

# **PATCH By-Laws**

*Updated July 1, 2022*

## **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 a small group of homeschoolers. PATCH is an organization that holds to a Biblical worldview and offers activities, 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 is open to persons of good moral character, those currently involved with homeschooling children or anyone who has graduated a student through homeschool 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 through PayPal 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.

## **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 submitted for approval by the members through an online poll or at a PATCH meeting. If there is more than one volunteer for any board position, there will be a vote by the members. Any necessary voting will be completed in May and new board members will begin in June. (In the case that a board member resigns from his/her position on the board any other time during the school year, the current board may conduct an approval by the members for a new board member.) 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**

- A. The general duties of the board include but are not limited to:
  - 1. Hold support gatherings throughout the year
  - 2. Maintain website
  - 3. Manage PATCH funds
  - 4. Manage committees
  - 5. Encouragement/advice
- B. The specific duties of the treasurer include but are not limited to:
  - 1. Clear all disbursements
  - 2. Discuss budget with board annually and as needed
  - 3. Have financial reports available for members upon request

## **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. The Join feature on the website will be disabled in June. Membership dues for the coming year will be accepted beginning in July. Dues are to be paid to the treasurer via PayPal when filling out the membership form online. 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:

- 1. PATCH membership card (to use for discounts at certain area businesses)
- 2. Access to the PATCH membership directory
- 3. Membership to PATCH BAND app group

4. Access to all PATCH events
5. \$15 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 co-ops, events, and activities as well as home schooling links, photos, legal requirements, etc
3. PATCH BAND app - group where announcements can be posted to all registered users
4. Support group gatherings

## **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 or by group wide survey or poll is all that is required to change the by-laws.