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CONSTITUTION OF THE  
ABC FEDERATION OF TEACHERS  
AFT LOCAL 2317  
Revised 2/3/2011

**Article I Name**

The name of this organization shall be the ABC Federation of Teachers of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

**Article II Jurisdiction**

This organization, hereinafter called the Federation, shall represent the American Federation of Teachers and have jurisdiction of the American Federation of Teachers in the ABC Unified School District.

**Article III Affiliation**

The Federation shall affiliate with the American Federation of Teachers, the California Federation of Teachers, the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO, and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO. These affiliations shall constitute allegiance to the constitutions of these bodies and oblige prompt payment of their per capitas.

**Article IV Purpose**

The purpose of this organization shall be to advance the status of teachers and other educational employees, and of education in general, in ABCUSD, in the state, and in the nation; to promote the growth of the American Federation of Teachers, California Federation of Teachers, organized labor in general and public employees; to raise the standards of the educational profession and to secure the conditions essential to the best professional service; to promote such democratization of the educational institution as will enable it to equip students to take their places in the economic, social and political life of the community; to strive for equal opportunities for all; and to initiate and support state legislation to benefit the students and educational employees of the ABC Unified School District.

**Article V Membership**

A. Eligibility

Membership in this organization shall be open to all teachers, librarians, school nurses, speech therapists, specialists, members-at-large, unrepresented and those certificated employees listed in the contract who are not managers, supervisors, or confidential employees.

B. Retirees

An officially chartered AFT retiree chapter shall represent retirees. If no retiree chapter exists, retirees may be a member of the ABCFT.

C. Non-Discrimination

No qualifications for membership shall be established which limits membership to anyone or grants membership to anyone on the basis of racial or ethnic background,

color, creed, national origin, sex, age, physical intellectual or developmental disability, medical condition, height, weight, physical characteristics, organizational affiliation, disabled veteran status, political affiliation, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital or domestic partner status.

## **Article VI    Governance**

### **A.     Representative Council**

1.The Representative Council shall consist of all elected officers of the Local and one elected representative or alternate for each 25 members or fraction thereof within each site or district-based program.

2.The Representative Council shall have legislative and judicial powers in all matters affecting this organization, subject to limitations in this Constitution and shall make the policy of the Federation.

3.The Representative Council shall have the power to propose amendments to this Constitution; determine election procedures and duties of officers; establish dues subject to membership ratification, and establish necessary committees and agencies to carry out the intent of this Federation.

4.Regular monthly meetings of the Representative Council shall be held in a place and time as determined by the Council. Special meetings shall be called according to need.

5.The chairpersons of all Standing Committees and shall be appointed annually and shall be ex-officio members of the Representative Council.

6.The Representative Council shall act as the steering committee for the ABC Federation of Teachers Committee on Political Education (ABCFT C.O.P.E.)

### **B.     Officers**

1.Officers of the Federation shall be a president, an executive vice-president, nine vice-presidents, a recording secretary, and a treasurer.

2.There shall be an Executive Board consisting of the elected officers. The Executive Board may suggest policy and execute policy but may not formulate official policy.

3.The term of office shall be for two years from June to June.  
Installation of officers shall be in June at the ~~fourth quarter~~  
regularly scheduled Representative Council meeting.

4.Duties of the officers shall be consistent with their titles and as  
specified by the Representative Council.

5.Local officer vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by  
action of the Representative Council.

6.The elected officers of the Executive Board shall have the authority to appoint and  
remove non-elected, voting or non-voting members to the Executive Board or grant or  
remove observer status to chairs or designees of selected standing or ad-hoc  
committees with a 2/3 majority vote. The term shall not exceed that of the current  
Executive Board.

7.Recall of officers shall be accomplished by a majority of votes cast by the entire  
membership. The recall election may be instigated by petition of twenty percent (20%)  
of the total membership, and shall be conducted by procedures determined by the  
Representative Council.

## **Article VII Elections**

A. All officers and representatives shall be elected by a secret ballot election. All nominations  
shall be submitted at a general membership meeting in April or May. The ballots shall be  
distributed to all members no later than May 20th. All nominations and elections shall be  
conducted according to the Landrum-Griffin Act, other applicable federal and state laws, as  
well as any applicable portions of the constitutions, by-laws, and officially adopted written  
policies of the AFT, CFT or ABCFT.

B. Members in good standing are eligible to vote in elections if they were members in good  
standing two (2) months before the date of the election.

## **Article VIII Amendments**

A. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by 2/3 of the votes cast at a regular  
meeting of the Representative Council, provided the proposed amendment was read at a  
previous meeting.

B. Amendments may be proposed by petition to the Representative council by 15% of the  
membership.

C. Ratification of the proposed amendment shall be by 2/3 majority of all votes cast by the  
membership in an election conducted for that purpose by the Representative Council.

145 **Article IX Rules of Procedure**

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147 Unless otherwise specified in the by-laws, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings.  
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149 **Article X By-Laws**

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151 All matters not covered or clearly delineated by this Constitution shall be addressed in the by-  
152 laws. By-laws can be proposed, changed, and amended by any Representative Council  
153 meeting provided notice of that council meeting has been sent at least one week in advance  
154 to all members and providing 2/3 of those members of the Representative Council present  
155 and voting, vote affirmatively.