

# **PATCH By-Laws 2020-2021**

*Updated August 18, 2018*

## **Preamble - Vision Statement**

The objective of PATCH is to provide support for families who are dedicating themselves to provide a solid Christian based homeschool education. PATCH is an informational support group designed to provide member services that normally cannot be provided by the individual or small group of homeschoolers. PATCH is an organization that holds to a Christian worldview and offers activities, training, discipling and leadership opportunities for homeschool parents that are specifically designed to increase their ability to teach their children and to enhance their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

## **Article I - Statement of Faith**

Trusting in Jesus Christ as my Savior, I believe in the Bible as the inspired Word of God; the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son; the Death of Jesus Christ for our sins; His bodily resurrection and personal return; and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Article II - Membership**

### **Section 1: Definition**

Membership shall be opened exclusively to persons of good moral character, those currently involved with homeschooling children or anyone who has graduated a student through home school according to Christian principles consistent with the Bible, as well as those who are providing a Christian valued home school environment for their children. Members are those that are current in their annual dues, have read and agreed to the by-laws, and completed a membership form.

### **Section 2: Application for membership**

An online application for membership must be completed. All applications should be accompanied by an online payment for the amount of the annual dues. Prospective members who cannot afford the membership dues should have their circumstances reviewed by the board to determine if they qualify as a hardship case. The board has the authority to waive membership dues.

### **Section 3: Termination of membership**

Resignation: a member may resign by submitting to the Leadership Board a brief letter of resignation, signed by the member(s). Revocation of Membership: membership can be terminated by a unanimous vote of the board for cause not in agreement with the vision statement.

### **Section 4: Age-segregated events**

Any age-segregated PATCH funded event may only be attended exclusively by PATCH home school students.

### **Section 5: Family events**

Any PATCH funded family event will be open to all members of a family that has PATCH Membership.

## **Article III - Leadership Board**

### **Section 1: Volunteering/Elections**

PATCH leadership board will be filled voluntarily. Any volunteer for the board must be a PATCH member in good standing and have been a member for at least twelve consecutive months prior to volunteering. Specific board positions for each year will be proposed by the leadership of the previous year and be submitted for approval by the members present at the business meeting. If there is more than one volunteer for any board position, there will be a vote by the PATCH members in attendance. Any necessary voting will be completed in May and new board members will begin on June 1. A chairman of the board will be chosen from among the board members.

### **Section 2: Responsibilities**

The board members are empowered by the general membership to conduct all duties provided for in these by-laws and necessary for the general management of the affairs and interests of PATCH. The board members shall direct the manner and purposes for which all funds of PATCH shall be expended consistent with specific events and a pre-approved budget for that activity. The board members shall make such regulation, procedures and take such action they believe to be in the best interests of PATCH.

### **Section 3: Duties**

1. The general duties of the board include but are not limited to:
  1. Hold support meetings throughout the year
  2. Maintain website
  3. Manage PATCH funds
  4. Manage committees
  5. Encouragement/advice
2. The specific duties of the treasurer include but are not limited to:
  1. Submit quarterly reports to the membership
  2. Clear all disbursements above \$100 with the board.
  3. Submit financial records for review annually

## **Article IV - Dues and Assessments**

The annual dues for membership in PATCH are \$25 through PayPal only. The membership year runs from August 1 through July 31. Dues are to be paid to the treasurer by September 15 of each year, after which time dues will increase to \$50. Exceptions based on individual circumstances may be discussed by contacting the Board. As a general policy, there are no refunds or prorating of annual dues. Payment of annual dues will provide but is not limited to:

PATCH membership card (to use for discounts at certain area businesses)  
Access to the PATCH membership directory

Membership to PATCH Google email group

Access to all PATCH events

\$20 discount towards membership in HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association)

## **Article V - Communications**

There are currently four methods by which PATCH information is communicated to its members:

1. Membership Directory - listing of members' names, addresses, e-mail, phone numbers, children's names, and school name based on yearly membership applications
2. PATCH website - information on field trips, events, and activities as well as home schooling links, photos, legal requirements, etc
3. PATCH Google group - email group where announcements can be posted and will be e-mailed to all registered users
4. Support group meetings

## **Article VI - By-Laws Review and Amendments**

### **Section 1:**

The by-laws are designed to be a living document, providing a basic framework for the organization and responsibilities of its members. Flexibility to alter and amend these by-laws must be maintained as situations dictate. It is for this purpose that these by-laws be reviewed annually. The board that would supplement the annual review if circumstances warrant can direct a special review.

### **Section 2:**

Any member may submit proposed changes. A simple majority vote by the members of PATCH present in any regularly scheduled meeting is all that is required to change the by-laws.