

CONSTITUTION of the PENNSYLVANIA SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION (June 2011)

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association (PSHA).

ARTICLE II - PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Procedures of all official meetings of this Association shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order--Newly Revised.

ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association will be to:

1. Develop and promote exemplary standards of professional training and practices in areas of communication, cognition and swallowing disorders;
2. Represent the interests of the membership before governmental agencies and regulatory bodies;
3. Monitor the needs of the membership and the public and to plan and facilitate change where appropriate;
4. Assist whenever possible, the membership and the general public through various PSHA Committees/Task Forces in providing information about all activities that relate to the field of communication disorders;
5. Bring to the attention of the membership and the general public all information that will assist them in meeting their needs related to effective programs and services in the field of Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Deaf Education;
6. Inform the public about the profession, careers, programs and services in the areas of communication, cognition and swallowing disorders;
7. Manage the business affairs of this Association on behalf of the membership;
8. Promote the investigation and prevention of disorders of human communication, cognition and swallowing and to foster improvement of clinical procedures with such disorders;
9. Encourage basic scientific study of the processes of individual human communication with reference to speech, hearing and language.
10. Promote maintenance of current knowledge and skills;
11. Stimulate exchange of information among persons and organizations thus engaged; to disseminate such information; and promote the individual and collective professional interests of the members of this Association.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

- a. There shall be four (4) categories of membership: Professional members, Provisional Professional members, Student members, and Associate members.
 - a.1 Professional members: Professional members must hold a graduate degree with major emphasis in speech-language pathology, audiology or speech, language or hearing science; or hold a graduate degree and present evidence of active research, interest and performance in the field of human communication. All Professional members shall have the right to vote and hold office.
 - a.2 Provisional Professional members: A Provisional Professional member must hold a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology or Education of the Hearing Impaired. Provisional Professional members shall not have the right to vote. Provisional Professional members may serve as members of committees/task forces but they may not hold an elected office.
 - a.3 Student members: A Student member must be enrolled as a full-time student pursuing a Baccalaureate or Masters degree or the Doctorate in Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, or Education of the Hearing Impaired. Student members shall not have the right to vote. Student members may serve as members of Committees/Tasks Forces but they may not hold elected office.
 - a.4 Associate members: All persons having an interest in the objectives of this organization may elect to become Associate members of this Association. Associate membership shall not be available to individuals who qualify for Professional or Provisional Professional membership. Associate members may not vote or hold an elected office, but they may serve as members of committees/task forces.
- b. Life Membership: All persons who have attained the age of sixty-five (65) and have held Professional membership for the fifteen (15) years immediately prior to attaining age sixty-five (65) and who have been approved by the Executive Board shall be eligible for Life Membership. The PSHA Executive Board may waive these requirements when deemed appropriate.

Section 2. Application

- a. Application for membership shall be approved by the Vice-President for Membership and the Executive Board upon the request of the Vice-President for Membership.

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Section 3. Termination

- a. Any member who violates the Constitution and/or Code of Ethics of this Association shall be subject to disciplinary action by vote of the Executive Board according to Ethical Procedures and Appeal Procedures outlined in the Policies and Procedures of this Association
- b. Any member who has not submitted payment of dues as stipulated under Article IX shall be dropped from the rolls of this Association.
- c. Any member may resign his/her membership in this Association.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE BOARD _____

Section 1. Designation

- a. The Executive Board shall be composed of all elected officers, Immediate Past President, and a Student Representative (ex-officio).
- b. Elected officers of this Association constituting the Executive Board of this Association shall be voting members.
- c. The elected officers of this Association shall be President, President-Elect, Vice-President for Publications (Editor), Vice-President for Public Information and Professional Communication, Vice-President for Professional Practices: Audiology/Education of Individuals who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Vice-President for Professional Practices: Speech-Language Pathology, Vice-President for Professional Preparation and Continuing Education, Vice-President for Governmental Relations, Vice-President for Convention Planning and Program, Vice-President for Membership and Ethical Practices, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. Responsibilities

The Executive Board shall exercise the general management of the affairs of this Association as charged by the membership and shall be responsible for employment of an Association Management Company.

Section 3. Duties

Elected officer duties are outlined in the Policies and Procedures of this Association.

Section 4. Meetings

The meetings of the Executive Board shall be held each year at the time of the Annual Business Meeting of this Association. Additional meetings may be called by the President.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTION OF OFFICERS _____

Section 1. Term of Office

The President of this Association shall serve only one (1) term of one (1) year. Other elected officers of this Association shall be elected for a two (2) year term. The term of each elected office shall commence on July 1 following election. In each year a President-Elect shall be elected to serve a period of one (1) year before assuming the Office of President.

In odd-numbered years, the following officers shall be elected: Vice-President for Publications, Vice-President for Public Information and Professional Communication, Vice-President for Convention Planning and Program, Vice-President for Professional Preparation and Continuing Education, Vice-President of Professional Practices: Speech-Language Pathology and Secretary. In even-numbered years, the following officers shall be elected: Vice-President for Professional Practices: Audiology/Education of Individuals who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Vice-President for Governmental Relations, Vice-President for Membership and Ethical Practices, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections

- a. Nominees who have consented to run for elected office shall be submitted by the Past President to the Executive Board for their approval. This slate of nominees for elected officers shall be presented to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting of this Association. Further nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Business Meeting of this Association.
- b. Election shall be by mail/electronic ballot within three (3) weeks of the Annual Convention.
- c. The requirement for election shall be a plurality of the votes cast by the members.
- d. Ballots shall be retained for a period of one (1) year.
- e. In the event the election of officers results in a "tie vote," the general voting membership shall be notified and a re-balloting shall be made by a mail/electronic ballot. Election shall be by a plurality of the votes cast.

Section 3. Vacancies

- a. In the event that the President is unable to complete their term, the Executive Board shall appoint a member of the present or past Board to assume the duties of the office.

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- b. If a vacancy occurs in any elected office before the time of the regular election or if an officer is unable to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office, the President shall be empowered to appoint, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, an officer pro tem to discharge the responsibilities of the office until the end of the term

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Responsibilities

Committees/Task Forces are responsible to the Executive Board member having jurisdiction as described in the Policies and Procedures of this Association.

Section 2. Formation/Dissolution

The Executive Board may establish and/or dissolve any standing Committees/Task Forces, designating their charges, size, composition, terms and budgets. The Executive Board may establish and/or dissolve any ad hoc committees, networks and working groups, designating their charges, size, composition, terms and budgets.

ARTICLE VIII – DUES

Section 1. Determination of Dues

Any change in the annual dues of this Association shall be recommended by the Executive Board and approved by a majority of voting members present at the Annual Business Meeting of this Association.

Section 2. Membership Year

The membership year will commence on January 1 of each year.

ARTICLE IX - ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THIS ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Time and Place

There shall be an Annual Business meeting of this Association scheduled on the first day of the Association Convention or at a time and place as determined by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE X - CONVENTION

Conventions of this Association shall be held annually or as determined by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended by the membership through a vote by mail, electronic ballot or at a regular meeting of this Association and shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of those members voting.

ARTICLE XII – NONDISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

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 this Association shall be conducted in furtherance of this policy.