

SVHE Bylaws
Amended and approved by the membership
Initial approval: April 28, 2003
Revised: January 22, 2007

Article I – Name

The name of the organization shall be Smoky Valley Home Educators (SVHE).

Article II – Definition and purpose

Smoky Valley Home Educators Support Group is organized for the purpose of encouraging each other in our choice of providing a Christ-centered education for our children at home through Christian fellowship and moral support. We, as parents, have joined together to promote stronger families, raise Godly children to stand against the world's standards and provide quality education for our children through the mutual encouragement of friendship, planned activities, and individualized home school programs. We Christian parents believe that we have a Biblical responsibility to do so according to the inspired Word of God in the scriptures as written: Deut. 6: 6-7, Prov. 22:6, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Eph. 6:1-4, Isa. 54:13, 2 Tim. 2:15, Josh. 24:15, 1Cor. 15:33.

SVHE is a volunteer organization and does not seek to represent, or speak for, all home educators in the Salina/north central Kansas area. SVHE is not a governing or certifying body for home educators. SVHE is not a church nor is this organization meant to replace the ministry of the local church to the home education family. SVHE advocates private home education, i.e., parents who take full responsibility for the education of their children without government assistance.

Article III – Statement of faith

We believe:

1. The Bible to be the inspired, infallible, divinely preserved Word of God, the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
2. That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, and His imminent bodily return in power and glory.
4. That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only those who put their faith in Jesus Christ can be saved.
5. That salvation is the free gift of God brought to the sinner by grace and received by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's

sin.

6. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict mankind; indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
7. In the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that individual doctrinal differences which may exist, outside of the aforementioned (III:1-6), should not hinder the unity of Christian home educators.

Article IV: Meetings for purpose of conducting business:

1. SVHE generally meets monthly from August through May, A “duly-called meeting” of the membership for purposes of conducting business shall be defined as any of these regularly-scheduled monthly meetings, or a special meeting called by the President with the consent of the majority of the Advisory Council and which is announced via newsletter, special mailing, phone tree or e-mail to the membership at least two (2) weeks prior to such meeting. This does not preclude the Advisory Council from conducting business which is in their purview at other times and when all of the 5 Advisory Council members are present (this also does not preclude the use of teleconferencing or similar for Advisory Council meetings if necessary to achieve the 5 member present rule.)
2. A special meeting can be called by at least 6 members, including at least one member of the Advisory Council, of SVHE at large, providing the 2-week notice is given according to the above rules. This would not require the consent of the President nor Advisory council.
3. Business shall not be conducted at any meetings not called according to the above rules.
4. Quorum: Business may be conducted at any duly-called meeting when a minimum of 10% SVHE voting members, including at least one Advisory Council member, are present.

Article V: Officers

1. The officers of SVHE shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and CHECK Representative. Officers shall not receive any salaries for services as an officer. However, nothing herein stated shall preclude any officer from being reimbursed for expenses incurred while fulfilling these duties; i.e. travel-related expenses, phone calls, copying expenses, postage, etc.

All officers:

- A. Must sign the statement attached signifying that they agree with all parts of SVHE’s Statement of Faith and Statement of Purpose.
- B. Must have privately home educated his or her child (ren) for at least three consecutive years by the time their term of office begins.
- C. Must regularly be involved in a local fellowship or church or actively seeking a new church home.

- D. Must have been a member of SVHE for three consecutive years by the time their term of office begins.
2. Election, term of office, responsibilities and other criteria:
- A. President: Must be male, must have been active in different areas of the SVHE group and have followed through consistently with their SVHE commitments, able to pray in front of the group, be able to organize meetings and conduct such, be able to oversee committees and individuals in various activities in fulfilling SVHE's mission and goals. The President's term of office is two years. He then may hold another office or no office for at least one year, after which he may again serve as President.
- B. Vice President: Criteria are the same as for President. The Vice President will preside at any meeting the President is unable to attend. Term of office is one year. Vice President may then run for any office, including the Vice Presidency again. Nominations and election are same as for the President.
- C. Treasurer: Nominations for and election of Treasurer are the same as President and Vice President, except the Treasurer may be male or female. Responsibilities include: Give a monthly report to the Membership, assist in recommending dues for the subsequent year, keep all receipts for any reimbursements made, keep record of checks written in an appropriate format. Treasurer's position is for one year, with unlimited number of re-elections. All financial records will be audited yearly by a person chosen to do so by the Advisory Council with a report given to the Advisory Council. Disbursement of funds is under the guidance of the Advisory Council and/or votes of the membership. In general, the Treasurer may disburse up to \$349 if this appears to be in accordance with previously-established budget or appears to be reasonable. It shall be the policy of SVHE that group funds not be disbursed for political, spiritual or other special interest groups outside of SVHE. This does not preclude individual SVHE members from donating however they wish. In addition it does not preclude collecting a special offering from members as they wish to give and donating in the name of SVHE if agreed upon by the membership or Advisory Council.
- D. Secretary: Nomination and election is the same as the other officers. The Secretary may be male or female. Responsibilities include: Take minutes of each duly-called SVHE meeting and Advisory Council Meeting and provide copies to the other members of the Advisory Council. A copy of both meetings minutes (Advisory Council and general SVHE meetings) will also be provided to the newsletter editor for printing in the next issue of the SVHE newsletter. A copy of each meeting's minutes will also be brought to the monthly business meetings for

review as needed. Should there be items from the Advisory Council meetings of a personal, negative or disciplinary nature, these will not be publicized in the newsletter nor be distributed to the group at large. (These topics are appropriately dealt with in "Executive Session" during the meetings and are thus not available to the general membership.) Term of office is one year, but the secretary may be re-elected an unlimited number of terms.

- E. CHECK representative: The immediate past president shall serve a two-year term as CHECK Representative. In the event he does not wish to or is unable to serve in this capacity, another person shall be nominated and elected in the same manner as the other Officers of SVHE. Responsibilities include attending the statewide CHECK meetings, representing the interests of SVHE at the state level and communicating to the SVHE membership activities occurring on the state level. In the event the CHECK Representative is unable to attend a CHECK meeting, another officer of the group may attend or a member chosen by the Advisory Council.
- F. Timing of nominations and elections: Nominations for the five Advisory Council members (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and CHECK Representative) are made by written or verbal means from any current SVHE member and turned in to any current Advisory Council member by April 15 of each year. The Advisory Council will review the slate and confirm both the agreement on the part of the person to serve in this capacity if elected as well as making certain the stated qualifications have been met. Voting on the ballot of officers will then take place in May of each year. This does not negate the previously-stated terms of office (e.g. President serves for two years) which will be taken into account and observed. A simple majority of SVHE members present and voting is required to elect each of the officers.

Article VI: Bylaws

- 1. Modification: Written notice will be given in the Newsletter or by special mailing to members at least one month prior to the said meeting where voting will take place.
- 2. A 2/3 majority of SVHE members present and voting at a meeting is required to implement these Bylaws and for modification thereof.

Article VII: Advisory Council

- 1. Membership: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, CHECK Representative.
- 2. Open meetings: The Advisory Council meetings will be open to the membership of SVHE,

unless a sensitive or personal issue is to be discussed. This will be determined by the Advisory Council.

3. All 5 members of the Advisory Council must be present or by e-mail/teleconference to take action or to have a meeting.
4. Confidentiality of meeting content: When sensitive or personal issues are discussed at the Advisory Council, no member may reveal that information to anyone else.
5. Minutes: Minutes shall be kept of each Advisory Council meeting by the Secretary of SVHE or a designee. The minutes shall be open to the membership, except for executive session minutes.
6. Voting: A simple majority vote will determine routine action motions.
7. Meeting frequency: As needed. Meetings may be called by the President or Vice President.
8. Duties of the Advisory Council include but are not limited to the following:
 - A. Determine dues for the subsequent year
 - B. Approve expenditures of \$350 - \$500 or any expenditure for which the Treasurer has a question. For expenditures of greater than \$500, a majority of the members of SVHE present at any meeting are required to approve.
 - C. Develop policies for proposal and make decisions as needed for the improvement or efficient operation of SVHE. If a policy or question impacts SVHE membership in a significant or potentially controversial manner, it is expected that the issue will be brought before the entire membership of SVHE for approval. The primary role of the Advisory Council is
 - I. proposing policies for voting on by the membership as a whole and
 - II. Making decisions which are necessary on an emergent or urgent basis or to answer a question raised by a member of SVHE.

Article VIII – Membership

1. Categories of membership:
 - A. Active Member: Definition – An active member shall be defined as a single person (if no spouse) or as a married couple who has paid dues for the current year, who is actively home-educating their child, who recognizes the purpose and statement of faith (Articles II and III above) and will not promote anything which will counter these. Examples of these include, but are not limited to, atheism, evolution, vulgar language, homosexuality, bisexuality, alcohol use, cults, occult activities or pornography. Payment of membership fee indicates agreement with these by-laws.
 - B. Supporting Member: Definition –A supporting member shall be defined as a single person (if no spouse) or as a married couple who has paid dues for the current year, who has an

interest in home education by virtue of having home educated in the past, or is considering home educating their children in the future.

2. Acceptance for membership: An individual or couple is accepted for membership upon their payment of dues for the current year. Payment of dues indicates that the member recognizes the purpose and Statement of Faith and will abide by the bylaws of SVHE. A member may or may not fully agree with the Statement of Faith.

3. Voting rights of members: Each member (single if no spouse or married couple) is entitled to one (1) vote in all matters. In the event a member cannot be present to vote at a duly-called meeting, said member may cast a vote in absentia by submitting this in writing to any member of the Advisory Council prior to or by the time the vote is taken. Except as otherwise noted in these By-laws, all matters brought to a vote shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present at a duly-called meeting.

4. Responsibilities of members: Members of SVHE must meet the Kansas statutes and Attorney General's opinions as they relate to home education (which is commonly accepted to be private non-accredited school in the Kansas Statute). However, an individual or family may appeal to the Advisory Council if they have concerns relating to matters of conscience. This includes but is not limited to the following: Registration with the State Board of Education, meet for a time substantially equivalent to the time public school is in session, etc.

Members may not give out any other member's names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses or other identifying information without that individual family's specific permission, agreement and knowledge of the purpose.

Article IX: Misc.

1. Accountability of members:

A. Purpose: To ensure compliance with guidelines for membership, to ensure harmonious interpersonal relationships and avoid strife and divisions among the members.

B. Method: When there is a complaint or concern that a member or group is not abiding by the guidelines for membership or that there is concern about the seriousness with which homeschooling is being followed, the person issuing the complaint must have approached the other person they have their complaint with first. If the issue cannot be resolved by the individuals or if there is adequate reason to pursue the issue, a minimum of two Advisory Council members (plus anyone else appropriate if needed) will approach the member/group/family in

question to obtain their perspective and to offer help from the members of SVHE. If the issue is not resolved, the Advisory Council may give an appropriate warning. If the issue continues to be unresolved, the issue will again be discussed at the Advisory Council. At that point, a decision can be made, including the option of expelling the member from SVHE (unanimous decision at Advisory Council is required for this action). The member/group/family in question has the right to appeal to the membership of SVHE as a whole in a regular or specially-called meeting if they so desire. A 2/3 majority of the membership attending the meeting will be required to overturn the Advisory Council decision.

C. If a member is removed from membership in SVHE, a refund of the year's annual dues shall be made.

2. Leadership:

- A. Defined: A "leader" of an SVHE group for purposes of these Bylaws is defined as the primary leader or the person who is in charge of or otherwise is commonly perceived to be a leader of one or more children involved in any activity in the name of Smoky Valley Home Educators. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: teachers in the SVHE Co-op, coaches, music directors, field trip leaders, etc.
- B. Requirements of leadership: A leader of SVHE activities must be one of the following: 1. A member of SVHE or 2. A person directly sponsored by a named member of SVHE. In this case the leader does not need to be a member of SVHE, although the parent sponsor must be.
- C. A member who is a leader of an SVHE group must agree with these Bylaws including the Statement of Faith.
- D. Accountability of leader: A non-member leader of an SVHE activity is encouraged to agree with the SVHE bylaws and in particular the statement of faith. However, responsibility for the actions, beliefs and positions of an SVHE leader is the responsibility of the parent-member sponsor and specifically not of SVHE nor the Advisory Council. It is the responsibility of parents to choose which activities, if any, their children should be involved in. The leader of an SVHE activity is specifically not an employee of SVHE nor the Advisory Council.
- E. Compensation of leaders: It is anticipated that both member and non-member leaders of groups may or may not receive compensation from parents or participants for their services. Prior to providing services, any compensation amount should be discussed and agreed to by all parties concerned. It is specifically noted that SVHE is not an employer.

Attachment A

SVHE Participant, Membership and Leadership categories

Category	Position on statement of faith	Privileges		Other
		May	May not	
Participant (parent and/or student)	Recognizes Statement of Faith, may or may not agree with it	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in activities sponsored by SVHE 2. Attend meetings 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vote 2. Receive newsletter 3. Utilize library materials 4. Lead groups or activities in the name of SVHE 5. Serve as an Officer of SVHE 	Does not pay dues, but may need to pay for specific activities in which they participate
Active Member	Recognizes Statement of Faith, may or may not agree with it	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vote 2. Receive newsletter 3. Check out materials from library 4. Participate in activities sponsored by SVHE, sometimes for a discount 5. Lead groups and activities in name of SVHE (other criteria apply: Must agree with Statement of Faith) 6. Serve as Officer of SVHE: Must agree with Statement of Faith 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pays dues 2. Is currently actively home-educating

Supporting member	Recognizes Statement of Faith, may or may not agree with it	Same as above except may not serve as Officer of SVHE	1. Serve as Officer of SVHE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pays dues 2. Is not actively home schooling 3. May be former home educator, or potential new home educator
Leader: non-member	Recognizes Statement of Faith, may or may not agree with it	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lead groups in name of SVHE 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vote 2. Hold office in SVHE 3. Have other benefits of membership 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Person must be recommended and sponsored by a current SVHE active member and approved by Advisory Council for this leadership position 2. Current SVHE sponsoring member must also be in some way concurrently involved in the group's activities which this person is leading