

BYLAWS

WASHINGTON SPEECH AND HEARING ASSOCIATION

Article I. NAME

The name of this non-profit corporation shall be the Washington Speech and Hearing Association, hereafter referred to as the Association.

Article II. MISSION STATEMENT

Washington Speech & Hearing Association is an organization which promotes professional excellence in speech-language pathology and audiology. The mission of WSHA is to act as the primary resource and advocate for its members and those they serve, through legislation, continuing education, collaboration, professional endeavors and publications.

Article III. GUIDING PRINCIPAL

The Washington Speech and Hearing Association is a professional and scholarly organization which promotes (a) the study of normal and disordered human communication, (b) the prevention, assessment and treatment of speech, language and hearing disorders, (c) the highest professional standards and ethical practices, (d) the exchange and dissemination of information related to the discipline of communication sciences and disorders and the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology, (e) the advocacy of the rights of persons with communication disorders, and (f) the individual and collective professional interests of members of the Association.

Article IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

Member: must hold (1) a graduate degree with major emphasis in speech/language pathology, audiology or speech, language, or hearing science, OR (2) a graduate degree and evidence of research, interest and performance in the field of human communication. Members are eligible for full participation in the Association.

Associate Member: must hold (1) a bachelor's degree with major emphasis in speech/language pathology, audiology or speech and hearing science, OR (2) a bachelor's degree and evidence of research, interest and performance in the field of human communication. Associate Members are not eligible to vote or hold office, but may serve on committees.

Life Member: any voting member who has retired, attained the age of sixty and has held membership for the ten consecutive years immediately prior to attaining age sixty may apply for, and receive without payment of dues, all privileges of a member for any years subsequent to the year in which age sixty is attained.

Paraprofessional Member: Must hold current employment as a speech-language pathology assistant, audiology assistant or educational/instructional assistant specializing in speech, language or hearing disorders. Paraprofessional members are not eligible to vote or hold office. They may serve on committees and attend board meetings.

Student Member: Students who are pursuing a course of study in speech and hearing or tangent areas in a recognized college or university and who are interested in promoting the purposes, objectives and activities of the Association may become Student members, attend Board meetings and serve on committees but may not chair a committee, hold office or vote.

The requirements for election to any membership category may be waived in special instances by recommendation of the Membership Committee and a majority vote of the Executive Board, hereafter referred to as the Board. All members must agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Association.

Section 2. Termination of Membership

Any member who violates the Bylaws or the Code of Ethics of the Association, as determined by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board, shall, upon presentation of proof, be suspended; provided that any member who is to be formally considered for suspension must be notified in writing of the specific charges against him/her, not less than thirty days before said presentation of proof to the Board; and he/she shall have the privilege of examining any evidence offered in support of charges and provided further, that he/she may appear before the Board if he/she wishes. Persons suspended may be reinstated after one year by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board.

Any member whose dues are not paid by January 1 of each year shall automatically be dropped from the rolls of the Association.

Article V. DUES

The annual dues of the Association for Members, Associate Members, Paraprofessional and Student Members shall be determined by the Board. Dues are payable in advance for the membership year, which is from January 1 to December 31.

Article VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Positions on the Executive Board

Duties of the Board positions are described in the WSHA Policies and Procedures Manual.

Board Officers

- President
- President-Elect
- Past President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Board of Directors

- Clinical and Private Practice Speech-Language Pathologists
- Clinical and Private Practice Audiologists
- Educational Speech-Language Pathologist
- Educational Audiologists
- Delegation Correspondent to the Legislative Council of ASHA
- Member at Large

Section 2. Terms of Office

Each member of the Board shall assume office on January 1 of the first year of his/her term of office and shall relinquish office on December 31 of the last year of his/her term.

The succession of chairs of the President shall be a three-year term with the first year being the office of the President-Elect, the second year being the office of President, and the third year being the office of Past President.

The term of office for WSHA Treasurer shall be three years.

The term of office for WSHA Board membership for the Delegation Correspondent to the Legislative Council of ASHA is one year.

The term of the office for all other Board members shall be two years, with staggered terms so that minimums of 4 are elected each year.

Section 4. Vacancies

In the event an elected officer must vacate his/her office;

The offices of Past-President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Clinical and School Representatives and the Member at Large shall be filled by appointment by the Board.

Office of the President shall be filled by the President-Elect.

Office of the Delegation Correspondent to the Legislative Council of ASHA shall be filled according to the Bylaws of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Section 5. Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held each year at the time and place of the annual convention. Additional meetings shall be called by the President. Business may be conducted when a quorum (2/3 of voting members or 7 of the 11 Board members) is present. When a quorum cannot gather for a meeting, business may be conducted by mail or by communication medium. A motion shall have passed when a majority of the members present at a meeting or responding to the ballot vote affirmatively.

Section 6. Removal from Office

Delegation Correspondent to the Legislative Council of ASHA, May be removed from office in accordance with the Bylaws of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. All other Board members may be removed from office by unanimous vote of the Board, excluding the member under charge.

Article VII. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Delegation Correspondent to the Legislative Council of ASHA

Delegation Correspondent to the Legislative Council of ASHA shall be elected in accordance with the procedures established in the Bylaws of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Section 2. Other Members of the Board

Time: Election of all other members of the Board of Directors of the Association shall be conducted at the annual business meeting by secret ballot or by mail ballot following the business meeting, at the discretion of the Board.

Nominations: The Nominating Committee shall present a minimum of one nominee for each elected position. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Eligibility to Vote: Members and Life Members are eligible to vote for all elected positions.

Associate Members, Paraprofessional Members and Student Members are not eligible to vote in the ballot election of officers and Bylaw changes of the Association.

Article VIII. COMMITTEES

All members of the Association can be appointed to a committee.

Standing Committees and their specific charges and recommended activities are specified in the WSHA Policies and Procedures Manual.

Section 1. Ad-Hoc Committees

Ad-Hoc Committees will be appointed by those officers of the Association so designated by Article VI, Section 2 of the Bylaws. The charge to appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee will come from the Board. The Board will draw up the specific goals and responsibilities of the Committee. Ad-Hoc Committees will be considered dissolved at the termination of the responsible officer's term of office unless reconstituted by the succeeding person filling that office.

Section 2. Membership on Standing Committees

Each Executive Board Liaison will be responsible for presenting to the President for approval the chairpersons of those Standing Committees which are responsible to the Liaison during his/her term and assisting the Committee Chair in appointing committee members. Membership on the committees shall be terminated as specified in the WSHA Policies and Procedures Manual.

Article IX. POWERS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Although the Board is the duly constituted body charged with the making of policy and conducting of business, the membership shall reserve the power to direct or limit Board action through processes of initiative and referendum.

Section 1. Initiative

Any voting member may initiate the consideration of any item of business by the membership by presenting a motion from the floor at any business meeting of that body or by presenting a resolution in writing to the President at least two weeks in advance of the annual business meeting. The consideration of such a resolution will be subject to accepted rules of parliamentary procedures.

Any voting member of the Association may initiate the consideration of any item of business by the Board by presenting a resolution in writing to the President at least two weeks prior to a Board meeting. Any such resolution must appear on the agenda of the next meeting of the Board.

Section 2. Referendum

Voting members may request the reconsideration of any action taken by the Board or the membership through the presentation in writing to the President of the resolution to reconsider, provide that if the resolution is signed by ten or more voting members of the Association. Any referendum must appear on the agenda of the next business meeting of the membership.

Article X. THE HONORS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Honors of the Association may be presented to an individual on the approval of the Honors and Awards Committee. This award recognizes distinguished contribution to the field of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and is the highest honor the Association can give.

Article XI. DISCRIMINATION

The Association shall not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, or handicapping condition. All programs and activities of the Association shall be conducted in furtherance of this policy.

Article XII. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of those voting members responding to a mail ballot within twenty-one days of the date of the mailing. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted to the Committee on Bylaws for formulation and must be approved by the Board before the ballot is submitted to the membership.

The undersigned, as the duly elected Past President of WSHA, does hereby certify that the above Bylaws were adopted in 1970, with subsequent amendments in 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2007.

Patty Banas
WSHA Past President
2007

