



The Role of the VSEA Council Members

To understand the role of the Council, consider the organizational mission of the VSEA:

- Act for membership as the collective bargaining agent;
- Provide a medium through which members may express views relative to employment, tenure, compensation, retirement;
- Effect constructive efforts among employees and the state;
- Promote good will among public employees;
- Act in all fashion as a labor organization.

The Bylaws also give definition to the role of the Council, Bylaw 3 and Article 8.

ByLaw 3, in pertinent part, states that Council Members shall:

- Attend meetings of the Council and report to the members they represents, the actions taken by the Council on matters of interest;
- Send alternate council representative from the appropriate department, institution, state college or chapter they represent;
- Serve as liaison between the members they represent and VSEA;
- Support VSEA by soliciting staff in their department, institution, state college or chapter for VSEA membership.

Article 8: The Council shall be the advisory body of the Corporation. A two-thirds vote of the Council may override any vote of the Trustees regarding issues of policies, political action, affiliation, mission and philosophy.

The duties of the Council are:

Recommend new policies and changes to policies of VSEA for adoption by the Trustees;

Recommend to the annual meeting a reviewed or revised budget as prepared by the Trustees for fiscal year operations of VSEA;

Approves the legislative priorities of the VSEA to the Trustees for adoption;

Carries out other responsibilities mandated by VSEA Bylaws;

Makes recommendations to annual meeting regarding warned bylaw changes.

Practical Methods to Fulfill the Role of the Council

The role of a Council Member is to serve as a workplace representative of VSEA. Council members serve as critical conduits in the flow of information, and in advising and formulating the goals and direction of VSEA. Being available to members for discussion is important – open and honest dialogue and constructive criticism are healthy for the organization.

- Communicate to their constituents about VSEA issues;
- Communicate to VSEA regarding member and workplace issues and concerns;
- Educate constituents about VSEA policy, contracts, legislative, budget, bylaws;
- Advise their constituents about workplace rights;
- Promote solidarity and union strength among their constituency.
- Attend quarterly meetings and special meetings of the Council;
- Post information, such as the VSEA Update or Voice, Legislative Newsletters;
- Post information about special events, chapter meetings, member trainings;
- Attend chapter meetings or departmental meetings in your role as Council member.
- Answer questions from members, and/or act as a resource and referral for information about VSEA.
- Recruit new members to VSEA. Communicate our goal and mission, victories and battles. Explain benefits of union membership, union participation.
- Advise the Board on important issues – legislative, policy, budget, affiliation, etc. Help set a course of action and direction for VSEA.