

# DELAWARE SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

Presented for vote

## Membership

A. Membership in the Association shall be independent of and not controlled, directly or indirectly, by any other organization.

B. Members shall be classified as follows:

1. Full Members shall hold a graduate degree with a major emphasis in speech-language pathology, audiology, or speech, language or hearing science.
2. Associate Members shall hold a degree in a related field and is not eligible for full membership.
3. Student Members shall be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program with an emphasis in speech language pathology, audiology or speech and hearing science concentration and is not eligible for Full Membership. Individuals interested in being granted Student Member status must submit a request to the Membership Chair and be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Council for such status.
4. Life Member status may be granted to an Association member, Full or Associate, who has reached the age of sixty-five (65), retired from all professional practice, and has been a member in good standing for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years prior to retirement. Individuals interested in being granted. A member seeking status as a Life Member must submit a request to the Membership Chair and be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Council for such status. Individuals granted Life Member status shall enjoy the privileges of membership that they held before becoming Life Members.

C. Members considered to be in Good Standing adhere to the Code of Ethics of the Association and pay annual dues in a timely manner.

D. The privileges of membership will be bestowed on all members in Good Standing. Privileges of membership include the right to attend and participate in all meetings and receive salient Association materials and official notices.

All Full Members in Good Standing may vote in all elections, hold elective office, participate in committees, serve on Executive Council, and have access to the website Member Only materials.

E. Any Full Member in Good Standing may request a general membership meeting if he/she presents a written petition to the Executive Council stating the reason for the

meeting and having signatures of at least ten (10) percent of the current members having Full Membership status.

- F. Any member who has not submitted payment of dues as per the Dues section of the By-Laws may be dropped from membership in the Association upon recommendation by the Membership/Recruitment Committee and two-thirds vote of the Executive Council or will be dropped automatically from membership for nonpayment of dues after the last day of January.
- G. To reinstate a lapsed membership, the individual seeking reinstatement must reapply and pay all associated penalties.

### **Dues**

- A. The annual dues shall be recommended by the Executive Council and approved by its members.
- B. Dues shall be paid no later than the last day of January for the next membership year.
  - 1. Full Members and Associate Members will pay the established annual membership dues.
  - 2. Dues shall be waived for Student Members.
  - 3. Dues shall be waived for Life Members.
  - 4. Applicants seeking membership in the Association for the first time after August 1<sup>st</sup> will pay dues at one half (1/2) of the annual rate.
- C. Dues not paid by the last day of January for the current membership year shall be considered delinquent and the member concerned shall be notified that his/her membership has been terminated by the Association.

### **Nominations and Elections**

#### **A. Nominations**

- 1. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of three (3) Executive Council Members who are appointed by the President.
- 2. The Nominating Committee will submit the slate of candidates to the Secretary twenty-one (21) days prior to the elections. Two names shall be submitted by the Nominating Committee for each office. If the Nominating Committee has made a good faith and diligent recruiting effort but has obtained only one name of a candidate, that name shall be submitted.
- 3. Nominations from the general membership shall be submitted to the Secretary to be received no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the election.
- 4. The slate of candidates shall be presented to the membership ten (10) days before the election.

#### **B. Elections**

- 1. Notices of elections shall be provided to each Full Member in Good Standing and shall contain a full list of all nominees.

2. Ballots shall be treated in a confidential manner.
3. Officers shall be elected by a majority of Full Members in Good Standing. Ballots received during the meeting of the election will be counted, as will all electronic ballots and absentee ballots received prior to the election. In the event of a tie vote for any officer, Full Members in attendance at the meeting will vote in run-off balloting.
4. The Executive Council or its designee will record the votes of Full Members and ensure that individuals vote only once and do not vote in person, via an online vote, or with an absentee ballot simultaneously.
5. Elections for the office of President-Elect will occur in odd numbered years and elections for the Secretary and Treasurer will occur in even numbered years.

### **Executive Council Committees:**

- A. Committee Chair positions will be reviewed every two years by the incoming President.
- B. A Committee may be co-chaired. In the event of a co-chair position only one vote per committee will be allowed for an Executive Council vote.
- C. Permanent Committees will include:
  - Audiology
  - Conferences including the ASHA CE liaison
  - Pediatric Services
  - Adult Services
  - Legislative and Professional Affairs
  - Membership/Recruitment including liaisons to undergraduate and graduate SLP/Audiology programs if applicable
  - Schools/Seal
  - Communications/Website
- D. The President may appoint a Full member(s) to serve as the non-voting Committee Chair(s) of an Ad Hoc committee to address specific Association issues/concerns.
- E. A student of a graduate program with an emphasis in speech language pathology, audiology, or speech and hearing science concentration may serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Council for a one year term. The selection of this individual will include an application and may include an in-person interview.

### **Continuing Education**

- A. There will be a minimum of four (4) meetings providing continuing education opportunities per year.
- B. There will be two (2) continuing education conference offerings per year.

### **General Membership Meetings**

- A. The general membership meeting may be held in conjunction with a continuing education opportunity but will not have continuing education credits associated with the general membership component.
- B. The agenda of the general business meeting shall include a presentation of the budget and committee reports.
- C. Members in Good Standing may submit topics for consideration/discussion at the general business meeting or for discussion via an electronic means which limits access to the membership.
- D. Elections may be held in conjunction with a general membership meeting or by an electronic means that maintains the confidentiality of the voting process.

### **Resignations/ Inability to serve in the capacity of Officer**

- A. In the event of the incapacity or resignation of the President, the President-Elect shall immediately assume the office to complete the unexpired term, as well as the term for which he or she has been elected.
- B. In the event of the incapacity or resignation of any other officer, the President shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term until the next election of the Association, at which time the vacancy shall be filled.