**CONSTITUTION of the PENNSYLVANIA SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION**

**(July 2025)**

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

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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**

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

1. Promote exemplary standards of professional training and clinical practice in communication sciences and related disorders;

2. Advocate for the membership and the public, to plan and facilitate change where needed;

3. Represent the interests of the membership and individuals with communication and related disorders before governmental agencies, funders and regulatory bodies;

4. Promote the investigation, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disorders of communication and related conditions and to foster improvement of clinical practice

5. Promote basic scientific study of the processes of communication and related functions

6. Promote acquisition of new knowledge and skills to foster continuous improvement of clinical services;

7. Inform the public about the profession, careers, programs and services in the areas of communication and related disorders;

8. Stimulate the exchange of information among persons and organizations, and disseminate such information; and

9. Manage the business affairs of the Association on behalf of the membership.

**ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Section 1. Eligibility

a. There shall be five (5) categories of membership: Professional members, Student members, Associate members, Recent Graduate members, and Life 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 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.3 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.

a.4 Recent Graduates: A recent graduate is a member completing his or her supervised professional year (aka provisional licensure or Clinical Fellowship Year). These individuals may vote in elections and may serve on committees and task forces. Members cannot qualify as a recent graduate for more than one year.

a.5. Life Membership: All persons who have attained the age of sixty-five (65) and have held Professional membership for the twenty(20) active years immediately prior to attaining age sixty-five (65), have retired from employment, and who have been approved by the Executive Board shall be eligible for Life Membership. Members must complete an electronic application to be considered 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.

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. PSHA reserves the right to remove members for ethical violations.

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 by canceling the membership prior to renewal date. Dues deducted via auto renewal will not be refunded.

**ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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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, 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, Vice-President for Social Media and Member Engagement, Secretary and Treasurer. The immediate Past-President shall also be considered a voting member.

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 decision-making related to 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 consecutive (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 Social Media and Member Engagement, 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 Business Meeting.

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 ofthe present or past Board to assume the duties of the office.

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 Executive Board members.

Section 2. Membership Year

The membership year will be determined by the executive board.

**ARTICLE IX - ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THIS ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Section 1. Time and Place

There shall be an Annual Business meeting of this Association at a time and place determined by the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE X - CONVENTION \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The convention schedule of this Association shall be determined by the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS**

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The Constitution may be amended by the membership through a vote by 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, handicapping condition, gender or gender identification. All programs and activities of this Association shall be conducted in furtherance of this