

Hartwick LEAH
Home School Community
3522 County Highway 11
Cooperstown, NY 13326

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – Name

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be **HARTWICK LEAH**, also know as the **CHAPTER**. It will be referred to as “**CHAPTER**” or “**the Chapter**” or “**this Chapter**” henceforth in these Bylaws. “Homeschool NY” shall refer to the statewide organization Homeschool NY – Loving Education at Home, Inc., of which this Chapter is a member.

ARTICLE II – Definitions

Section 1 – Biblical Basis

- 1.1 Hartwick LEAH is a Christian organization, the members of which are like-minded families dedicated to observing the Biblical commands of Deuteronomy 6:4-10, Proverbs 22:6, and Ephesians 6:4.

Section 2 – Philosophical Statement

- 2.1 We believe that every family has the God-given legal and constitutional right to home-educate, regardless of their philosophy of education or religious affiliation.
- 2.2 Hartwick LEAH exists primarily for its membership, member families who voluntarily assist and support each other in the endeavor of home education through a variety of activities.

Section 3 – Legal Standing

- 3.1 Hartwick LEAH is a member chapter of Homeschool NY – Loving Education at Home, Inc., a New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation. As such, its establishment, leadership, operations, and final dissolution are subject to the oversight of the Board of Directors of Homeschool NY according to the bylaws of Homeschool, NY.

ARTICLE III – Purpose

Section 1 – Purpose of the Organization

Hartwick LEAH is organized primarily for the purpose of providing service and support to member families, including but not limited to the following ways:

- 1.1 Providing and encouraging support and training for parents through such activities as the support group meetings.
- 1.2 Providing and promoting opportunities for children and families to interact with others through planned educational and recreational activities.
- 1.3 Providing information regarding the regulatory climate of home education
- 1.4 Encouraging home education families to seek appropriate legal counsel
- 1.5 By instituting whatever programs or services as may be deemed necessary by the membership of this organization in support of home education

ARTICLE IV – Statement of Faith

Section 1 – Preface

- 1.1 Our Statement of Faith includes only those truths upon which all true Christians agree. It concerns the Authority of Scripture, Deity of Christ, the Person and Work of Jesus Christ (the Gospel) as revealed in Scripture. It is the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 2, Ephesians 4:5) which distinguishes believers from non-believers. There are many other precious truths taught in the Bible over which godly men have differed in understanding. Therefore, this is not a statement of all that is important to believe, but of all that is essential to believe for Christian fellowship and unity. (Romans 15:7). The Statements of Gender, Morality, and Family (Section 3) define the principles upon which Homeschool NY Chapters are expected to function in society.
- 1.2 We affirm the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that individual doctrinal or practical differences which may exist, outside of the succeeding (Article IV, §2 and §3), should not hinder the unity of Christian home educators.

Section 2 – Requirements & Expectations

- 2.1 Hartwick LEAH is a mutual support group. As such, all member families are expected to support each other and Hartwick LEAH is the fulfillment of Hartwick LEAH's purposes.
- 2.2 All members families are required to promptly pay their annual dues as specified by Article VIII, §3-4.

Section 3 – Applying for Membership

- 3.1 Applications for family membership must be approved by Hartwick LEAH Leadership (defined by Article VI).
- 3.2 The application process shall consist of the following:
 - 3.2.1 Attendance at up to three events held by Hartwick LEAH
 - 3.2.2 Interview(s) with two or more members of the Hartwick LEAH Leadership Team
 - 3.2.3 Completion and submission of any application materials that the Hartwick LEAH Leadership Team may require. This will include personal affirmations by the

member family of their agreement to abide by the documents referenced in §1 of this Article.

- 3.2.4 Completion of steps in sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 may be waived at the discretion of Hartwick LEAH Leadership Team

Section 4 – Discipline and Revocation of Membership

- 4.1 If and when any member family is accused of being in confessional or ethical non-compliance with the Statement of Faith, Statement of Purpose, Code of Conduct, or By-laws of this organization, including conduct and/or activities within the chapter which are contrary to Biblical principles or the Code of Conduct, an investigation shall be conducted the Leadership of Hartwick LEAH.
- 4.2 If the Leadership concludes that the allegations have merit or need further investigation, the Leadership may, at its discretion, immediately suspend said member from any or all privileges of membership until a final disposition of the matter is made. There shall be opportunity given to the party or parties involved to petition for a hearing before the Leadership to consider the matter. Such a hearing must take place within thirty (30) days of the request, with one-week prior written notice of the hearing date given to the party or parties involved.
- 4.3 After the time set ofr the hearing, the Leadership shall have fifteen (15) days to consider the options of taking no action, or requiring specific corrective actions by the party or parties involved as a condition of continued membership in Hartwick LEAH, or of dropping the family from membership. All decisions by Leadership, both interim and final, shall be promptly communicated to the parties involved.

ARTICLE VI – Chapter Leadership and Government

Section 1 – Chapter Leadership Team

- 1.1 The Affairs of this Chapter shall be under the direction and guidance of the Chapter Leadership. The Leadership of the Chapter shall consist of the Chapter Leaders (a maximum of two Leader Households, couples, or individuals). A Leadership Advisory Committee (Board) may be maintained consisting of the positions described in Article VII, Section 4. The Leadership Advisory Committee will provide advice and input to Chapter Leadership but sole decision-making authority resides with the Chapter Leaders.
- 1.2 The Chapter Leaders and the Leadership Advisory Committee will work together for the effective administration of Chapter activities.
- 1.3 The Chapter Leaders and the Leadership Advisory Committee are expected to work through any disagreements in policy or practice with Christian grace and charity. In the case of irresolvable disagreement concerning chapter governance, the Chapter Leaders shall have the final authority.
- 1.4 Additional Chapter Leadership positions may be added by agreement of the Chapter Leadership Team for the effective operation of the Chapter.

Section 2 – Quorum

- 2.1 Representation from at least two Chapter Leadership Team families, one of which must be the Chapter Leader, must be present to conduct official chapter business.

Section 3 – Committee Decisions

- 3.1 All decisions regarding the operation and activity of the Chapter will be made by the Chapter Leadership Team, and at their discretion, with the input and direction of any committees, groups that they deem valuable to the membership and operation of the Chapter.

Section 4 – Compensation

- 4.1 Members of the Chapter Leadership shall not receive any stated salaries for serving in Leadership. Nothing herein stated shall preclude any member from being reimbursed for expenses incurred while fulfilling board duties, i.e., travel related expenses, phone calls, etc.

ARTICLE VII – Selection of Chapter Leadership

Section 1 – Chapter Leader

- 1.1 As per the Homeschool NY bylaws, the Chapter Leaders shall consist of a married couple(s), as per Article IV, §3.2 and §3.3. Under exceptional circumstances, the Chapter may petition the Homeschool NY Board to waive the requirement of a married couple to allow an otherwise qualified person or two persons teaming together to serve as Chapter Leader. In all cases, the chapter must nominate Chapter Leaders that meet the requirements set forth in the bylaws of Homeschool NY. The nominated Chapter Leader must then receive approval from the Homeschool NY Board through the Homeschool NY Regional Representative for the Chapter.
- 1.2 The nominated Chapter Leaders will be chosen by:
Recommendation of the current Chapter Leaders supported by a general election with an approval of Recommendation of the current Chapter Leaders supported by a general election with an approval of more than 50% by chapter membership present at a formal support meeting. Chapter membership will be notified at least one (1) week in advance of the support meeting that an approval vote will take place. In the event that the Chapter Leader position is vacated, an approval vote of more than 50% of Chapter Membership present at a meeting is sufficient to recommend new Chapter Leaders.

Section 2 – Leadership Advisory Committee

- 2.1 Selection of Leadership Team members shall be by the recommendation of the Chapter Leaders.

Section 3 – Qualifications of Leadership Advisory Committee

All members must:

- 3.1 Sign a Statement that they agree with all parts of the Statement of Faith, Statement of Purpose, and Bylaws of this organization.
- 3.2 Be a member in good standing of the Chapter.

Section 4 – Positions and Duties of the Leadership Advisory Committee

Positions and Duties of the Leadership Committee shall include:

- 4.1 Treasurer: The Treasurer (could be the same person as the Chapter Leader, but NOT recommended) shall keep records of all Chapter income receipts and expense disbursements and shall provide financial reports to the Chapter Leadership and to the membership at regular intervals, and to the Chapter Leadership upon request. The Treasurer shall have the authority to spend chapter funds upon decision of the Chapter Leadership Team. The Treasurer will be required to report regularly, at least quarterly, to the Chapter Leadership Team the details of receipts and disbursements for the purpose of maintaining transparency of the financial records to the entire Chapter Leadership Team.
- 4.2 Secretary: The Chapter Secretary will assist the Chapter Leaders in the coordination and record keeping of support meetings and the distribution of minutes from those meetings to all member families.
- 4.3 Additional positions may be established at the pleasure of the Chapter Leadership Team.

Section 5 – Term of Office

- 5.1 Leadership committee members shall serve terms of one (1) year.

Section 6 – Vacancy

- 6.1 A vacancy in the Leadership Team because of death, resignation, or removal may be filled by the Chapter Leaders for the unexpired portion of the term.
- 6.2 Any Member of the Leadership Team who is unable to fulfill his/her elected duties may resign by submitting a written letter of resignation to the Chapter Leaders. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt thereof by the Chapter Leaders. Acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

ARTICLE VII – Budget and Dues

Section 1 – Fiscal Year

- 1.1 The fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30. An annual financial report listing income, expenses, and cash balance on hand shall be provided to the Homeschool NY Regional Representative for this Chapter.

Section 2 – Adoption of Budget

- 2.1 A proposed budget for each year shall be developed by the Chapter Leadership Team.
- 2.2 The budget for the upcoming fiscal year shall be approved by majority vote of the Chapter Leadership Team and made available to membership of the Chapter.

Section 3 – Determination of Annual Dues

- 3.1 Chapter dues for each member family will be set at a level necessary to support the budget, taking into account other estimated sources of income.
- 3.2 The dues for each member family shall be approved by majority vote of the Chapter Leadership Team and made available to membership of the Chapter.

Section 4 – Collection of Dues

- 4.1 Each member family shall submit dues in the amount of the Chapter dues plus that member family's share of the annual dues levied on the Chapter by Homeschool NY.
- 4.2 In cases of financial hardship, the Chapter may, at its discretion, establish a means to provide for the dues of those families unable to pay their dues.

ARTICLE IX – 501(c)3 Provisions

As part of the Chapter's application for recognition of group exemptions from federal income tax under Homeschool NY the following provisions apply:

- 9.1 The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 9.2 No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to carried on

- (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or
- (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 107(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- (c) Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for public purpose.

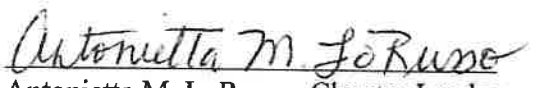
ARTICLE X - Amendments

- 10.1 These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Chapter Leadership Team. Changes are subject to the approval of Homeschool NY. All member families shall be promptly provided a copy of the new bylaws.

ARTICLE XI – Dissolution

- 11.1 Upon the recommendation of the Chapter Leadership and any other provision of the bylaws contained herein, a petition to dissolve shall be submitted to the Homeschool NY Regional Representative. Upon approval of Homeschool NY, this chapter may be dissolved and its activities closed. After payment of all bills and proper claims, remaining assets shall be disposed of in cash or in kind by transfer to a similar home education organization, approved by Homeschool NY, or by transfer to Homeschool NY.

Bylaws adopted by Chapter Leadership, Governing Body of the subordinate LEAH Group – Hartwick
LEAH on July 28, 2022


Antonietta M. LoRusso, Chapter Leader

7-28-22
Date


Bryan F. LoRusso, Chapter Leader

7-28-22
Date