

**Article
19**

**SUPPORT GROUPS1
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19.1 Formation2 Formation - Support groups may be formed spontaneously or upon the initiative of the SMHEA board.

19.2 Status2 Status

(a) Support Group status within SMHEA is obtained by a simple majority vote of the entire SMHEA board. The Support Group must meet the requirements of subparagraph (b) of this Article, and must submit a list of all its members to the Area Coordinator upon applying for full Support Group status.

(b) An SMHEA Support Group must (i) submit a list of all members by October 15th of each year to the Area Coordinator, (ii) have a leader(s) who meets the qualifications imposed by these bylaws, and (iii) have at least 60% of its members as THEA members.

(c) Support Groups that do not meet the requirements set forth in subparagraphs (a) and (b) will be considered Associate Support Groups.

(d) An Associate Support Group is described in subparagraph (c) and may participate in most SMHEA activities including the following: most conferences, legislative activities and alerts, field days, and field trips. Associate Support Group members and/or leaders are not eligible to do the following:

- (1) Attend SMHEA leadership training seminars,
- (2) Request SMHEA funds to help with support group expenses,
- (3) Use THEA's or SMHEA's tax-exempt number to make tax-free purchases of supplies,
- (4) nominate or approve officers for the SMHEA board of directors.

19.3 Qualifications of Support Group Leaders2 Qualifications of Support Group Leaders - A Support Group leader must possess the following qualifications:

- (a) Be a THEA member, (THEA membership is included in SMHEA membership)
- (b) Be a current or former home educator,
- (c) Support the goals and purposes of THEA and SMHEA.

19.4 Change of Status 2 Change of Status - The status of a Support Group may, for cause only, be changed by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the entire SMHEA board. Cause shall include any misconduct by that support group or a change in qualifications