



**AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS**

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**PREAMBLE**

For the cultivation of fellowship and good feeling among us and for a spirit of loyalty to our Alma Mater, we, the graduates and former students of the American School for the Deaf, in good standing, **do** form ourselves into an association to be known as “**THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**”, and for its better government, do hereby establish the following Constitution and By-Laws.

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

This Association shall be known as the **AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ASDAA)**.

**ARTICLE II – MISSION**

**Section 1.** The American School for the Deaf Alumni Association is organized exclusively for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the American School for the Deaf, 139 North Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut, 06107. Distributions from any ASDAA accounts like saving, checking, stock, mutual fund, and Endowment Funds made to the American School for the Deaf are strictly used to support its academic, vocational, athletic, residential programs and museum. By virtue of its sponsorship, the American School for the Deaf Alumni Association is regarded as an integral part of the American School for the Deaf.

### ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES

**Section 1.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the organization is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under IRC 501 (c) (3) or corresponding provisions of any subsequent tax laws.

**Section 2.** No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of any member, trustee, director, officer of the organization, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the organization), and no member, trustee, officer of the organization or any private individual shall be entitled share in the distribution of any of the organization’s assets on dissolution of the organization.

**Section 3.** No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by IRC 501 (h)) or participating in, or intervening in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidates for public office.

**Section 4.** In any taxable year in which the organization is a private foundation as described in IRC 509 (a), the organization shall distribute its income for said period at such time and manner as not to subject it to tax under IRC 4942, and the organization shall not (a) engage in any act of self--dealing as defined in IRC 4941 (d), (b) retain any excess business holdings as defined in IRC 4943 (c), (c) make any investments in such a manner as to subject the organization to tax under IRC 4944, or (d) make any taxable expenditures as defined in IRC 4945 (d) or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

### ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** There shall be three classes of membership: Active, Associate, and Honorary.

**Section 2.** All graduates and former students shall be eligible, upon payment of the initiation fee, to active membership in the Association and may remain as active members upon the payment of the membership dues. Active members in good standing shall be entitled to vote, to hold office, and to serve in the Association.

**Section 3.** All spouses of graduates and former students, and present/former staff members of the American School for the Deaf shall be eligible, upon payment of the initiation fee, as associate members in the Association and may remain as associate members upon the payment of the membership dues. Associate members shall have all the privileges of membership in the Association, including serving on committees, except that no Associate member shall be eligible to hold any office in the Association and to vote.

**Section 4.** Honorary membership in this Association shall be bestowed only on descendants of Thomas A. Gallaudet, Laurent Clerc, the Superintendent/Executive Director of the School and his/her spouse, and such distinguished persons who have shown interest in and support for the American School for the Deaf. A Nominating Committee shall submit a list of nominees to the Executive Board

for review. The final ballot of nominees shall be subsequently voted upon at the next Reunion. Membership shall be confirmed by a majority vote. Honorary members shall have all the privileges of membership in the Association, including serving on committees, except that no honorary member shall be eligible to hold any office in the Association and to vote.

## **ARTICLE V – REUNION/HOMECOMING**

**Section 1.** The Association shall hold a Reunion/Homecoming every year in the fall. The purpose of each Reunion shall be determined by the Executive Board. Generally, the Reunion purpose will alternate between the transacting of election/business meeting and social events.

**Section 2.** The election of officers shall take place biannually.

**Section 3.** The business meeting agenda for such annual Reunion/Homecoming shall be as following:

- a) Odd numbered years – Election
- b) Even numbered years – General Meeting

**Section 4.** If and when successfully implemented via online voting, secret balloting for election of Association officers will be conducted online and completed fifteen (15) days before the business/ election meeting during the Reunion/Homecoming whereby the results the results will be announced.

## **ARTICLE VI – THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1.** The Executive Board shall consist of a President, a Director of Operations (formerly Vice President), a Director of Communications (formerly Recording Secretary and Executive Secretary), a Director of Finances (formerly Treasurer), a Director of Community Outreach (new position), a Director of Public Relations (new position) and three (3) Board Members-at-Large.

**Section 2.** Between biennial reunions, the administrative power shall be vested in the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have all the powers of the Association when the Association is not in regular session. It shall aim to carry out the expressed will of the Association as far as circumstances may render it wise and practicable. It shall have power to initiate and carry out policies tending to promote the welfare of the Association, provided; however, that such policies are not contrary to the previously expressed will of the Association. It shall have the power to appropriate or raise such money as may be necessary to give effect to these policies.

**Section 3.** The Executive Board shall turn over its successors all papers and documents, etc., which may belong to the Association. After the election of new officer(s), all former officers shall be required to mentor new officer(s) at the next day. Turning over all papers, documents and paperwork from old to new officers are required to be completed within 30 days after the election. For the Director of Finances and the Chairperson of Endowment Fund, turning over all papers, documents, paperwork, and new bank signature cards/forms are required to be completed within 60 days.

**Section 4.** The President shall call at least three (3) meetings of the Executive Board per year at such place and time as he/she may designate. A meeting may be called at the request of any two members of the Executive Board.

**Section 5.** The Executive Board shall recommend the proposed amendments/changes in the Constitution and Bylaws at the Reunion/Homecoming meeting of the Association. Also, the Executive Board shall adopt appropriate operating policies/guidelines such as Endowment Fund Committee, Auditing Committee, Hall of Fame – Achievement and Hall of Fame – Athletics.

**Section 6.** The Executive Board shall take the action on the recommendations of the Endowment Fund Committee.

## **ARTICLE VII – ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The following officers of this Association shall be elected by the members at a business meeting during Reunion/Homecoming: the President, the Director of Operations, the Director of Communications, the Director of Finances, the Director of Community Outreach, the Director of Public Relations, and the three (3) Board Members-at-Large.

**Section 2.** At least two officers shall reside in Connecticut.

**Section 3.** These Officers shall be elected by a majority vote (50% +1) at the Reunion. The Officers shall hold their offices for two (2) years of a term and up to three (3) terms, or until their successors are duly elected. All officers shall be voted through secret ballot. There will be no raised hand counts for election of officers.

**Section 4.** Any active member who has been in good standing with the Association for one year is eligible to hold any office. Up to three American School for the Deaf employees, family members, and/or relatives may serve on ASDAA Board.

**Section 5.** The officers thus elected shall assume their respective offices after taking the oath following their election.

**Section 6.** All elected officers, before assuming their duties, shall take the following pledge:

“I promise to uphold the Constitution and By-laws of the American School for the Deaf Alumni Association and to promote its good name in the community. I do”.

## **ARTICLE VIII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. President**

**The President shall have the following duties:**

- a. To preside at all meetings of the Association and Executive Board.
- b. Be an ex - officio member of any Committee of the Association.
- c. To make a report at the Reunion covering the business of the Association during her/his term of office, and shall make recommendations for the ensuing term in the report.
- d. To perform such duties as are assigned to her/his office.
- e. To appoint Parliamentarian, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
  - i. The Parliamentarian shall be familiar with the parliamentary/meeting procedure;

- ii. May be a member or non-member of the Association who shall maintain neutral position in all meetings;
- iii. Use Robert’s Rules of Order as reference; and
- iv. As needed, has opportunity to receive orientation/training.
- f. To appoint Chairpersons of all standing and ad hoc committees of the Association, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
- g. To appoint Chairperson of a Hall of Fame Committee – Achievement and Chairperson of a Hall of Fame Committee – Athletics, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
- h. Automatically become a member of the ASD Board of Directors.

**Section 2. Director of Operations (formerly, Vice President)**

**The Director of Operations shall have the following duties:**

- a. To fill the office of the President in the absence of the President.
- b. To be responsible for the day to day minor decisions of the Association.
- c. To work with the President in matters pertaining to decisions that are brought to the Executive Board.
- d. To assist in keeping up the constitution and bylaws that may occur at reunions.
- e. To preside at the reunion concerning new amendments/revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws.
- f. To chair a law committee that convenes from time to time pertaining the proposed changes in the Constitution & Bylaws prior to the Reunion meeting.
- g. To assist the Director of Finances to collect fees and dues from the members and head membership drives to secure new members.

**Section 3. Director of Communications (formerly, Recording Secretary and Executive Secretary)**

**The Director of Communications shall have the following duties:**

- a. To record the minutes of all proceedings of the Association and Executive Board, and keep such other records as may be required.
- b. To submit the official minutes within two (2) weeks after the Executive Board approves the minutes of the previous Board meeting.
- c. To post the meeting minutes for ASDAA members through social media.
- d. To attend to all correspondence of the association.

**Section 4. Director of Finances (formerly, Treasurer)**

**The Director of Finances shall have the following duties:**

- a. To receive and collect all initiation fees, dues, and all other monies belonging to the Association.
- b. To have charge of the Funds belonging to the Association.
- c. To keep an accurate and careful account of all receipts and expenditures.
- d. To work closely with the Chairperson of the Endowment Fund and President.

**Section 5. Director of Community Outreach**

**The Director of Community Outreach shall have the following duties:**

- a. To serve as a community liaison to the school and alumni chapters as partner.

- b. To manage fundraising efforts and supervise and work with a Fundraising Committee.
- c. To assist the Director of Operations with membership drives to secure new members.
- d. To be a representative for ASDAA by attending to meetings/functions of other organizations.

### **Section 6. Director of Public Relations**

**The Director of Public Relations shall have the following duties:**

- a. To manage public relations such as alumni newsletter, publications, website, e-blast, and social media.
- b. To oversee committee work in the areas mentioned above in Section 6, a.
- c. To plan, develop and implement the organization's media relations strategies and communications.

### **Section 7. Three (3) Board Members-at-Large**

**The Board Members-at-Large shall have the following duties:**

- a. To carry out duties assigned by the President and/or the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE IX – VACANCIES IN OFFICE**

**Section 1.** All resignations shall be made in writing to the President, except the resignation of the President. In case of the President's resignation, it shall be put in writing and addressed to the Director of Operations. The Director of Operations shall become President when the office of the President becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise. All vacancies between Reunions shall be filled by the Executive Board for the unexpired term. If any office in the Executive Board becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise, the remaining officer or officers, though less than a quorum, shall fill such vacancy for the balance of the term.

## **ARTICLE X – QUORUM**

**Section 1. QUORUM FOR THE ASSOCIATION MEETING.** Twenty-five (25) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 2. QUORUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING.** A majority vote (50% + 1) of the elected officers shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board meetings.

**Section 3. MAJORITY VOTE.** With a quorum, a majority vote (50% + 1) of the members present and entitled to vote shall be required for any business/action by the Association and the Executive Board.

**Section 4. TWO--THIRDS (2/3) MAJORITY VOTE.** With a quorum, an affirmative vote of two--thirds (2/3) of the members present and entitled to vote shall be required for any business that requires two-thirds (2/3) vote majority; for example, an amendment to the Constitution requires a 2/3 majority vote.

## ARTICLE XI – PUBLICATIONS

**Section 1.** The Alumni Newsletter, Website, E-Blast and Social Media shall be the publications of the Association. The ASD Alumni Newsletter/ASDAA Website shall be the official organ of the Association.

**Section 2.** Alterations (changes) to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be published in the ASD Alumni Newsletter/ASDAA Website following the adjournment of the Reunion.

## ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS, RATIFICATION, AND SUPERSESSION

**Section 1. – AMENDMENTS.** The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote and a majority vote (50%+ 1) respectively at a business meeting during Reunion/ Homecoming (See Article V, Section 3), a quorum being present, provided that such amendment be submitted in writing to the Director of Operations and the Director of Communications at least one (1) month before the Reunion/Homecoming.

**Section 2. – RATIFICATION.** All acts previously performed by and in the name of the Association are hereby ratified and confirmed by members present on the 15th day of October, 2016.

**Section 3. – SUPERSESSION.** This Constitution and/or By-Laws adopted the 15th day of October, 2016, shall supersede all previous Constitutions and/or By-Laws.

## ARTICLE XIII – DISSOLUTION

**Section 1.** The Association may be dissolved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and entitled to vote.

**Section 2.** In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the organization shall, after payment of necessary expenses, thereof be distributed to such an organization as it shall qualify under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in the following order of its existence:

1. American School for the Deaf, West Hartford, CT
2. Gallaudet University, Washington, DC

or corresponding to provisions of any subsequent Federal Tax Laws, or to the Federal government or State or local government for a public purpose, subject to the approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Connecticut.