

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

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.

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

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

ARTICLE 2 – OBJECTIVES

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 are made to the American School for the Deaf to support its academic, vocational, athletic, and residential programs. 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.

Section 2. 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 3. 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 4. 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 5. 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 III – 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 enjoy all the privileges of membership 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, to associate membership 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.

Section 4. Honorary membership in this Association shall be bestowed only on descendents of Thomas A. Gallaudet, Laurent Clerc, the Superintendent of the School and his wife, and such hearing and distinguished deaf people who have shown interest in the American School for the Deaf. A Nominating Committee shall submit a list of nominees to the Executive Board of their 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.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, an Executive Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, a Chairman of the Board of Trustees, two (2) Trustees, a Chairman of Endowment Fund, an Assistant Chairman of Endowment Fund, and four (4) members-at-large.

Section 2. At least two officers except members-at-large shall reside in Connecticut.

Section 3. These officers and a Trustee shall be elected by a majority vote at each Reunion. The Officers shall hold their offices for two years, and the Trustee six years, or until their successors are duly elected.

Section 4. The officers thus elected shall assume their respective offices after taking the oath following their election.

Section 5. Any active member who has been in good standing with the Association for one year is eligible to hold any office.

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”.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association and Executive Board. He may be an ex-officio member of any Committee of the Association. He/She shall make a report at the Reunion covering the business of the Association during his/hers term of office, and shall make recommendations for the ensuing term in the report. He/She shall perform such duties as are assigned to his office. Additionally, he/she automatically becomes a member of the ASD Board of Directors.

Section 2. The First Vice President and the Second Vice President, in the order named, shall fill the office of the President in the absence of the President.

Section 2a. The duties of the First Vice President shall be to assist in keeping up the constitution and by-laws that may occur at reunions and to preside at the reunion in concerning new revisions to the Constitution. The First Vice President will chair a committee that convenes from time to time pertaining the changes in the Constitution prior to the Reunion meeting.

Section 2b. The Second Vice President shall assist the Treasurer to collect fees and dues from the members and head membership drives to secure new members.

Section 3. The Corresponding Secretary shall attend to all correspondence of the Association.

Section 3a. The Recording Secretary shall record the minutes of all proceedings of the Association and Executive Board, and keep such other records as may be required of him/her.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the day to day minor decisions of the Association and work close to the President in matters pertaining to decisions that are brought to the Executive Board as a liaison to the school and the Association and other chapters.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall receive all initiation fees and dues, all other monies belonging to the Association; have charge of the Funds belonging to the Association. He/She shall keep a true and careful account of all receipts and expenditures.

Section 5a. The Assistant Treasurer shall be responsible of collecting dues and/or life membership dues and record the names of lifers to the list of all lifers.

Section 6. Three (3) Trustees shall be elected the first year. One for two (2) years; one for four (4) years; and one for six (6) years respectively. Each Trustee may serve three (3) consecutive terms. One Trustee shall be elected at each Reunion.

Section 6a. The Trustees shall audit the books of the Treasurer three (3) times a year – September, December, and May and report to the Association during the Reunion.

Section 6b. The trustees shall audit the financial reports made by chairman of any affair within 30 days after such affair.

Section 7. The Chairman of the Endowment Fund shall receive all monies directed to Endowment Fund; the officer shall keep records and account of the receipts and expenditures.

Section 7a. The Assistant Chairman of the Endowment Fund shall assist the Chairman.

Section 8. The Members-at-Large shall carry out duties assigned by the President. There shall be four (4) member-at-large.

ARTICLE VI – THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, the Executive Secretary, the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, the Trustees, the Chairman of the Endowment Fund, the Assistant Chairman of the Endowment Fund and the four (4) 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.

Section 4. The President shall call a meeting of the Executive Board 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 changes in Constitution and By-laws at the Reunion meeting of the Association.

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

ARTICLE VII – VACANIES 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 First Vice President. The First Vice President 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 VIII – REUNION/HOMECOMING

Section 1. The Association shall hold a Reunion 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.

ARTICLE IX – OFFICIAL ORGAN

Section 1. The ASD Alumni Newsletter shall be the official organ of the Association.

Section 2. Alterations to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be published in the ASD Alumni Newsletter following the adjournment of the Reunion.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended by a two-third (2/3) vote at any election/business Reunion, a quorum being present, provided that such amendment be submitted in writing to the President at least one (1) month before the Reunion.

ARTICLE XI – RATIFICATION

Section 1. All acts previously performed by and in the name of the Association are hereby ratified and confirmed by members presented on the 20th day of October, 2012.

ARTICLE XII – SUPERSESION

This Constitution adopted the 20th day of October, 2012, shall supersede all previous Constitutions.

ARTICLE XIII – DISSOLUTION

Section 1. The Association may be dissolved by a two-third (2/3) 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 organizations as shall qualify under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in the following order its existence:

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

or corresponding 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.