

Constitution of Concerned Philosophers for Peace

Original Constitution, Approved in September 1983

First Revision, Approved in December 1987

Second Revision, Approved in March 1997

Third Revision, Approved in March 2010

for copies, see *Concerned Philosophers* n5 (August 1983) [redesignated as *Concerned Philosophers for Peace Newsletter* Vol. 3, No. 1]

Concerned Philosophers For Peace Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 2 (October 1987) and Vol. 16, No. 2 (Fall 1996)

I. NAME

The name of the professional association is Concerned Philosophers for Peace.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of Concerned Philosophers for Peace (CPP) is to encourage philosophers to apply their professional skills to the understanding, teaching, and research of problems and issues regarding violence, war, militarism, disarmament, and peace. To further this purpose the association shall organize colloquia and symposia for divisional meetings of the American Philosophical Association and related professional organizations, as well as an annual conference of its members. In addition, CPP will encourage its members to contribute professionally--in journals and through more public media--to national/international discussion of related problems and policies, and to support appropriate political action in response to these issues.

Concerned Philosophers for Peace (CPP) is a non-profit educational organization under the provisions of Internal Revenue Code 501(C)(3).

III. GOVERNING STRUCTURE

1. The affairs of CPP shall be determined by the voting membership at the annual business meeting and shall be administered by a President and an Executive Director with the assistance of an Executive Committee. The Executive Director is empowered to make necessary decisions between annual business meetings in consultation with the Executive Committee, and report to the full membership.
 - a. the President shall be elected via a mail or electronic ballot for a two-year term by a majority vote of voting members in good standing. The President shall chair the Executive Committee.
 - b. the Executive Director shall be elected via a mail or electronic ballot for a three-year term by a majority vote of voting members in good standing. The Executive Director is the chief administrative officer for handling the day-to-day affairs of the association.
 - c. the Executive Committee shall consist of no more than two CPP Representatives for each division of the American Philosophical Association elected for two-year terms by a majority vote of voting members in good standing. The divisional representative(s) shall serve as division chair(s) for the purpose of such regional CPP gatherings. The outgoing President and Executive Director shall serve on the Executive Committee for one year after the expiration of their terms of office to lend continuity to the leadership of the association. The General Editor of the Philosophy of Peace (POP) Special Series will also serve on the Executive Committee
 - d. Nominees need not be present at a meeting in order to be elected officers or representatives if they have indicated willingness to serve in the elected capacity. Service within the association should rotate among the membership.

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2. A Treasurer and a Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once per year prior to the annual business meeting of CPP. The Executive Director, with the help of a local committee, the President and the Executive Committee, shall be in charge of all arrangements for the annual meeting and shall chair the business meeting. Divisional Representatives shall arrange regional CPP meetings in conjunction with appropriate APA meetings.
4. Dues shall be set by the Executive Committee.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

Any person supportive of the purpose of the CPP and who pays annual dues shall be accepted for membership and shall be in good standing with the association and thus shall be entitled to vote and to serve as an officer or representative.

V. AMENDMENTS

Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by a majority of members in good standing attending the annual meeting of the association. Proposed amendments are ratified by a two-thirds vote of voting members in good standing through a mail or electronic ballot.

VI. RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of voting members in good standing through a mail or electronic ballot.

Explanations for the revisions:

Section III. 1: The term “Executive Secretary” should have been “Executive Director” and, indeed, the term “Executive Director” is used elsewhere in the Constitution. This revision is simply to replace the word “Secretary” with the word “Director.” (There are not two separate offices.)

Section III. 1. a. There are three revisions in this paragraph. The first revision adds the phrase “via a mail or electronic ballot.” The purpose is to reflect the reality that much of our work is done today via electronic communication, however, some of what we do is also done via standard mail. The second revision is to change the term of the President from one year to two. This change was actually made and approved back in 1999, however, the Constitution was never revised to reflect this change. Ever since 2000 the practice has been for the President to serve a two-year term: Ron Hirschbein (2000-2002), Larry Bove (2002-2004), Paul Churchill (2004-2006), Barry Gan (2006-2008), and Gail Presbey (2008-2010). This revision simply codifies current practice that was approved a number of years ago. The third revision says that decisions will be made by members in good standing who actually vote. Otherwise, a member in good standing who does not vote effectively casts a negative vote. With this revision, the President will be determined by a majority of votes among those members of good standing who actually vote.

Section III. 1. b. The two revisions in this paragraph are similar to the revisions in the preceding paragraph. The purpose is to allow either standard mail or electronic voting and to have decisions made by those members in good standing who actually vote.

Section III. 1. c. The first revision in this paragraph (adding “no more than”) is to reflect the reality that we rarely, if ever, have more than one person functioning as the CPP representative to any of the APA divisions. At the same time, we do not want to rule out the possibility that more than one person at a given time might want to serve in such a role. In addition, the CPP representative(s) would be selected by a vote of voting members in good standing and not at the APA meetings, but via a standard mail or electronic ballot of members.

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Section III. 3. The purpose of this revision is to match the practice of the Executive Committee actually convening only during the annual CPP meeting, but prior to the business meeting. While the Executive Committee communicates during the year, it meets face-to-face only during the annual CPP meeting and this revision is intended to capture that reality.

Section IV. The purpose of this revision is to include non-philosophers among the CPP membership.

Sections V and VI. The purpose of this revision is to have decisions determined by members in good standing who actually vote and to allow such a vote via standard mail or electronic ballot.