

- 1) The treasurer's report, format to be determined by the treasurer, will be distributed to all members quarterly via the HOUSE website. Paper copies will be available from the treasurer upon request.
- 2) Any expenditure over \$50.00 will require approval at the general meeting; expenditures under \$50.00 can be made with the treasurer's approval.
- 3) While agenda items may be given to the meeting facilitator at any time, s/he will be responsible for putting out a call for items three weeks before a meeting and an agenda two weeks before a meeting so members may determine items of particular interest. The agenda will be given out via the HOUSE website and HOUSE email list. The agenda should include all topics for discussion that have been brought up before the facilitator. Items on the agenda will be given preference over items that are brought up at the meeting itself; urgent items may be placed earlier on the agenda by consensus at the beginning of the meeting. Generally, however, these items will be deferred to the end of the meeting and handled if time permits. No final decision will be made until members of HOUSE are made aware of their existence via the HOUSE website and email list. A two-week period will be given for comment. The facilitator may call additional meetings if necessary.
- 4) The taking of notes for meetings will rotate and the format for notes will be at the note-taker's discretion. The number of members attending will be recorded; individual names will only be mentioned to report actions proposed or taken at the meeting.
- 5) Consensus will be reached by discussion, with each member encouraged to participate freely and fully. Civility and tolerance will be expected from those in disagreement; sarcasm will not be tolerated. The facilitator will ask for consensus when s/he feels an item has been discussed thoroughly and all points of view have been heard; consensus will be reached when no dissenting voice is raised. Disagreement may be registered by standing aside, meaning although one disagrees with the proposal, one will not block its passage; or by saying no to the proposal, thereby blocking it for the group. A proposal should be blocked only if one feels he or she will not be able to tolerate the action taken by the group. Members are expected to honor and respect another member's decision to block a proposal.
- 6) Members agree that their actions will not willfully be destructive to the group's operation or dangerous to its members, and that they will abide by the principles of inclusiveness as stated in the by-laws. Membership may be terminated if the group decides, by consensus, that the member's actions reach the threshold of being destructive or dangerous.
- 7) HOUSE will support families in exercising their right to home school regardless of age, color, creed, ethnic background, family composition, financial condition, learning disabilities, race, religion or lack thereof, sexual preference, or special educational needs. Activities pertaining to home schooling may be brought to members' attention in the HOUSE newsletter; recommendations, rather than ads, for products or services may be given. Because the concept of home school encompasses a broad array of interests, members are asked to be tolerant of notices that do not pertain to their individual home school needs. Initial information regarding activities not directly associated with home schooling may be posted on HOUSE email lists; however, any follow-up questions or information should be posted privately to interested individuals. Members attending a HOUSE function may also leave information in a designated area agreed on in advance by the membership (for example, a table, bulletin board, or binder in the back of a meeting room). People posting announcements are responsible for removing them in a timely manner. This is not intended to limit HOUSE members' personal discussions, only to provide a framework for sharing information with the group as a whole. If a member has a question about the appropriateness of a particular group or activity, s/he is encouraged to seek the opinion of other members via the HOUSE-talk email list.

- 8) HOUSE does not share its membership list with other organizations or individuals and strongly discourages use of the list for promotional purposes, whether financial, religious, or political. The privacy of HOUSE members must be respected; therefore permission must be obtained before any information regarding any HOUSE member is given out.
- 9) HOUSE maintains three email lists with differing purposes. The HOUSE admin list is for HOUSE business only. HOUSE members are automatically added to this list upon joining HOUSE. The HOUSE Homeschool Topics list is for more general information that may be of interest to homeschoolers, such as curriculum, community resources, and special interests (music, sports activities, art). The HOUSE talk list is for yet more general information; everything from politics to requests for recipes. Members are expected to use the appropriate list(s) for communication. Directions for subscribing or unsubscribing to lists will be found on the HOUSE website.
- 10) HOUSE activities are organized for its membership and, unless specifically stated, are not open to the general public. Members must obtain approval from coordinators for specific events before inviting any guests, and understand that anyone attending HOUSE activities must be willing to observe HOUSE policies, especially concerning conduct and tolerance. Members bringing guests accept responsibility for their guests.