today's Schoolmen identify with our founders. We face new challenges and crisis in public education. Like our founders, we too are called to "light the way" with honor, courage and commitment.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of the Association shall be the "SCHOOLMEN'S CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA."

Section 2. The purpose of the Club shall be the promotion of the professional and social life of the men and women interested in education.

ARTICLE II

Officers and their Duties

Section 1. The officers of this club shall be:

President, First vice-president, Second vice-president, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian-Librarian, Member-at-large, and twelve (12) elected members to the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and at the meetings of the Executive Committee. *The President* shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws or by the resolutions requiring said Committees. *The President* shall, with the *Treasurer*, sign all contracts, orders for payment, and other obligations of the Club, which have been authorized by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Vice Presidents shall, in the absence of the President and, in the order of their rank, perform the duties of the President. *The Membership Vice President* keeps the current lists of the Club members with the dates of their election to membership and the termination of membership, is active in the recruitment and retention of members, proposes new members, and chairs the membership committee.

The Program Vice President is responsible for the coordination of the Club's main events and chairs the program committee.

Section 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Club and the Executive Committee. *At least one week prior to the Executive Committee meeting, the recording Secretary will distribute the minutes and notify Executive Committee members of upcoming meetings and events.*

Section 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall issue notices of meetings, inform members of their election, and perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall have charge of all leases, title deeds, evidence of value, and funds of the Club, and shall deposit the funds to the credit of the Club in such depository as may be designated by the Executive Committee. *The Treasurer* shall collect all moneys due the Club and shall make payments only as authorized by the Executive Committee. *If the expenditure exceeds \$300.00 the President and the Treasurer counter-sign the check. The Treasurer* shall keep regular accounts of receipts and expenditures, which shall be open at all times to the Executive Committee and shall present at the annual meeting a summarized report of the receipts and expenditures during the preceding fiscal year. The ledger of the Treasurer shall be audited at the close of each fiscal year by three auditors appointed by the President. The Treasurer *and the Membership Vice President* shall be jointly responsible for submitting a list of members who are delinquent in payment of dues as described in Article VII, Section 3.

Section 7. The Historian-Librarian shall conserve *and maintain* all records significant to the history of the club, and shall select, purchase, and care for periodicals and other reading matter for the Club rooms. In all matters, *the Historian-Librarian* shall be subject to the regulation of the Executive Committee.

Section 8. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the twenty officers enumerated in Section 1 of this Article, including the retiring President, who shall be known as member-at-large. In the absence of the President and both Vice-Presidents, the Executive Committee shall appoint a temporary chairman from its own number. The Executive Committee shall have entire management and control of property, finances, and affairs of the Club with all rights and powers connected therewith. The Executive Committee shall hold a meeting each month except July and August. At meetings of the Executive Committee twelve members shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Committee shall fill vacancies for unexpired terms in all elective offices of the Club. It shall keep minutes of its proceedings and present a report to the members of the Club.

ARTICLE III

Standing Committees and Their Duties

Section 1. The President shall appoint the following standing committees for which the chairman and at least one other member shall be selected from the Executive Committee by the President: (1) *Membership Committee*, (2) *Program/Social Committee*, and (3) *Professional Development Committee*.

Section 2. The Membership Committee, *chaired by the Membership Vice President*, shall consist of at least three (3) members. They shall be responsible for making proposals for membership for all applicants. They shall receive from the Treasurer, *no later than February 15*, the list of all members delinquent in dues and shall report to the Executive Committee at the *March* meeting those members who are delinquent at that time.