

Bylaws of MDAD

Adopted on August 10, 1991 Amended on August 16, 1997 Amended on August 14, 1999

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of MDAD is to safeguard, maintain, and advance the civic, educational, and social welfare of people who are deaf and hard of hearing residing in the state of Maryland.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any individual who supports the purpose and goals of the MDAD may become an active member.

Section 2. Active members are those who pay MDAD membership dues. Such members in good standing shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership, including the right to vote and hold any office, with a sole exception: those who do not reside permanently in the state of Maryland may not hold any office.

Section 3. There shall be three categories of annual active membership dues, as follows:

1. Those under 62 years of age who join MDAD directly.
2. Those 62 years of age or older who join MDAD directly.
3. Those attending school or college full time.

Section 4. MDAD membership dues shall be fixed by the membership during the annual membership meeting during odd-numbered years.

ARTICLE IV. AFFILIATES

Section 1. Upon the approval of the Board of Directors, a local, regional, or statewide organization of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing may become an MDAD Affiliate.

Section 2. MDAD Affiliates shall strive to advance the purpose and goals of the MDAD. MDAD may ask for action and support from Affiliates for

issues at the state level.

Section 3. Periodically, Affiliates shall submit to MDAD names and addresses of their officers, along with affiliation fees.

Section 4. Affiliates shall not incur indebtedness in the name of MDAD.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of MDAD shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, six regional Board members, and two Board members-at-large. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and the parliamentary authority adopted by this organization.

Section 2. At least four months prior to the annual membership meeting during odd-numbered years, a nominating committee of three members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board members at-large to be filled during the annual membership meeting. The nominating committee shall report at the annual membership meeting. Before the election at the annual membership meeting, additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted.

Section 3. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by ballot to serve two-year terms. Their terms of office shall begin at the close of the annual membership meeting at which they are elected.

Section 4. Two Board members at-large shall be elected by ballot to serve staggered four-year terms. Their terms of office shall begin at the close of the annual membership meeting at which they are elected.

Section 5. Six regional Board members shall be appointed by the Board at the first Board meeting after the annual membership meeting during odd-numbered years. Their terms of office shall begin at the close of the Board meeting at which they are appointed, and continue until the close of the next annual membership meeting during odd-numbered years.

Section 6. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. No member shall hold more than one office at a time.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. MDAD shall hold annual membership meetings at such time and place as shall be determined by the Board or through a motion passed at an annual membership meeting.

Section 2. During odd-numbered years, the annual membership meeting shall last at least two days, and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports from officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 3. During even-numbered years, the annual membership meeting shall last one day, and shall be for the purpose of receiving reports from officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 4. The President shall issue an official call to the annual membership meeting at least one month in advance.

Section 5. Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Board, or shall be called upon the written request of at least ten percent of the active membership. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency, at least one week's notice shall be given.

Section 6. Twenty active members shall constitute a quorum at any membership meeting.

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, six regional Board members, and two Board members at-large.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the management and conduct of MDAD business between annual membership meetings.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet at least four times a year.

Section 4. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, or shall be called upon written request of three members of the Board.

Section 5. A majority of Board members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Ways and Means Committee, consisting of the Vice

President and two Board Members shall be appointed by the President promptly after each annual membership meeting during odd-numbered years. It shall be the duty of this committee to supervise all financial affairs of MDAD, including investment, fund raising and membership drives. The committee shall submit an annual budget and necessary recommendations to the Board for approval. The Treasurer shall be an ex officio member of this committee.

Section 2. There shall be an Auditing Committee of three members. One member shall be elected at the annual membership meeting during odd-numbered years, and shall serve a staggered six-year term. The most senior member of the Auditing Committee shall automatically become its chair for the coming year. The duty of this committee is to examine and verify all financial records and accounts, and to audit all financial reports, before they are submitted to the Board of Directors and the membership at the annual membership meeting.

Section 3. The Legislative Committee shall monitor state legislation and regulatory action concerning deaf and hard of hearing individuals, and shall coordinate information gathering and dissemination, presentations, and testimony as needed.

Section 4. The Conference Committee shall make all arrangements for the annual membership meeting and MDAD conference during odd-numbered years.

Section 5. The Law Committee shall be responsible for reviewing all proposed amendments to the Bylaws and recommending changes to the active membership for vote.

Section 6. The Community Relations Committee shall assist with official correspondence, and shall coordinate information sharing and networking with the Affiliates, and local, regional and statewide organizations.

Section 7. The Pageant Committee shall be responsible for the organization of Miss Deaf Maryland Pageant. The Director shall be appointed by the MDAD Board.

Section 8. The Senior Citizens Committee shall coordinate information sharing and networking on issues related to deaf and hard of hearing senior citizens in the state in line with MDAD's mission.

Section 9. Other committees shall be appointed by the President whenever the membership or the Board of Directors deems them necessary to carry on the work of MDAD.

Section 10. The President shall appoint all committee chairs except the chairs of the Auditing and Nominating Committees.

Section 11. The President shall appoint all committee members, upon recommendation of the committee chairs, except as otherwise provided in these bylaws.

Section 12. The president shall be ex officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern MDAD in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order MDAD may adopt.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of MDAD, remaining assets after payment of all liabilities shall be distributed as specified in the Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposed amendments to the MDAD Bylaws shall be submitted to the Law Committee for study at least four months before the annual membership meeting. The Law Committee shall mail the proposed amendments, along with its recommendations, to all active members at least one month before the annual membership meeting.

Section 2. Proposed amendments, duly submitted to and mailed out by the Law Committee as described in Article XI, Section 1, shall be approved at any annual membership meeting by a two-thirds vote.