

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this nonprofit corporation shall be the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to (1) advocate the rights of persons with communication disorders; (2) foster improvement of clinical services and procedures with such disorders; (3) stimulate exchange of information among persons and organizations thus engaged and disseminate such information; (4) promote the individual and collective professional interests of the Members of the Association; (5) promote investigation and prevention of disorders of human communication and related disorders; and (6) encourage basic scientific study of human communication and study of human communication disorders with special reference to speech, hearing and language.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

- a. Professional members are defined as professionals who hold a graduate degree with a major emphasis in speech- language pathology, audiology or speech-language or hearing sciences, or a graduate degree and present evidence of active research, interest and performance in the field of human communication. These requirements may be waived as noted in Article III.
- b. Associate members are defined as professionals who hold the following qualifications: any level of professional certification awarded by the South Carolina Department of Education in the area of communicative disorders, or a Bachelor's degree with major emphasis in speech-language pathology, audiology, speech science, hearing science or speech-language and hearing science. These members are eligible to serve on any standing, sub or ad hoc committee of the Association, and to participate in the business meeting of the Association. Associate members are not eligible to hold elected offices, chair committees, or vote outside the limits of their committee.
- c. Student members are defined as those individuals who are enrolled in a degree program at the Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral level in speech-language and hearing or professionally related areas in a recognized college or university and who are interested in promoting the purposes, objectives and activities of the Association. Student members are not eligible to hold elected office, chair committees or vote outside the limits of their committee. Doctoral candidates who meet the requirements of regular membership may hold a student membership without the above restriction.
- d. Affiliate members are defined as allied professionals or individuals interested in the areas of language, speech, swallowing and/or hearing. Affiliates receive SCSHA information through newsletters and will be encouraged to attend the annual convention. Affiliate members are not eligible to hold elected office, chair committees, vote or become life members.
- e. Life membership may be granted to applicants who have held membership in the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association for twenty (20) consecutive years and have attained the age of sixty-five (65). This status will grant all rights and privileges awarded a member. Life membership dues shall be assessed at a reduced rate. Application forms for life membership will be available on request by the member. Requirements for election as a member may be waived in special instances by recommendations of Membership Committee and a majority of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Dues

Recommendations regarding a change in the annual dues required for each class of membership should be proposed and voted on by the Executive Board.

Section 3. Termination of Membership

Any member who violates the By-Laws or the Code of Ethics of the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association shall be suspended by a majority vote of the Executive Board. Persons who have been suspended may, upon application and recommendation of the committee on Professional Standards and Ethical Practices, be reinstated after one year by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Composition

The Executive Board consists of the following ten (10) *voting* officers: The President, the seven (7) Vice Presidents, President Elect, and the President Elect-Elect. The Past President remains on the Executive Board for one year as a non-voting member.

Section 2. Responsibility

The Executive Board is the legally responsible management body and supervises, controls and directs the affairs and objectives of the Association. The Executive Board has the discretion in the disbursement of funds under the established policies. The actions of the Executive Board are reported to the membership through meetings and Association mailings.

Section 3. Term of Office

The President Elect-Elect serves for four consecutive one-year terms: one as President Elect-Elect, one as President Elect, one as President, and one as Past President, respectively. Each Vice President serves a two-year term. **After completing the past presidency, the individual may not serve as a President Elect-Elect for at least 2 years**

Section 4. Nominations/Elections

The President-Elect-Elect shall present to the Executive Board for review a slate of nominees for each open elected position at the fall meeting. One-half of the Vice President positions shall stand for election in even numbered years and the one-half of the Vice President positions shall stand for election in odd numbered years, as designated by the Board in its Policies and Procedures. Election of each of the offices shall be done by electronic ballot to the entire voting membership of the Association. The nominee receiving the most votes is the elected member.

Section 5. Meetings

The Executive Board shall hold regularly scheduled meetings at least four times annually throughout the year. Additional meetings shall be scheduled as needed. A quorum shall consist of 2/3 of voting members of the Executive Board. At the discretion of the Executive Board, business of the Board may be conducted by telephone or other electronic method.

Section 6. Vacancies

Should a vacancy in the Executive Board occur, the resultant vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the following procedure: If the vacancy is in the Presidency, the President Elect automatically becomes president and serves the remainder of the vacated term, in addition to the term to which the officer was previously elected. If the vacancy is in the office of President Elect, the President Elect-Elect automatically becomes President Elect and serves the remainder of the vacated term, in addition to the term to which the officer was previously elected. If the vacancy occurs in other elected offices, the Executive Board shall appoint a person to serve the remainder of the vacated term until the next election for that office.

Section 8. Removal From Office

Any elected member of the Executive Board may be removed from office in accordance with the following procedure: A written petition signed by 20 voting members of the Association shall be presented to a member of the Council for action in accordance with the procedures determined by the Council, such procedures to include provisions for the conduct of fair hearings and right to appeal by the office involved. The members of the Council voting must approve the petition for removal by three-fourths written vote. Thereafter, the petition for removal shall be submitted promptly to the members of the Association by electronic method or at a regular meeting of the Association. Three-fourths of the Members of the Association voting must approve the petition for removal.

Section 9. Qualifications

Any board member must work in the state to be considered for the board. If the change happens in the middle of term, it will be voted on case-by-case basis by the other board members.

ARTICLE V. COUNCIL/COMMITTEES/TASK FORCE

Section 1. Council Composition

The Council consists of the Executive Board, the committee/task force chairs and ex officio members.

Section 2. Responsibilities

Committees/Task Forces are responsible to the Executive Board member having jurisdiction as described in the Policies and Procedures of the Association. All Executive Board members shall be responsible for attending Board meetings.

Section 3. Formation/Dissolution

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

ARTICLE VI. POLICY & PROCEDURES

The Executive Board shall establish written policies and procedures for all functions of the Association management. Such policies and procedures shall be reviewed annually and revised as necessary.

ARTICLE VII. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

An annual business meeting shall be held at a time and place determined by the Executive Board. Such time and place should be published to the membership at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. RULES OF ORDER

The President shall adopt procedures of his/her choice necessary for the performance of Association duties and the governance of its operations. All business conducted must be by a positive majority vote. A majority vote is a majority vote of the entire Executive Board reduced by any vacancies existing at the time.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS OR CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS

1. The By-Laws may be amended or any part thereof repealed, provided that the President has been provided at least thirty (30) days notice prior to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Board. Any amendment so submitted shall be presented to the membership for vote by electronic ballot or at a regular meeting of the Association and shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of those members voting.
2. The Executive Board may make editorial changes as long as content or meaning are not changed. These changes may include (a) changing the order of sentences; (b) numbering of sections; (c) changing terminology for consistency within the document; (d) punctuation, capitalization, spelling, grammar and other editorial matters.

ARTICLE X. CODE OF ETHICS

Members of the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association shall abide by the Code of Ethics of the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

ARTICLE XI. NONDISCRIMINATION

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

ARTICLE XII. FINANCES

The Association shall operate as a non-profit organization and shall take all action necessary to qualify for and obtain non-profit status with all appropriate governmental bodies.

ARTICLE XIII. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be fixed by the Executive Board from time to time, subject to the appropriate law.

ARTICLE XIV. DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Executive Board, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the Corporation, shall dispose of all assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operating exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify, under Section 501 (c) (6) or 501 (c) (3).of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue law), as the Executive Board shall determine. Any such asset not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas for the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operating exclusively for such purposes.

Last revision – 2023