

# Georgia Association of the Deaf

## BY-LAWS

*July 28, 2017*

*Rome, Georgia.*

### ARTICLE I – NAME

- Section 1 This organization shall be known as the Georgia Association of the Deaf, Inc. (hereafter known as the Association).
- Section 2 The Association shall be incorporated under the laws of the state of Georgia as a non-profit educational, welfare, and deaf advocate association (the word Deaf hereafter incorporates those persons with a hearing loss).
- Section 3 The Association shall be a cooperating member of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). The Association shall meet all of its obligations as a cooperating member association, including payment on the annual quota as set by the National Association of the Deaf, and send representatives (delegates) to which it is entitled under the By-Laws of the National Association, providing that Board of Directors finds this financially feasible.
- Section 4 No part of the net earnings of Association shall insure to the benefit of, or be distributive to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments in furtherance of Association's mission.
- Section 5 The Association shall not discriminate in matters of membership and activities on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, or political affiliation

### ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

- Section 1
- A. Association shall be a nonprofit organization by, of, for Deaf/Hard of Hearing persons.
  - B. Its goals shall be established to ensure equal access for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community to all of life's opportunities afforded its hearing counterparts.
  - C. The Association's general purpose and powers shall be to promote and advocate the educational, health, housing, vocational, cultural, social, and

recreational welfare of its Deaf and Hard of Hearing constituents.

D. Its specific and primary purpose shall be to act as a coordinating statewide agency to address the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing through advocacy, resources, and dissemination of information to parents, professionals, consumers, and other interested parties.

### **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 Membership in the Association shall be in four classifications:

- 1) Active
- 2) Associate
- 3) Honorary
- 4) Student

Section 2 **Active** – Active membership shall be open to any resident of Georgia who attends our Association conferences, or who wishes to take active part in the Association. Membership shall also be open to the hearing, but governing board shall be limited to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Active members who are bona fide residents of Georgia for two years may be nominated for office in the Association.

Section 2a Residents who live near this state’s borders, and desire participation at nearby Association Chapter, shall have all rights of active memberships, including holding an office, except the position of President.

Section 3 **Associate** – Associate membership shall be open only to non-residents other than those living near the state’s borders (Article III Section 2a above). At the state conference, associate members have the privilege of the floor but may not vote.

Section 4 **Honorary** – Honorary members: Any person may be made an honorary member by a majority vote of those present at a conference. They shall be entitled to all privileges of active members. They shall not be subject to the dues of the Association.

Section 5 **Student** – Any High School student may be a member of the Association and can be waived the membership fee. It is up to the student.

### **ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1 The Board of Directors of the Association shall be a President, the Immediate Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Chapter Presidents, and Affiliate representatives. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the

general management and affairs of the Association as expressed by resolution or otherwise.

- Section 2      The Board of Directors shall have the power to use any available funds of the Association to promote the interests of the Association.
- Section 3      The Board of Directors shall have the power by majority vote to suspend any officer from the privileges of the Association, or to suspend any officer from the discharge of his/her duties for good and sufficient reasons, however, such suspended member shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting following the suspension and thereafter to the membership at large at the next conference.
- Section 3b     Any Executive Board officer have three consecutive unexcused absences shall be removed from the position and the Association President shall appoint a replacement.
- Section 4      In the event of resignation of an officer, a formal notice with a statement of reason thereof shall be submitted to the Board of Directors who shall be empowered to appoint a qualified member of the Association to fill the vacancy until the next conference whereby the general membership shall vote a qualified member to fill the position.

#### **ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- Section 1      The officers of the organization shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2      **The President:**  
 A. Shall preside at all Board of Directors, General and Conference meetings of the Association and rule on matters in dispute. An appeal from a ruling by the President may be sustained by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership at the conference.  
 B. Shall perform all duties originally associated with the office of President.
- Section 3      **The Vice-President:**  
 A. Shall discharge the duties of President in his/her absence.  
 B. Shall perform duties as assigned by the President.

- Section 4      **The Secretary:**
- A. Shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Association at its various settings and prepare the same for publication as may be directed by the Association.
  - B. Shall have charge of all papers and correspondences of the Association except that which properly belongs to other officers.
- Section 5      **The Treasurer:**
- A. Shall receive all monies belonging to the Association.
  - B. Shall keep an accurate account, verified by vouchers, of its receipts and expenditures and submit an audited report of the same to the Association at its next regular meeting.
  - C. Shall pay no bills over \$200.00 unless approved by Board of Directors.
- Section 6      **Terms of the Offices:**
- A. The officers shall not serve more than three (3) successive terms (in the same office).
  - B. Term of office for all members of the Board of Directors except the Treasurer shall be two (2) years.
  - C. The term of the Treasurer shall be four (4) years, but limited to two (2) terms.
  - D. The officers of the Association shall be elected by a majority votes of the members in conference assembled.
- Section 7      There shall be no voting by mail or proxy.
- Section 8      Newly elected officers shall assume office immediately after the final adjournment of the current conference and continue in the office until their successors are elected and qualified.
- Section 9      The outgoing President shall assume the office of Immediate Past President for a period of six months with all rights and duties of membership on the Board of Directors.
- Section 10     A spouse and/or partner may not hold the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Youth Director at the same time.

**ARTICLE VI – THE AUDITORS**

Section 1 The President of the Association shall pick two (2) trustees with board’s approval to examine the records of the Association Treasurer prior to every board meeting.

Section 2 The trustees shall not be members of the Board.

**ARTICLE VII – THE COMMITTEES**

Section 1 The Board of Directors shall create committees as needed.

**ARTICLE VIII– FORMATION OF CHAPTERS**

Section 1 Chapters may be formed in any city or county of the state when seven or more eligible person’s petition top the President for a chapter. Such chapters shall be subject to the By-Laws and to the authority of the Executives Board of the Association. A person may become a member of the Association by sending dues to the Association/Chapter Treasurer. Only then can a person become a member of the chapter by paying chapter dues. Chapters shall elect their own President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS**

Section 1 Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four (4) times per year and shall be called by the President. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as often as needed and shall be called by the President. To conduct new business with voting, a majority of the Board members present shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2 The Board of Directors shall have the power to call a special at large meeting of the Association whenever fifty (50) or more of the active members make a written petition for such a meeting.

Section 3 Fifteen (15) active members in good standing at any conference meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. There must be fifteen (15) members besides the officers.

Section 4 In all matters of business affecting the Association except amendments to the By-Laws and where specified in other sections of By-Laws a majority vote of the active members shall be decisive.

**ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION OF ASSOCIATION**

Section 1      In the event of dissolution, the assets of Georgia Association of the Deaf, Inc. shall be given to the National Association of the Deaf or a similar organization operating exclusively for charitable, educational, and moral welfare of the deaf as determined by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE XVIII – AMENDMENTS**

Section 1      Amendments to the By-Laws of the Association shall be presented to the membership by the By-Laws Committee at the conference, which may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the active members voting on the floor.

**ARTICLE XIV – PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY –**

Section 1      ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER, REVISED shall be the parliamentary authority for the conduct of the board and the conference meetings, whenever not in conflict with the By-Laws stated herein.