



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 goodwill among public employees;
- Act in all respects as a labor organization.

The Bylaws also define the Council's role, as outlined in 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 s/he represents the actions taken by the Council on matters of interest;
- Send an alternate council representative from the appropriate department, institution, state college, or chapter s/he represents;
- Serve as liaison between the members s/he represents and VSEA;
- Support VSEA by soliciting staff in his/her 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 the annual meeting regarding proposed bylaw changes.

Practical Methods to Fulfill the Role of the Council

The role of a Council Member is to serve as a representative of VSEA in the workplace. 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 essential – open and honest dialogue, as well as constructive criticism, are healthy for the organization.

- Communicate to his/her constituents about VSEA issues;
- Communicate to VSEA regarding member and workplace issues and concerns;
- Educate constituents about VSEA policy, contracts, legislative, budget, and bylaws;
- Advise his/her constituents about workplace rights;
- Promote solidarity and union strength among his/her constituency.
- Attend quarterly meetings and special meetings of the Council;
- Post information, such as VSEA updates or Week In Action;
- Post information about special events, chapter meetings, and 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 the benefits of union membership and union participation.
- Advise the Board on important issues – legislative, policy, budget, affiliation, etc. Help set a course of action and direction for VSEA.