Student Nurses’ Association of South Carolina, Inc.
Bylaws

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Bylaws

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Student Nurses’ Association of South Carolina, Inc., a constituent of the National Student Nurses’ Association, Inc., hereafter referred to as SNASC.

ARTICLE II

2.1 Purpose

The purposes of the SNASC are:

2.1-1 To assume the responsibility for contributing to nursing education in order to provide for the highest quality of health care.

2.1-2 To provide programs representative of fundamental and current professional interest and concerns.

2.1-3 To aid in the development of the whole person, his/her professional role and his/her responsibility for the health care of people in all walks of life.

2.2 Function

The function of the SNASC shall include the following:

2.2-1 To have direct input into standards of nursing education and to influence the education process.

2.2-2 To influence health care, nursing education and practice through legislative activities.

2.2-3 To promote and encourage participation in community affairs and activities towards improved health care and the resolution of related social issues.

2.2-4 To represent nursing students to the consumer institutions, and other organizations.

2.2-5 To promote and encourage students’ participation in interdisciplinary activities.

2.2-6 To promote and encourage recruitment efforts, participation in student activities, and
educational opportunities.

2.2-7 To promote and encourage collaborative relationships with the South Carolina Nurses’ Association, the South Carolina League of Nursing and other nursing and health related organizations.

2.2-8 These purposes shall be unrestricted by consideration of age, color, creed, handicap, lifestyle, nationality, race, religion or sex.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

3.1 Constituent Association

3.1-1 School of Nursing chapters whose membership is composed of active and associate NSNA members, whose bylaws have been approved as being in conformity with the bylaws of SNASC, who have submitted the official application for NSNA constituency status containing the areas of conformity, who have made request to and have been approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board shall be recognized as a constituent of the SNASC. The president or designee shall represent the constituents in person and by written report at monthly meetings of the board of SNASC and the dues of whose members have been remitted to the Treasurer of this association via NSNA

3.1-2 A school chapter shall be composed of at least ten members from a school, or the total enrollment if less than ten. There shall be only one chapter on each school campus.

3.1-3 SNASC shall be composed of at least two school chapters in South Carolina. School chapters shall belong to the state association.

3.1-4 For recognition as an NSNA constituent, constituent associations shall be required to submit annually the official application for NSNA constituency status, which shall include the following areas of conformity for active and associate members: purpose and function, membership dues, and representation.

3.1-5 A constituent association which fails to comply with the bylaws and policies of SNASC shall have its status as a constituent revoked by a two thirds vote of the executive board, provided that written notice of the proposed revocation has been given at least two months prior to the vote and the constituent association is given an opportunity to be heard.

3.1-6 A constituent who has had its status as a constituent revoked may be reinstated by a two-thirds vote of the board after complying with the requirements of these bylaws.

3.1-7 New constituents, upon meeting constituency requirements, shall be appointed a representative from the executive board to aid in the start up of their constituency.
3.2 Categories of Constituent Membership:

3.2-1 Active Members

(a) Students enrolled in state board of nursing approved programs leading to licensure as a registered nurse.
(b) Registered nurses enrolled in programs leading to a baccalaureate degree with a major in nursing.
(c) Active national members shall have all of the privileges of national membership and individuals not becoming a national member but becoming a local member will receive privileges of local membership but not all privileges of national membership.

3.2-2 Associate Members

(a) Pre-nursing students, including registered nurses, enrolled in a college or university program designed as a preparation for entrance into a program leading to an associate degree, diploma or baccalaureate degree in nursing.
(b) Associate members shall have all the privileges of membership and individuals not becoming a national member but becoming a local member will receive privileges of local membership but not all privileges of national membership. Associate members cannot hold any state or national office.

3.2-3 Individual Members

Individual membership shall be open at the state and national level to any student when membership in a constituent association is not available. Individual members shall have the privileges of membership as prescribed in 3.2-1 and 3.2-2.

3.3 Categories of Non- Constituent Membership:

3.3-1 Sustaining Members:

Sustaining membership shall be open in the NSNA to any individual or organization interested in furthering the development and growth of NSNA upon approval of the NSNA. This membership category is not open to those eligible for active or associate membership. Sustaining membership shall be renewable annually.

3.4 Extended and Sustaining Membership

3.4-1 Active, associate and individual membership may be extended six months beyond graduation from a student’s program of nursing, providing membership was renewed while the student was enrolled in a nursing program. Sustaining membership shall be renewable annually.

3.5 Fees, Dues and Assessments
3.5-1 Each member in good standing must pay, within the time of the conditions set by NSNA Council of School Representatives, annual dues in amounts to be fixed periodically by the NSNA Council of School Representatives and approved by the membership. The dues and fees shall be equal for all members in each category of membership. Payment of NSNA, SNASC, and local dues (if any) is a membership enrollment procedure.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

4.1 Officers

4.1-1 The officers of this association shall consist of a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Legislative Director, Breakthrough to Nursing Director, Community Health Director, Nominations and Elections Committee Director/Historian, and the Newsletter Editor/Website Director.

4.2 Eligibility

4.2-1 Candidates shall be chosen from among those members who have been nominated by a constituent association of this association and who meet the requirements of Article IV, 4.2-2 through 4.2-7.

4.2-2 Only members who shall be nursing students at least 7 out of 12 months of a term of office and have the privileges of active membership shall be eligible for the office of President or First Vice-President.

4.2-3 Only members who shall be nursing students throughout at least 7 out of 12 months of a term of office and have privileges of active or associate membership shall be eligible for the offices of Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Legislative Director, Breakthrough to Nursing Director, Community Health Director, Nominations and Elections/Historian and the Newsletter Editor/Website Director.

4.2-4 All candidates must have a cumulative GPR of 2.5 or its equivalent.

4.2-5 The President, First Vice-President or Second Vice-President shall not concurrently serve as President of a constituent association unless they are the outgoing President of the constituent association.

4.2-6 Candidates shall have obtained written consent from the director of their school of nursing to hold office if elected and shall have given consent to serve if elected. Students who are graduating from diploma and associate degree programs and plan to attend RN to BSN, or RN to MSN programs, must have the signature of both the current dean/director and the dean/director of the new program on their application for office.

4.2-7 If a written consent is not obtained, a written statement of the reason why consent was
not obtained shall be submitted and approved by the Nominations and Elections Committee.

4.3 Term of Office

4.3-1 The term of office shall be from the adjournment of the annual meeting at which officers are elected to adjournment of the annual meeting at which their successors are elected.

4.4 Duties of the Officers and Directors

4.4-1 The President shall:

(a) Preside at all business meetings of this association and of the executive board.
(b) Appoint special committees with the approval of the executive board.
(c) Serve as ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominations and Elections committee.
(d) Approve expenditures as submitted by the Treasurer and authorized by the executive board.
(e) Perform all other duties pertaining to this office and represent this association in all matters relating to the South Carolina Nurses’ Association.
(f) Have the option of appointing a Corresponding secretary, with approval of the executive board, from the same school as the President. The duties shall be determined by the President.
(g) Have the authority to issue checks and make deposits in lieu of the Treasurer in time of emergency.
(h) Serve as SNASC’s representative to the NSNA Council of State Presidents.
(i) Be chairperson of the Executive Committee of Council of School Representatives.
(j) Plan and promote the annual Leadership Seminar.
(k) Act as liaison between Executive Board and Constituent schools including each school Dean, Advisors, and Faculty.
(l) Act as liaison between SNASC and the South Carolina League for Nursing.
(m) Be bonded.

4.4-2 There shall be two Vice-Presidents:

1. The duties of the First Vice-President shall be:

   (a) Assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President, and in the event of a vacancy in the office of the President assume the duties of the office of the President.
   (b) Serve as chairperson of the convention committee.
   (c) Serve as chairperson of the committee on programs.
   (d) Shall be a member of the Executive Council of School Representatives.

2. The duties of the Second Vice-President shall be:
4.4-3 The Secretary shall:
(a) Record and distribute the minutes of this association and the executive board.
(b) Keep a register of all members for roll call and business purposes.
(c) Keep on file as a permanent record all reports, papers and documents submitted to the secretary.
(d) Conduct the general correspondence of the association and notify committees of their appointments as requested by the President or the executive board.
(e) Sign with the president such organizational papers as come into their executive and administrative spheres.
(f) Serve as reporter to the Intake/Output, Imprint and all local publications.
(g) Notify all constituent associations of all meetings of the association at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
(h) Refer to the duly appointed committees the necessary records for performance of their duties.
(i) Provide each executive board member with a list of all committee members and addresses.
(j) Serve as chairperson on the Committee on Policies and Officers Handbook.

4.4-4 The Treasurer shall:
(a) Act as a custodian of organization funds and deposit these funds in a bank approved by the Executive Board.
(b) Prepare a budget and the monetary disbursements with the approval of the President and as authorized by the Executive Board.
(c) Keep accurate entries of acquisitions and disbursements of organization funds.
(d) Prepare a report of the transactions of the Treasurer’s office to be submitted at the annual convention.
(e) Keep a permanent record of all dues paid together with a registrar of all members in good standing as submitted at the annual convention.
(f) Submit a financial report to the Executive Board at regular intervals and when requested to do so by any member of the Executive Board.
(g) The books are to be reviewed by a CPA at the expiration of the Treasurer’s term with a written statement from the CPA of the review submitted to the President.
(h) Serve as chairperson on the Committee on Ways and Means.
(i) The retiring Treasurer shall by the end of the fiscal year deliver to the newly elected Treasurer all money, vouchers, books and papers of the
association held in custody.

(j) Be a member of the executive Committee of Council of School Representatives.

(k) Be chairperson of all fundraising conducted by the Executive Board.

(l) Be bonded.

4.4-5 The Newsletter Editor/Website Director of this association shall:

(a) Serve as representative for the staff of the newsletter to the Executive Board.

(b) Manage the preparation and distribution of the newsletter.

(c) Forward fifteen (15) copies of the official bulletin to the headquarters of NSNA, Inc.

(d) Send one copy of the official bulletin to the SCNA and the SCLN.

(e) Serve as chairperson of the Committee on Scrapbooks.

(f) Manage and maintain the SNASC website.

4.4-6 The Director of Community Health shall:

(a) Promote and plan a minimum of three community health activities on a statewide level.

(b) Direct, supervise and evaluate community health projects on a statewide basis.

(c) Serve as advisor to constituent schools for community health activities.

4.4-7 The Nominations and Elections Committee Director/Historian shall:

(a) Discharge the duties of this office as outlined in Article XI, 11-7.

4.4-8 The Breakthrough to Nursing Director shall:

(a) Provide information to all schools in South Carolina concerning types of education available for becoming a graduate nurse.

(b) Encourage recruitment of minority groups into nursing.

(c) Serve as chairperson on the Committee on Public Relations and Publicity.

(d) Encourage recruitment and retention of membership into NSNA and SNASC including sustaining members.

4.4-9 The Legislative Director shall:

(a) Promote political awareness among nursing students and plan legislative activities on a statewide level.

(b) Serve as the SNASC liaison on the SCNA legislative committee.

(c) Serve as chairperson of the Legislative Committee.

(d) Serve as co-chairperson of the Committee on Bylaws.

(e) Serve as chairperson of the Committee on Resolutions.

4.4-10 Other general duties of officers shall be:

(a) Officers should submit regularly to the Treasurer a report of their expenses with receipts.

(b) Officers shall deliver to their successors all records, papers or other
property belonging to the association.

(c) Absence of an officer without good cause as determined by the executive board from two meetings of the association and/or the Annual Workshop and/or the State Convention shall constitute a resignation of the office effective immediately. A letter informing the decision shall be sent within seven days of the decision citing the applicable bylaws.

(d) In the event of an absence of an officer from a meeting, the President must be notified prior to the meeting. Exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances.

ARTICLE V

ELECTIONS

5.1 The officers of this association and the members of the nominating committee shall be elected at each annual meeting.

5.2 The elections shall be taken by secret ballot.

5.3 The plurality vote of all delegates present, entitled to vote and voting, shall constitute an election. In case of a tie, a re-vote shall be taken.

5.4 Before the opening of the polls, opportunity shall be given for nominations from the floor. Persons nominated from the floor after verification of eligibility and availability (Article IV 4.2) shall be posted in the polling places and may be written in on the ballot. Only write-ins nominated from the floor shall be eligible.

5.5 Delegates shall be notified of the hours of voting and the place for the election.

5.6 The executive board shall elect tellers by a two thirds majority of the board who shall act as observers of the election process.

5.7 Any Executive Board member who is not fulfilling his or her duties of office shall be given written notification outlining steps to meet established objectives prior to further action. A copy of this notification will be forwarded to the officer’s Dean or Advisor.

5.8 An official elected by the SNASC House of Delegates may be removed by the SNASC Executive Board whenever such action is deemed to be in the best interest of the association, or for other just cause. Removal of an elected official requires a majority vote of the SNASC Executive Board.

5.9 Any official elected by the SNASC House of Delegates who resigns, or is removed from office, shall be responsible for repayment of expenses to SNASC related to travel, per diem and lodging. Repayment need or amount will be the decision of the SNASC board relating to the nature of the resignation or removal.
ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

6.1 Monthly meetings of this association shall be held at times and places as shall be determined by the Executive Board. The annual meeting will be held on such days at such place as shall be determined by the Executive Board.

6.2 The House of Delegates shall be the governing and voting body of the association and shall be composed of delegates from the constituent association and the members of the Executive Board.

6.3 Special meetings of the association may be called by the Executive Board or shall be called by the President upon written request of on third or more of the constituent association. Notice of time, place and purpose of the special meeting shall be sent to all constituent associations not less than five days prior to the special meeting.

6.4 All Council of School Representatives meetings of this association shall be open to any member, advisors, and special guests of the association unless voted otherwise before the special meeting.

ARTICLE VII

REPRESENTATION

7.1 Representation at the Annual House of Delegates Meeting:

7.1-1 The House of Delegates shall be the governing and voting body of the association and shall be composed of delegates from the constituent associations and members of the Executive Board. The business of the annual meeting shall be conducted by the House of Delegates.

7.1-2 Each constituent association shall be entitled to delegates according to the number of members in good standing in SNASC. Delegates shall be elected by the various constituent school chapters. Delegates shall be 10-24 members – 1 delegate. 25-50 members – 2 delegates. Each additional 50 members or majority fraction thereof shall entitle a constituent school chapter to one additional delegate. This computation shall be based on the evidence of annual dues received by SNASC from NSNA on a date decided by the Executive Board.

7.1-3 The delegates and the Executive Board will be expected to attend all meetings of the House of Delegates.

7.1-4 The constituent school chapter shall send to the secretary a list of elected/selected delegates and alternatives prior to the annual state convention.
7.2 Voting

7.2-1 Representation to the NSNA meeting shall be in accordance with NSNA bylaws, Article VII, section 3.

7.3 Representation

7.3-1 The privilege of making motions and voting shall be limited to the voting body. A voting member shall have but one vote in any election or any question.

7.3-2 All meetings of the SNASC shall be open meetings unless otherwise voted by the House of Delegates. Student members, other than voting delegates, may attend the annual meeting but shall not be seated with the delegate body, and may speak once on each issue before the house.

ARTICLE VIII

EXECUTIVE BOARD

8.1 The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers of the SNASC. All members of this Council of School Representatives have the power to vote. The consultants shall serve as ex-officio members without a vote.

8.2 The Executive Board shall meet before the annual convention and at such times as deemed necessary by the majority of the board. A post-convention meeting for newly elected officers shall be held following the close of the annual convention.

8.3 The Executive Board shall:
(a) Have the power to fill vacancies in any office except the office of President or First Vice-President.
(b) Select successors to the representatives of the consolatory council should those positions be vacated prior to the annual election.
(c) Designate an alternate representative for the President to the NSNA Council of State Presidents.
(d) Approve the budget, authorize all monetary disbursements, and provide for the annual audit of accounts at the close of the fiscal year.

8.4 The official delegate of the association to the annual convention of the NSNA, Inc., shall be the President of this association. If the President cannot serve as designated representative, an alternate shall be elected by a majority of the Executive Board.

8.5 An allotment of $800.00 per person shall be left in the treasury for the Executive Board’s travel expenses. Each expenditure must have prior approval of the Executive Board.
8.6 All executive Board members shall sign a contractual agreement prior to induction stating that they have read and will abide by the SNASC by laws with particular notice to articles 8.6 and 5.9.

ARTICLE IX

COUNCIL OF SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

9.1 The council of school representatives shall consist of elected officials of this association and the President of each school constituent.

9.2 In the interval between meetings of the council of school representatives, the President of the association may refer and submit by mail or e-mail questions relating to the affairs of the association which in the opinion of the President require immediate action on the part of the council of school representatives. The results of such a referendum, which requires a majority vote of the personnel of the council of school representatives shall control the actions of the association, the executive board officers, and committees, provided such an action is not inconsistent with the will of the voting body of the association.

9.3 There shall be an executive committee of the council of school representatives composed of the President, First Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. This committee shall have the powers of an emergency nature between board meetings. All transactions of this committee shall be reported in full at the next scheduled meeting of the board.

9.4 Travel expenses for actual fuel costs, not to exceed $0.05/mile, for the council of school representatives for its monthly meetings shall be paid by SNASC.

ARTICLE X

CONSULTANTS

10.1 There shall be a council of consultants. The council shall consist of two professional consultants and at least one executive consultant that will be recommended by the previous Executive Board and appointed by the newly elected Executive Board.

10.1-1 The two professional consultants shall be instructors or administrators in a state approved school of nursing. The new professional consultants shall be appointed for a two term with the option of reappointment at the end of each term, alternating such that there is one-year overlap between consultants. An appointment made other that at the annual convention shall be made in accordance with Article 8.3(b). The executive consultant(s) shall be selected from the previous Executive Board and shall be appointed to serve for a one year term.
10.1-2 The council shall:
   (a) Serve as a resource by counseling and advising officers, committees and
       members.
   (b) Attend all meetings of this association. Absence of an advisor without
       good cause from two consecutive meetings of the association shall
       constitute a resignation of office, and a successor will be selected and
       appointed in accordance with Article 8.3(a&b).
   (c) Maintain channels of communication with consultants of constituent
       student associations.
   (d) Travel expenses for the council for the monthly meetings of the board
       shall be paid by SNASC. In the event that two or more executive officers
       or council members are traveling together, travel expenses shall be paid
       only to one individual.

ARTICLE XI

STANDING COMMITTEES

11.1 Standing committees shall be composed of members of the association and shall
assume such duties as are assigned by the President and specified in article X 11.4
through 11.10 of these bylaws.

11.2 The standing committees shall report to the Council of School Representatives
and when requested to do so shall submit a written report of their activities at the
annual meeting.

11.3 There shall be the following standing committees, which shall consist of at least
three members each (with the exception of NEC/HISTORIAN) and subject to the
approval of the President.
   (a) Committee on Arrangements and Programs
   (b) Committee on Bylaws
   (c) Committee on Legislation
   (d) Committee on Policies
   (e) Committee on Public Relations
   (f) Committee on Breakthrough to Nursing
   (g) Committee on Ways and Means
   (h) Committee on Nominations
   (i) Committee on Scrapbook

11.4 The chairperson of the Committee on Arrangements and Programs shall be the
first Vice-President. This committee shall make arrangements for the annual
convention.

11.5 The committee on Bylaws shall:
   (a) Receive suggestions on amendments to the bylaws.
   (b) Submit all proposed amendments to the Council of School Representatives
of the association and the NSNA Committee on Bylaws for review and approval.
(c) Present proposed amendments to the voting body for action at the annual meeting in accordance with these bylaws.
(d) Approve each local organization’s bylaws annually and refer recommendations for action thereon to the Council of School Representatives as necessary.
(e) The Second Vice President and the Legislative Director shall serve as co-chairpersons.

11.6 The legislative chairperson shall be the Legislative Director. The number of committee members shall be recommended by the chairperson yearly. The function of the Committee on Legislation shall be as follows:
(a) Study the needs for legislative action.
(b) Support proposed federal, state and local legislation for its implications for nurses, nursing and health.
(c) Develop a legislative program with the approval of the Council of School Representatives.
(d) Advise the Council of School Representatives of current legal issues.
(e) Assume such duties as shall be assigned to it by the Council of School Representatives.

11.7 The Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC)/Historian

11.7-1 Each constituent school chapter shall nominate one candidate for the NEC/Historian. From this number, five will be elected from the ballot by the voting delegates at the House of Delegates. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall serve as chairperson.

11.7-2 If any member of this committee is nominated as candidate for office, the said member shall automatically resign from the committee. In the event that such as vacancy occurs, it shall be filled by the person who received the next highest number of votes in successive order and who is eligible to serve.

11.7-3 Students who have submitted candidate applications to the committee will have their candidacy considered. Applications must include biographical information on the candidate. The committee will complete a ticket for each office.

11.7-4 The pre-slated ticket with biographical information shall be presented to each constituent association at convention registration.

11.7-5 No name shall be presented at an annual meeting either by the committee or from the floor unless the nominee has consented to serve if elected.

11.7-6 Furnish to the chairperson of the Tellers not less than two hours before the opening of the polls a list of delegates entitled to vote at the annual meeting and
election.

11.7-7 One month prior to the annual House of Delegates, notify officially each constituent association the number of delegates to which it is entitled. This number shall be forwarded to the Secretary of SNASC at the same time.

11.7-8 Assist the secretary in keeping accurate records, as well as taking pictures for the purpose of historical documentation.

11.8 The Committee on Policies shall incorporate the policies of the organization into a policy book, which shall be reviewed annually by the committee and submitted to the Executive Board for approval. The secretary shall serve as chairperson of this committee.

11.9 The Committee on Breakthrough to Nursing shall:
(a) Provide information to high schools in South Carolina concerning types of education available for becoming a graduate nurse.
(b) Encourage recruitment of minority groups into nursing.
(c) The Breakthrough to Nursing Directors shall serve as the chairperson.

11.10 The Committee on Ways and Means shall:
(a) Draw up the annual budget of proposed expenses for the year and shall report the same to the Executive Board for approval.
(b) Manage and initiate moneymaking projects for SNASC.
(c) The Treasurer shall serve as chairperson of the committee.

ARTICLE XII

FISCAL YEAR

12.1 The fiscal year shall be from February 1st to January 31st.

ARTICLE XIII

QUORUM

13.1 The officers of this association and two thirds of the voting delegates shall constitute a quorum at the business meetings of the annual convention of this association.

13.2 A two-thirds majority of the members of the executive board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.
ARTICLE XIV

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

14.1 The Student Nurses Notes shall be the newsletter of this association and shall be distributed to members as one of the benefits of membership.

ARTICLE XV

ORDER OF MEETINGS

15.1 All meetings of this association shall be conducted according to parliamentary law as set forth in Robert’s Rules of order – Newly Revised where the rules apply and are not in conflict with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XVI

AMENDMENTS

16.1 These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the association by two thirds vote of the delegates present and voting, provided that a copy of all proposed amendments has been sent to all constituent associations at least 8 days prior to the annual meeting.

16.2 All proposed amendments shall be submitted by the Council of School Representatives for approval no later than the COSR meeting preceding the annual meeting.

16.3 Proposed amendments may be substituted to the Committee on Bylaws by any constituent school chapter.

16.4 Proposed amendments may be amended at the annual meeting by a 99% vote of those present and voting, provided previous notice shall have been given at an earlier meeting of the same session, and provided that the proposed amendment shall have been presented to the presiding officer and parliamentarian before the meeting where previous notice is given.

16.5 Immediately following approval by the House of Delegates of Bylaws changes at each annual convention, three copies of these bylaws shall be sent to NSNA, Inc.

16.6 Following adoption by the House of Delegates, all amendments shall be added as a pen and ink change into the text of these bylaws.