**CONSTITUTION OF NORTHEAST TEXAS STUDENT COUNCILS**

**Preamble**

We, the members of the student bodies of the senior high schools in Northeast Texas, in order to promote organizations of student councils in various schools, foster more cordial relations among the schools, and to be of the greatest service to our schools, do organize ourselves into a society under the following constitution.

**Article 1**

**Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Northeast Texas Student Forum of Texas Association of Student Councils District 19.

**Article II**

**Membership**

Any senior high school in Northeast Texas District, located north of highway 80 and including Delta, Lamar, and Hunt Counties on their boundaries, may be a member of the organization.

**Article III**

**Officers**

The elected officers of this organization shall be:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Parliamentarian

**Article IV**

**Elections of Student Officers**

Section 1:

February 1 is the last day that a school can file to be a candidate for an office in the coming year. All candidate schools must send a letter signed by their principals to the president school. Should no one file for offices, it is the duty of the president school to secure at least one candidate. Nomination speeches and skit can be no longer than a total of ten minutes.

Section 2:

Nominees shall be designated by names of schools rather than by individuals. Local schools elected to the office shall be free to choose whomever they see fit from their own council to fill the office.

Section 3:

No school will be eligible to hold more than one student office at a time and will not be

able to succeed itself.

Section 4:

Election shall be held at the regular spring business session for the forum for president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and parliamentarian, each school will be allowed three votes. Voting shall be by roll call vote. The plurality vote principle will be used to elect the district officers.

Section 5:

On June 1, the new officers shall assume full responsibility of the offices to which they were elected.

**Article V**

**Duties of the Student Officers**

Section 1:

1. Duties of the president shall be:
2. To preside at all regular meetings of the organization.
3. To appoint all standing committees and their chairperson.
4. To appoint all special officers and committees.
5. To call a planning meeting of the executive committee--which shall consist of all the elected officers plus the district advisor-- between fall forum and spring forum. These meetings shall be held at a place agreeable to the committee.
6. Duties of the vice-president shall be:
7. To preside in the absence of the president.
8. To act as host school or to serve as host school at the fall meeting of the Northeast Texas Student Forum and to serve as program chairman for this meeting.
9. Duties of the secretary shall be:
10. To keep accurate records of the forum and pass them to the succeeding secretary by June 1.
11. To keep an accurate file for future reference of all publications concerning the forum.
12. To communicate all actions of the forum to all member schools by sending out copies of minutes, one after each meeting of the forum.
13. To act as host school or to serve as host school at the spring meeting of the Northeast Texas Student Forum and to serve as program chairman for this meeting.
14. To call roll at all meetings.
15. To tally votes with the aid of the District President and District Advisor.
16. Duties of the treasurer shall be:
17. To collect funds.
18. Pay accounts.
19. To keep records of tall finances pertaining to the forum.
20. To notify the district advisor of the schools by November 1 who have not paid their dues.
21. To pass records to the treasurer elect before September 1.
22. To send notices to all district schools the first of September concerning their district dues.
23. Duties of the parliamentarian shall be:
24. To act as final authority on questions of parliamentary procedures.
25. To serve as time keeper during nominations.
26. To compile and send a newsletter to each member school twice a year—after each forum.
27. To purchase and present plaques to district advisor at the end of each term-- District Advisor of the Year and other deserving persons as appropriate.
28. To see that the district officers follow the duties as outlined in the district constitution.

Section 2:

State and district membership fees shall be paid to TASC before January 15th of each year. If dues are not received prior to January 15th, schools failing to pay their dues shall lose their votes in district as well as their eligibility to run or hold office. Schools attending the fall forum will be charged $25.00 registration fee and those attending spring forum will be charged $40.00 registration fee to be payable to the district treasurer.

**Article VI**

**Meetings**

Section 1:

An officers’ workshop shall be held not later than the second Tuesday of November, the date to be set by the host school.

Section 2:

A general meeting shall be held each year in the spring not later than the third Tuesday in March, the date to be set by the host school.

Section 3:

Delegates from a majority of schools registered for the convention shall constitute a quorum to

conduct business.

Section 4:

The district advisor will be elected biennially by the sponsors at the spring meeting.

Section 5:

The school elected parliamentarian shall use Robert’s Rules of Order.

Section 6:

The spring forum shall be open to any senior high school with or without a student council if

dues have been paid.

Section 7:

The district advisor shall:

1. select three member schools to serve as the audit committee. Audit must be completed each year by September 1.
2. conduct the sponsors’ meeting and designate a sponsor to take minutes.
3. compile a district scrapbook/handbook and pass it to succeeding advisors. It should contain the district constitution, minutes from sponsors meetings, programs from forums, forms for projects, and other appropriate articles and information.
4. obtain judges for state projects and district level competition.
5. assist new councils and sponsors by making materials and information about the district and state available.
6. appoint a committee to be chaired by the Parliamentarian school to write any amendment to the district constitution.
7. appoint a committee at Spring Forum to judge scholarship applications.  Scholarships will be judged by a committee of advisors.  District 19 will award at least one scholarship per year and no more than three scholarships per year.  The total amount for scholarships must not exceed 50% of the District 19 budget.   The number awarded is based upon the qualified applicants. They will be judged upon need as well as district and state involvement participated in by the individual student.

 **Article VII**

**Amending Process**

The constitution may be amended under the following provisions:

1. The secretary must be given a copy of the proposed amendment prior to a meeting of the Northeast Texas Student Council Forum. This amendment must be read in the general assembly.
2. The proposed amendment will be read, discussed, and voted upon at the next meeting.
3. Adoption by two-thirds majority of the member schools is sufficient for the constitution to be amended.

**Article VIII**

Criteria for determining State Project Winners shall be made by the state executive committee. Any additions or deletions will be made by the state executive committee.