

# **BYLAWS**

## **NATIONAL STUDENT SPEECH LANGUAGE HEARING ASSOCIATION**

**(March 2009, Revision)**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Name**

The name of this organization shall be the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, hereafter referred to as NSSLHA.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- a. To encourage professional interest among college and university students in the study of normal and disordered human communication,
- b. To assist college and university departments and local organizations interested in speech, hearing and language behavior and disorders,
- c. To provide continuity to the dissemination of professional information, and,
- d. To provide a vehicle for student representation in matters of professional concern.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Membership**

#### **Section 1. Eligibility**

Full- or part-time undergraduate and graduate and full-time doctoral students interested in the study of normal and disordered human communication behavior who have not received nor applied for the Certificates of Clinical Competence (CCCs) from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

#### **Section 2. Dues**

The annual dues for members shall be determined by the Executive Council and shall be payable for the calendar year.

#### **Section 3. Termination of Membership**

Membership in NSSLHA shall be terminated automatically if the member:

- a. Becomes eligible for membership in ASHA
- b. Loses student status, or,
- c. Fails to pay dues.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### Local Chapters

#### Section 1. Status

Recognized local chapters of NSSLHA shall serve as official organizations of NSSLHA in matters appropriately handled at the local level and in matters prescribed in these Bylaws.

#### Section 2. Personnel

The chapter shall be composed of students interested in speech, hearing and language who meet the requirements for membership described in Article III, Section 1 of these Bylaws.

#### Section 3. Recognition and Eligibility

- a. Any students enrolled at a single college or university, who are NSSLHA members, are eligible to apply for local chapter status.
  
- b. Only one chapter shall be recognized for any given college or university campus. In instances where a university is decentralized geographically, individual colleges or campuses of that university are eligible for individual chapter recognition, if the above requirements are met.

#### Section 4. Chapter Advisor

Each chapter shall have at least one advisor who shall be a resident member of the faculty. The advisor shall be a member of ASHA.

## Section 5. Chapter Administration

Local chapter administration allows officers, duties, elections, meetings, local dues, etc., to be determined by the local chapter so long as local policies are not in conflict with these Bylaws. At a minimum the two highest ranking chapter officers shall be members of the national NSSLHA organization.

## **ARTICLE V**

### Regions

#### Section 1. Status

Designated regions shall serve as official divisions of NSSLHA in matters appropriately handled at the regional level and in matters prescribed in these Bylaws.

#### Section 2. Composition

Regions of NSSLHA shall be based on geographical considerations and on regional equity. There shall be ten regions, which will comprise the United States and other countries and territories designated by the Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### Executive Council

#### Section 1. Powers

- a. The Executive Council is the official governing body of NSSLHA. It establishes policies of NSSLHA and exercises all powers except those assigned to members, chapters, regions, the National Executive Committee, or the National Office.

- b. The Executive Council shall meet at least annually at a time designated by the Executive Council.
- c. A majority of voting members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum. Each Regional Councilor and the Member-at-Large shall have one vote with the exception of the President who may only vote to break a tie.

## Section 2. Composition

The Executive Council shall consist of ten Regional Councilors, one Member-at-Large, four Consultants, and an Executive Director.

- a. Two of the ten Councilors shall be the National Officers.
- b. The Consultants shall include an Editorial Consultant, a Convention Consultant, a Consultant for Multicultural Issues, and one Consultant-at-Large.

## Section 3. Duties of the Executive Council Members

- a. Regional Councilors. The Regional Councilors and the Member-at-Large must attend all meetings of the Executive Council unless excused by the Executive Director or Director of Operations and must accept all responsibilities designated to them.

(1) President. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Council and the National Executive Committee. The President shall appoint all committees subject to the approval of the Executive Council and shall serve as ex-officio members of all committees. The President shall designate special duties not provided for in these Bylaws. Additionally, the individual will represent NSSLHA on the appropriate ASHA Advisory Council.

(2) Vice President. The Vice President shall be vested with the powers of the President in the event of the President's absence or the President's inability to execute the President's duties. The Vice President shall carry out other duties assigned to the Vice President by the President.

(3) Member-at-Large. The Member-at-Large will be selected from the alternate field of study as the President-elect and shall serve a one-year term during the President's term. The Member-at-Large shall serve on the alternative ASHA Advisory Council as the President. The Member-at-Large will be a voting member of the Executive Council, and fully participatory on NSSLHA Committees and by presidential appointment.

b. Consultants

(1) Editorial Consultant. The Editorial Consultant shall assume the responsibility for the preparation and publication of all publications of NSSLHA approved by the Executive Council.

(2) Convention Consultant. The Convention Consultant shall be responsible to the Executive Council for the scheduling of all meetings and other events that take place at the National Convention.

(3) Consultant for Multicultural Issues: The Consultant for Multicultural Issues shall be responsible to the Executive Council for coordination of the multicultural column in NSSLHA *News & Notes* and will serve as a liaison to NSSLHA's student representative on the ASHA Multicultural Issues Board.

(4) Consultant-at-Large. One Consultant-at-Large shall serve as a member of the Executive Council and shall carry out duties as assigned by the Council.

- c. Executive Director. The Executive Director shall handle all liaison responsibilities between the National Office and members, chapters and regions, and between NSSLHA and other professional organizations. The Executive Director shall be designated the Financial Officer of the Association. The Executive Director shall have the power to contract for Association services required for the operation of the National Office.

#### Section 4. Terms of Office

- a. Regional Councilors. The Regional Councilors shall be elected for a period of two years.
- b. Member-at-Large. The Member-at-Large shall be elected for a period of one year with a limit of two consecutive terms of service.
- c. Officers. The President and Vice President shall be elected for a period of one year.
- d. Consultants. The Consultants shall be selected for a period of three years. The Executive Council shall have the discretion to terminate or renew for only one additional three-year term.
- e. Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be selected for a period of three years. This position can be extended for only one additional three-year period, at the discretion of the Executive Council.

#### Section 5. Elections

- a. Five Regional Councilors and a Member-at-Large shall be chosen annually from the NSSLHA members majoring in speech-language pathology and/or audiology. In cases where there is no such designated major available to the student, appropriate administrative review will be conducted. An application process shall be used to select the five Regional Councilors from the five eligible geographic regions and the Member-at-Large from membership as a whole. The application process will operate as follows: Each Chapter in the regions that have an opening for a new Regional Councilor will

receive notification from the NSSLHA Executive Council indicating that students in their program can apply for the open positions. Membership as a whole will receive notification from the NSSLHA Executive Council indicating that students in their program can apply for the Member-at-Large position. Additionally, notification will be sent to representatives of caucuses and interest groups to alert them to the open positions to encourage applications from underrepresented groups. The number of applications from a given program will not be restricted; however only one applicant per NSSLHA Chapter will be accepted per NSSLHA Executive Council position. The individual applying for a Regional Councilor position or a Member-at-Large position must be a pre-professional for at least three-fourths of the term which includes the clinical fellowship year as long as the pre-professional has not yet applied for their CCCs. The completed application must be received by the stated deadline.

Student applicants may be chosen in any way that the Chapter deems appropriate, including through an election. However, the applicants must have demonstrated the motivation, enthusiasm, and diligence necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of representing NSSLHA. Each student selected by the chapter will submit an application that will be considered along with those of all the other students who have submitted applications for the five eligible geographic regions or for the Member-at-Large position.

The NSSLHA Executive Council will review only one application per Chapter per Executive Council position. At its annual spring meeting, the Executive Council will choose one student from each of the geographic regions to become the new Regional Councilor for that region and one student to serve as the Member-at-Large. The Councilors-elect must be willing to attend the ASHA Convention in the fall and Executive Council meetings in the spring for a period of 2 years and accept all responsibilities designated to them. All applicants will be notified of the results by June 1st.

- b. National Officers shall be elected at the Annual ASHA Convention in the fall. Both the President and Vice President shall be elected from the first-year Regional Councilors and usually at the final session of the Executive Council meeting.
- c. The Executive Director and the Consultants must be members of ASHA. Each time the position of any one of the five is vacant a notice of such vacancy shall appear in the

ASHA *Leader*. The Executive Council shall select from among the applications submitted to fill each Consultant vacancy.

## Section 6. Replacement of the Executive Council Members

### a. Regional Councilors

(1) Should a Councilor or Member-at-Large resign, an alternate shall assume the duties of that position as selected by the Executive Council from chapter nominations and self-nominations. Administrative procedures shall deal with further resignations.

(2) Should the President or Vice President resign, their alternate shall not assume the duties of the presidency or vice presidency. However, they shall assume the duties of Councilor for the officer's particular region.

### b. Officers

(1) President. Should the President resign, the Vice President shall replace the President.

(2) Vice President. Should a vacancy occur in the vice presidency, the Administrative Consultant shall appoint a Vice President from the second year Regional Councilors, with the approval of the Executive Council.

### c. Consultants

(1) Should the Consultant-at-Large, Consultant for Multicultural Issues, or the Convention Consultant resign, the vacancy may be filled by a current consultant at that individual's request and Executive Council approval. The vacant consultant position will

then be posted and a new consultant will be appointed through the normal selection process.

(2) Should the Editorial Consultant resign, the vacancy may be filled by a current consultant who meets the qualifications of the position and at that individual's request, with the approval of the Executive Council. Should no current consultant be willing or able to serve in this capacity, the vacant consultant position will be posted and a new consultant will be appointed through the normal selection process.

(3) Should the Executive Director resign, the vacancy may be filled by one of the current consultants at the individual's request and with the approval of the Executive Council. This individual will serve as interim Executive Director and complete the remainder of the resigned Executive Director's term. Upon completion of that term, the Interim Executive Director may apply for the position and if elected could serve on the Council for two three-year terms.

Should none of the current consultants express interest in the position, then the senior-most consultant will be appointed to act as the Executive Director until a new Executive Director is appointed. The vacant Executive Director position will then be posted, and a new Executive Director will be appointed through the normal selection process.

## Section 7. National Executive Committee

The National Officers, the Executive Director and the two senior Consultants shall constitute the National Executive Committee. They shall serve as a planning committee and shall be responsible for evaluating the activities of NSSLHA and for other duties assigned by the Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### National Office

NSSLHA shall maintain a National Office that shall have the responsibility for records and function in appropriate ways to facilitate the work of officers and members in the administration of NSSLHA policies and activities.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### Honors

#### Section 1. Definition

- a. Member's Honors - Any member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and achievement shall be eligible for Honor Membership.
- b. Honors of NSSLHA - It shall be presented to those individuals who, through their work with students, have made significant contributions to both the Association and to the discipline of human communication sciences and disorders. This is the highest award bestowed by the Association.
- c. Advisor Honors - "NSSLHA Advisor Honors" shall be awarded to those local NSSLHA chapter advisors who have provided sustained and exceptional leadership to the Association through their efforts with local NSSLHA chapters.
- d. Chapter Honors - Chapter Honors shall be awarded to a NSSLHA Chapter which demonstrates a significant combination of the following criteria: an awareness of student issues and concerns, outreach to the community, educational opportunities, social and fundraising activities promoting both the professions and national NSSLHA.

## Section 2. Selection

- a. Honor Membership is recognition to be awarded by the Executive Council upon recommendation of the local chapter. Selection shall be based on scholastic achievement, service to the academic unit, professional conduct, and service to NSSLHA.
- b. The Committee on Honors shall place the name of one individual in nomination each year, and the Executive Council shall vote to accept or to reject the nominee.
- c. NSSLHA members are invited to nominate through their local chapter's advisors who have made outstanding contributions. The Committee on Honors shall review the nominations and present the names of no more than five nominees to the Executive Council each year for a vote.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### Conventions and Meetings

Conventions and meetings of NSSLHA shall be held at a time and place determined by the Executive Council. Conventions and meetings shall be held only in establishments in which meetings can be held without discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or handicapping conditions. The responsibility of arranging a Convention shall be that of the Convention Consultant.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Publications**

#### **Section 1. NSSLHA Publications**

NSSLHA shall publish annually a spring and fall issue of *Contemporary Issues in Communication Science and Disorders* (CICSD). NSSLHA shall publish other publications recommended by the Executive Council.

#### **Section 2. Publications Included with Membership**

All members of NSSLHA shall receive publications of the Association, designated publications of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and others designated by the Executive Council.

#### **Section 3. Editorial Board**

The Editorial Board shall recommend policy to the Executive Council with respect to publications of NSSLHA. The Board shall assume responsibility for preparation and publication of all publications of NSSLHA approved by the Executive Council. The Board shall consist of the Editorial Consultant, who shall serve as chairman, and a committee of advisory reviewers appointed at the discretion of the Editorial Consultant.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### Professional Affiliation

NSSLHA shall recognize the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association as the official professional organization associated with the study of normal and disordered human communication.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### Amendments

#### Section 1. Suggested Amendments

Any member or advisor shall send suggestions for amendments or revision of these Bylaws to the Executive Director and/or the President.

#### Section 2. Action on Proposed Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by an open vote of membership. An amendment requires 2/3 of the votes cast for adoption, each member entitled to one vote.