Florida Association of the Deaf

Est. 1917

Florida Association of the Deaf
Bylaws

INDEX

Article I	Name
Article II	Membership
Article III	Executive Board
Article IV	Duties of Executive Board
Article V	Board of Directors
Article VI	Standing Committee
Article VII	Meetings
Article VIII	Elections
Article IX	Finance
Article X	FAD Endowment Fund
Article XI	Parliamentary Authority
Article XII	Indemnification
Article XIII	Amendments
Article XIV	Dissolutions

Purpose and Objectives of the Florida Association of the Deaf

The purpose of the Association shall be to unite the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened and Deaf-Blind community a statewide organization and, to this end, the Association shall endeavor to meet the following objectives:

1. to educate about Deafness;
2. to promote the social, cultural and economic status of people in the state;
3. to promote and protect their civil rights;
4. to serve as a clearinghouse for information and referral services;
5. to serve as a watchdog on state policies, legislation and court proceedings;
6. to aid, in a such manner as is possible, all Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind children in the state in securing proper education;
7. to foster cooperation and goodwill within the ranks of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened and Deaf-Blind people;
8. to cooperate with other association of/by/for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened and Deaf-Blind people to achieve mutually beneficial objectives;
9. to encourage and development of political responsibilities to and for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened and Deaf-Blind people;
10. to promote a statewide telecommunication system;
11. to obtain resources necessary to teach the above stated objectives; and to work closely in cooperation with the National Association of the Deaf, Inc. (NAD).

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I
NAME

Section 1 NAME
The name of the Association shall be the **FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, INC. (FAD)** hereby shall be known as the **"Association".**

Section 2 STATUS
The Association shall be a not-for-profit organization, incorporated in the State of Florida.

Section 3 MEMBERSHIP
The Association shall be open to all Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, Deaf-Blind and Hearing individuals without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, religion, ethnic origin, or disability.

Section 4 RELATIONSHIP
The Association shall be a cooperating member of the National Association of the Deaf, Inc. (NAD).

Section 4.1
The Association shall meet all of its obligations as a Cooperating Member Association including annual payments as set by the National Association of the Deaf, Inc. (NAD) and sending to the National Conference the maximum number of representatives to which it is entitled under the current laws of the National Association of the Deaf, Inc.

ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 CLASSIFICATION
Membership in the Association shall be vested in the following classifications:

Individual Membership: Shall be open to anyone 18 years of age and over. Individual members shall have the voting privilege at the State Conference and may serve in any appointed positions or in any committees.

Affiliated Organizations: Shall be referred to local clubs or associations of the Deaf in the State of Florida. The affiliated organization shall be recognized as a member of the Board of Directors. For organizations less than 100 members, they receive

the privilege of one voting representative on the Board of Directors. For organizations with more than 100 members, the privilege of two voting representatives on the Board of Directors is granted.

Organization Partners: Shall be referred to local or statewide not-for-profit organizations which primarily serve Deaf , Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, and Deaf-Blind individuals in the State of Florida. The privilege of one voting representative on the Board of Directors is granted.

ARTICLE III
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1 EXECUTIVE BOARD
The Executive Board of this Association shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2 RESPONSIBILITY
The Executive Board shall implement and oversee the decisions of the Board of Directors.

Section 3 VOTING PRIVILEGE
The above officers shall exercise their voting privilege.

Section 4 RESIGNATION
An Executive Board member may resign at any time by submitting a written notice to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV
DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1
President: The President shall be the chief spokesperson for the Association and shall chair business meetings of the Board of Directors, and the Biennial state conference. The Office of the President shall be limited to two consecutive terms. The President shall appoint such committees as may be necessary and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. He or she shall be the chair of the Florida Delegation in any NAD business functions.

Vice President: The Vice President shall serve at any time the President is unable to serve, or when the office of the President becomes vacant.

Secretary: The Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of all Board of Directors meetings and the State Conference, and official documents of the Association.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have charge of vested funds of the Association and shall serve as a member of the Finance Committee.

ARTICLE V
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Board, the Immediate Past President, Member at Large appointed by the President, Representatives for all affiliated organizations in good standing and the chairs of each standing committee. Each Board member shall serve on at least one committee within the Association during the current term.

Section 2 AUTHORITY
The Board of Directors shall have power to appropriate from the Association general funds in such amounts as it may deem necessary to meet the ordinary expenses of the Association, and to carry out the wishes of the membership as expressed at the State Conference and Board of Directors meetings.

Section 3 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
Elected and appointed Board members may be removed after due process hearing for failure to carry out their duties or for unethical incidents by a two-thirds (2/3) closed ballot vote of the Board of Directors present and voting.

Section 4 RESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVES
A Representative may resign at any time by submitting a written notice to the Board of Directors. The affiliate organization shall appoint a representative immediately by submitting a letter of notice to the Secretary of the Association.

Section 5 CONTRACTS
No contract that obligates the Association in any way shall be valid without the knowledge and signature of the President and the knowledge and approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 6 MEETING DATES
The Board of Directors shall establish the dates for the Board of Directors meetings in the Central Florida area, unless specified by the Board of Directors.

Section 7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST
No member with a personal or financial interest of a material nature in the affairs of the Association shall be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association.

ARTICLE VI

COMMITTEES

Section 1 STANDING COMMITTEE
The standing committees of the Association shall be the Bylaws, Finance, Endowment Fund, Telecommunications Access System Act (TASA), State Pageant, Director of Communications, Director of Programs and Director of Membership. The President shall appoint the chair of each standing committee.

Section 2 AD HOC COMMITTEE
The Board of Directors may form an ad hoc committee which may include Special Interest Groups (SIG) as needed, with the chair of each to be appointed by the President

ARTICLE VII
MEETINGS

Section 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
The Board of Directors shall meet quarterly, open to the public. Only the Board of Directors, except for the Parliamentarian, may have the floor and voting privileges.

Section 2 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS
The Executive Board shall meet when called by the President.

Section 3 SPECIAL MEETINGS
Special meetings may be called upon the request of the President. At least a 30 day notice would be required to call a special meeting.

Section 4 BIENNIAL MEETINGS

Section 4.1 The Association shall meet on a biennial basis at the State Conference during odd-numbered years.

Section 4.2 The site to host the biennial conference shall be selected at least four years in advance. *In the event no conference host is selected, the Association shall take responsibility of the conference with a Chairperson to be appointed by the President.*

Section 4.3 Any affiliated organization may bid to host the biennial meeting by submitting a letter of intention to the President of the Association. The host bidder must show that they have financial capacity, personnel, equipment and experience to meet all of the terms and conditions of hosting the biennial conference. A deposit of five hundred dollars ($500.00) shall be required with the letter. The Association shall return the deposit to organizations that do

not receive the winning bid to host the Biennial Conference.

Section 4.4 The Chairperson, appointed by the host organization, shall submit a proposal, including the dates and the site of the State Conference, by the first board meeting after the adjournment of the State Conference.

ARTICLE VIII
ELECTIONS

Section 1 TERM OF OFFICE

The Executive Board shall hold office for a term of two (2) years, or until their successors have been elected and installed. Installation shall occur at the State Conference.

Section 1.1 Officers of the Association shall be elected by closed ballots by a majority of the members present and voting at the State Conference.

Section 1.2 In the case of a tie, the President shall break the tie.

Section 1.3 No nominations for office shall be accepted of any person who is not Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, Deaf-Blind or has not been an Active member for one full year immediately preceding the election, and must be a full time Florida resident. Such nominee shall be permitted to make payments to either the Association or his / her affiliate for not more than one year's delinquent dues in order to qualify for the nomination.

Section 1.4 Officers shall assume the duties of their respective office after being sworn in at the State Conference. Outgoing officers shall have thirty (30) days in which to turn over to their successors all official documents, property and correspondence belonging to the Association.

Section 1.5 In the event there is only one candidate nominated for office, voting shall be by general consent or by a ballot cast by the Secretary of the Association.

ARTICLE IX
FINANCE

Section 1 FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies belonging to the Association, to submit a financial report to the Association at each Board of Directors meeting, and at the State Conference. He or she shall honor only such orders as have been duly assigned by the President or by instruction of the Board of Directors.

Section 1.1 The Treasurer shall deposit all funds in his or her care for safekeeping in a bank depository insured by the FDIC and approved by the Board of Directors. A checking account shall be maintained with a minimum balance of five hundred dollars ($500.00) and all other funds shall be deposited in interest bearing accounts.

Section 1.2 All accounts are to be in the name of the Florida Association of the Deaf, Inc. and all funds promptly deposited therein.

Section 1.3 All checks shall have two (2) signatures, signed by the President and the Treasurer.

Section 2 BOND

The Treasurer and President shall be bonded in a minimum of five thousand dollars ($5,000), premium to be paid by the Association. The State Conference Chairperson and the Conference Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors, premium to be paid by the Association.

Section 3 COMPENSATION

No honorarium, fees, compensations, commissions, or recompenses shall be paid by the Treasurer to anyone without the knowledge and approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors' present and voting.

Section 3.1 The Association shall pay direct expenses (reimbursement) for lodging, meals, and per diem for the Executive Board during all board meetings, special meetings, and the State Conference, if funding is available.

Section 3.2 All affiliates shall be responsible for all expenses of their representatives to all board meetings, special meetings and the State Conference.

Section 3.3 The Association shall pay up to two (2) delegates from the rank of the Board of Directors for the registration and travel expenses to the National Association of the Deaf Conference or any N.A.D. business functions under the travel discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 4 FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year of the Association shall be from July 1st to June 30th.

Section 5 MEMBERSHIP DUES

All membership dues shall be paid to the Association on an annual basis based on receipt, except for Affiliation Dues.

Section 5.1 Membership dues are to be determined by the Board of Directors at the board meeting under the discretion of the Treasurer and are in effect until changed by action at the succeeding board meeting.

Section 5.2 Affiliation dues are to be determined by the Board of Directors at the board meeting under the discretion of the Treasurer and are in effect until changed by action at the succeeding board meeting.

ARTICLE X
FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF ENDOWMENT FUND

Section 1 ENDOWMENT FUND

The Association shall maintain a Endowment Fund for the purposes of establishing a reserve fund to be used to establish a home office, ongoing operating expenses and the demands of state-wide advocacy for the best interest of the Association and / or the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, , Late-Deafened, Deaf-Blind community. The Endowment Fund shall consist of investments, securities, receivables, and cash collectively brought together for the purpose of the Fund. The Fund shall bear no other name, title or purpose other than specified.

Section 2 JURISDICTION

The Endowment Fund shall be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors of the Association.

Section 2.1 A committee of three (3) members in good standing, appointed by the President, shall maintain and control the activities of the Fund within the Association. One member shall serve as the Chairperson of the Endowment Fund Committee.

Section 2.2 Each member shall serve a term of three years. Each member's terms shall be staggered.

Section 2.3 Any member of the Board of Directors shall not serve on the Endowment Fund Committee, nor have any possession

of the funds.

Section 2.4 Any member of the Board of Directors shall not sign or authorize any transactions without the full written approval of the Board of Directors present.

Section 3 DUTIES

The Endowment Fund Committee shall meet at least two (2) times a year to review the financial status and transition of the Fund.

Section 3.1 The Chairperson shall present the Endowment Fund Report to the Board of Directors at each Board of Directors meeting and at the State Conference.

Section 3.2 The Endowment Fund shall be audited on an annual basis prior to the next State Conference by members appointed by the President. Members of the Board of Directors and Endowment Fund Committee are prohibited from participating in the audit process.

Section 4 DISBURSEMENT

The interest amount from the Fund shall be disbursed by the guidance of the Board of Directors for the establishment and operating expenses of the Florida Association of the Deaf home office and for advocacy purposes. Cash disbursements shall be submitted in writing and approved by the majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1 ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Unless otherwise provided for in these bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, current edition, shall be the parliamentary authority of the Association.

ARTICLE XII
INDEMNIFICATION

The Association shall indemnify any officer, committee members and board members against expenses actually incurred by such person in connection with the defense of any civil action, suit, or proceeding in which such officer, committee member or board member, in which such a person is made a party by reason of being or having been such officer, board member, or committee member, in which such person is found to be not liable. Such indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive or any other rights to which such officer, board member or committee member may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of the Board of Directors, or otherwise.

ARTICLE XIII
AMENDMENTS

Section 1 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Any proposed amendments to the By-laws shall be distributed to the members at least 30 days prior to the State Conference for consideration. Two-thirds (2/3) vote is required of the members present for passage.

Section 2 AMENDMENTS

Any amendments or motions passed at the State Conference shall become effective immediately, unless specified otherwise. Approved motions related to the National Association of the Deaf, Inc. (NAD) shall be submitted to the Florida Delegation for its submission at the National Conference.

Section 3 SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS

Any provision in the Bylaws may, in unforeseen and urgent or extenuating circumstances, be suspended at the State Conference by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE XIV
DISSOLUTION

Section 1 DISSOLUTION OF ASSETS

Upon the dissolution of this Association, all of its assets remaining after payment of all expenses of such dissolution shall be distributed to affiliated organizations of the Deaf within the State of Florida. Affiliated organizations shall be qualified for exemption under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or incorporated in the State as a charitable organization. The Board of Directors or members of the Association shall not receive any assets for any purpose.