

# **WASHINGTON SPEECH AND HEARING ASSOCIATION (DBA WASHINGTON-SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION)**

## **BYLAWS**

### **Article I. NAME**

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

### **Article II. MISSION STATEMENT**

Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association (WSLHA) is an organization which promotes professional excellence in speech-language pathology and audiology. The mission of WSLHA 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 -Language -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 I. 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:

- a. Any voting member who has attained the age of sixty-five at the time of application and has held membership for the fifteen consecutive years immediately prior to application, may apply for and receive Life Membership, which will be granted by the WSLHA office.
- b. The WSLHA office shall oversee Life Membership application forms and shall alert the Membership committee when members apply for Life Membership. This is done so that the Committee may choose to honor them in the newsletter.
- c. The WSLHA office shall send a renewal email each year two months prior to the end of December. The Life Member is required to respond to the e-mail stating continued interest in the association as well as keeping their personal information ( i.e. email address, mailing address) current with the WSLHA office. Failure to respond before December 31<sup>st</sup> shall result in a \$25

- nonrefundable administration fee in order to be reinstated as a Life Member. This fee shall be incurred each year the Life Member does not meet the requirement.
- d. Life members shall have all the privileges of a member, but will not pay dues.

**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 but 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 three months past the renewal date shall be dropped automatically from the membership 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 of each individual's renewal date.

## **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 Audiologist  
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 the office for all other Board members shall be two years, with staggered terms so that a minimum 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 Educational 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.

#### Section 5. Meetings

Regular 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 10 Board members) is present. When a quorum cannot gather for a meeting, business may be conducted by electronic communication medium. A motion shall have passed when a majority of the members present at a meeting or responding to the ballot vote affirmatively.

Electronic Meetings:

Regular or special meetings of the board may be held by electronic means (such as e-mail or other internet communication systems, telephone conferences, video conferences, facsimile etc.) subject to the following:

- a. A quorum of the board as noted in Article VI, Section 5 shall have access to the appropriate electronic meeting media, as verified by their response for a call for any particular meeting. Once established, all shall be assumed present until the meeting is adjourned.
- b. The technology used for the electronic meeting shall allow the members full access to and full participation in all meeting transactions either continuously or intermittently through the specified time of the meeting.
- c. The affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum shall be the minimum vote requirement for the adoption of any motion. A majority of the votes cast, or a greater proportions as indicated by the adopted Parliamentary authority, shall be necessary for the adoption of motions.
- d. Procedural rules related to the conduct of electronic meetings shall be established and promulgated by the Board of Directors.

#### Section 6. Removal from Office

All Board members may be removed from office by unanimous vote of the Board, excluding the member under charge.

### **Article VII. ELECTIONS**

Election of members of the Board of Directors of the Association shall be conducted

at the annual business meeting by secret ballot or by mail or electronic 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 WSLHA 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 WSLHA 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 I. 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 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, gender, gender identification, sex, sexual orientation, or handicapping condition. All programs and activities of the Association shall be conducted in furtherance of this policy.

#### **Article XII: Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly revised (RONR) shall govern the Washington Speech-Language Hearing Association in all cases to which they are applicable and to the extent they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, or with any polices or rules of orders that WSLHA may adopt.

#### **Article XIII. AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of those voting members responding to a mail or electronic ballot within twenty-one days of the date of the transmission. 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.

Revised 2011