

CONSTITUTION OF THE BIG BEND / LEON ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE TEACHING

This document constitutes the code of rules adopted by the Big Bend / Leon Association for Science Teaching (BLAST) for the regulation and management of its affairs.

Mission statement: BLAST is an organization of K – 20 science educators that supports ongoing science education and develops professional learning opportunities with the ultimate goal of fostering science literacy.

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND PURPOSE

- Section 1: This organization shall be called the Big Bend / Leon Association for Science Teaching (BLAST).
- Section 2: The purpose of this organization is as follows:
- a. To promote outstanding science education.
 - b. To stimulate interest and communication in science education.
 - c. To provide support for science educators and student projects.
 - d. To increase knowledge and skill of science educators.
 - e. To foster life-long interest in science.
- Section 3: The motto of the organization will be: Fostering science literacy that lasts a lifetime.
- Section 4: BLAST shall be a subsidiary of the Tallahassee Scientific Society.
- Section 5: The principal place of business of this organization is located at the residence of the President.

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- Section 1: Membership shall be open to all persons interested in science education.
- Section 2: Membership categories are as follows:
- a. Individual – educators and other interested persons.
 - b. Student – a K-20 student.
 - c. Sponsor – an individual or organization.
 - d. Lifetime – lifetime membership of an individual.
- Section 3: Dues shall be established by the Board prior to the first fall membership drive. Dues are for the school calendar year and will be due by October 15th. A late fee may be added to annual dues after this date with Board approval.

ARTICLE 3 – OFFICERS, BOARD, AND DUTIES

- Section 1: The officers of this organization shall be: (a) President, (b) Vice President, (c) Secretary, (d) Treasurer.
- Section 2: The Board will consist of at least 15 members with diverse representation: K-5 educator, 6-8 educator, 9-12 educator, private school educator, K-12 administrator (including science coordinator), informal science educators, postsecondary educator(TCC, FSU, FAMU, Flagler),Tallahassee

Scientific Society (TSS), at large members, and the past president of BLAST.

- Section 3: The term of office for the Board of Directors shall be two years.
Section 4: If an officer or board position is vacated for any reason, the Board will elect a replacement for the duration of the term as soon as possible.

ARTICLE IV - AFFILIATIONS

- Section 1: BLAST shall affiliate with Florida Association of Science Teaching (FAST) annually.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

- Section 1: There shall be a minimum of two general membership meetings per year, one in the Fall and one in the Spring.
Section 2: The Board of Directors shall meet at least four times each year.
Section 3: Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern any meeting where applicable to this organization.
Section 4: An agenda shall be made prior to the general and Board of Director's meetings.
Section 5: A simple majority of Board members shall be necessary to conduct official business.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTIONS

- Section 1: A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President by March of each year.
Section 2: Nominations shall be accepted from members in good standing before the slate is prepared.
Section 3: The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of Officers and Board members by April of each year.
Section 4: Each member in good standing shall have one vote.
Section 5: The slate of Officers and Board members shall be voted on at the spring general membership meeting. Members in good standing unable to attend may request an absentee ballot from the Secretary at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

- Section 1: The constitution and other official documents of BLAST may be amended by a simple majority of current members present at a general membership meeting.
Section 2: Proposed amendments shall be published at least three weeks prior to a general membership meeting.
Section 3: Members in good standing unable to attend the general membership meeting where changes in the constitution or other official documents of BLAST will be considered, may request an absentee ballot from the Secretary at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

Approved: _____
President, BLAST

Date

Recorded: _____
Secretary, BLAST

Date