

# Dallas Association of the Deaf, Inc CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this non-profit corporation **and/or association** shall be known as the Dallas Association of the Deaf, Inc., hereafter referred to as DAD.

## ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1. The objective of DAD is to serve the needs and interests of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals so that they may achieve their full potential through increased independence, productivity and integration into society. This is consistent with Section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Active Members: any 18+ years old Deaf/hard of hearing person, or any person with a hearing loss, interested in the welfare and empowerment of the Deaf community, is eligible for active membership at DAD upon payment of dues as defined in the bylaws.

SECTION 2. Associate Members: any who does not meet the Active Members definition, may become associate members with all privileges, except voting and holding offices, upon payment of dues fixed for associate membership as defined in the bylaws.

SECTION 3. **Lifetime** Members: Any **awarded** person, who is an Active Member of the Association, qualifies for **lifetime** membership as defined in the bylaws. **(See Guidelines)**

## ARTICLE IV- OFFICERS

The officers of DAD shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, **Assistant Treasurer**, and seven (7) board members. At all times there will not be more than fifteen (15) bona-fide officers of the association.

## ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS

SECTION 1 The elections shall be held during the month of October or November. All newly elected officers, and appointed officers shall be sworn into office immediately, **by the president**, after their election, or appointment, and shall take office at the first day of the new calendar year.

SECTION 2. Oath of Office: The outgoing President of the DAD or a member of the Executive Board shall administer the oath of office to all incoming new officers. The following oath is to be used:

**\*\*\* "I do hereby pledge myself to abide by the Constitution and By Laws of the DAD and to faithfully perform the duties of my office to the best of my knowledge and ability." \*\*\***

SECTION 3. All new and re-elected officers, along with previous officeholders, shall meet in November/December at the association's office. Under the **guidance** of the President, this meeting will have the goal of training new officers and the formulation of planning the association's goals for the coming year(s).

SECTION 4. Any active member shall not be eligible to hold office who has not been admitted to membership for one year previous to election, and who has not attended at least **four** General Members meetings during the year.

SECTION 5. If any vacancy occurs in any office other than President, the President shall have the power to fill the vacancies by appointment of an active member to serve until the next Executive Board meeting. At the Executive Board meeting the DAD Board shall vote to fill in the vacancy.

SECTION 6. The term of office shall be determined as one year. The term of office of a Trustee shall be three years.

SECTION 7. A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled by election by the membership, except the presidency, which shall be filled by succession.

SECTION 8. Officers may be eligible for reelection.

**SECTION 9. After elections the general membership shall elect a chairperson for the Executive Board**

#### **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

SECTION 1. The DAD shall have an Executive Board meeting once a month prior to the General Members meeting. The Executive Board meeting shall be called by the Chairperson.

**SECTION 2. The General Members meeting shall abide by the Roberts Rules of Order.**

SECTION 3: The General Members meeting shall be held **monthly**. The President shall decree to cancel the meeting whenever a quorum has not been met. Credit shall be given to those who were present **and signed in** for the meeting that was cancelled.

SECTION 3. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the President or by a majority of the Executive Board. Any member of the Executive Board who has received a written request from at least five active members can call a special meeting.

SECTION 4. Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President or by a majority of the board of directors.

#### **ARTICLE VII - POLICIES OF THE CORPORATION**

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors may, with the consent of members, adopt policies concerning the activities of this association. These policies, upon acceptance by the majority, shall be put in written form by the recording Secretary and posted on the bulletin board, and each member shall have a copy of such policies along with his or her copy of the constitution and bylaws.

SECTION 2. The mere informality in organization shall not have the effect of rendering these Articles of this association null and void, or of exposing the members to any liability.

**ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1. The constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of active members present and voting at any general or special meeting, provided thirty (30) days prior notice has been sent to all good standing members.

SECTION 2. The suspension of these Articles of the Constitution is done only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members in good standing present and voting at any meeting.

**ARTICLE IX - REGISTERED AGENT**

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint a registered agent, and to designate a registered address, in accordance with the laws of the state of Texas and the bylaws herein.

**ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION**

SECTION 1. In the event of a dissolution the current Executive Board shall appoint five (5) advisors to appoint a trustee or guardian. Each advisor shall be Deaf or hard of hearing and fluent in ASL. They must be current DAD members.

In the event that Dallas Community Center of the Deaf (DCCD) no longer exist, the trust shall accrue to a similar organization.

Jan., 09