

Northern California Registry of interpreters for the Deaf

Bylaws

Article I NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

This organization shall be known as the Northern California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (NorCRID). The principal office for the transaction of business shall be located in Alameda County, California.

Article II PURPOSE

This organization is to be a nonprofit chapter to fulfill the functions of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID). The purposes shall be:

- a. To exchange: ideas, opinions, and experiences concerning interpreting.
- b. To further: the development of effective communication skills in interpreting and transliterating.
- c. To strive: for the attainment of the highest standards in these communication skills.
- d. To act: as a body to advance professional and ethical standards for interpreters.
- e. To advocate: for professional recognition and treatment of interpreters.
- f. To support: the rights of Deaf and hearing people.

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members.

There shall be five categories of members:

- a. Voting members
 1. Certified members
 2. Associate members
- b. Non-voting members
 1. Student members
 2. Supporting members
 3. Organizational/Institutional members

Section 2. Qualifications of Members.

The Members of this corporation shall be persons who have paid the annual dues and assessments set forth in Article III, Section 4. The definitions of Member categories shall be:

- a. **Certified member:** any interpreter or transliterator of American Sign Language and/or English currently holding a valid certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID).
- b. **Associate Member:** any individual who is actively engaged in the interpretation of American Sign Language and/or transliteration of English, who is also a Member of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID), and
 1. Who is a candidate for the performance test, or
 2. Who is not yet certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID)
- c. **Student Member:** any non-certified individual currently enrolled in a course of study in interpretation of American Sign Language and English and/or transliteration of English.
- d. **Supporting Member:** any non-certified individual with an interest in supporting the purposes and activities of the organization who does not meet the eligibility requirements of section 2a., 2b., or 2c.
- e. **Organizational/Institutional Member:** Any organization or institution with an interest in supporting the purposes and activities of the corporation.

Section 3. Voting Rights.

- a. Each Certified Member of this organization shall be entitled to one vote in meetings, referenda, and elections.
- b. Each Associate Member of this organization shall be entitled to one vote in meetings, referenda, and elections, with the exception of motions and referenda pertaining to testing, certification, and professional and ethical standards and practices.

Section 4. Dues and Assessments.

- a. Each Member in good standing must pay, within the time and on the conditions set by the Executive Board and these bylaws, the annual dues in amounts to be fixed from time to time by the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall not increase nor decrease membership dues by more than ten percent (10%) without a majority vote of the membership either at the annual membership meeting or by mail referendum.
- b. The dues shall be equal for all Members of each category, but different dues may be set for each category. Members can designate amounts from their dues, as established by the Executive Board or by vote of the membership, for special purposes and funds.
- c. Assessments may be levied on all Members by action of two-thirds of the voting Members at any meeting, provided that two weeks prior notice has been given.

Section 5. Liabilities of Members.

No person who is now or who later becomes a Member of this corporation shall be personally liable to its creditors for an indebtedness or liability. Any and all creditors to this corporation shall look only to the assets of the corporation for payment.

Article IV EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Number of Executive Board Members.

- a. The Executive Board shall be four (4) elected officers, three (3) elected Members-at-Large, the past president, and two (2) ex-officio Alternate Members.
- b. Each Member of the Executive Board shall hold voting membership as defined in Article III. A person whose Voting Membership lapses also ceases to be a Member. One of the Members at Large shall be Deaf or Hard of Hearing and an active user of ASL interpreting services.
- c. The Alternate Members shall be elected to serve in the event that a current board member resigns or is removed from office before the term has expired. Alternate Members shall not have voting privileges on the Executive Board until such time as they fill an unexpired term. At least one of the Alternate Members shall be RID certified. The Deaf or Hard of Hearing Member at Large shall be exempt from the membership requirements outlined for the executive board but required to hold a current Supporting Membership with NorCRID. A Deaf or Hard of Hearing Member at Large who ceases to be a NorCRID member shall also cease to be a Member of the Executive Board.
- d. The Past-President shall be a full member of the Executive Board with the rights and privileges of Executive Board members but shall not be a voting member.
- e. A minimum of five Members of the Executive Board will be RID certified.

Section 2. Attendance.

Attendance at meetings is expected of Executive Board Members. After two (2) absences from the Executive Board meetings, a written warning may be issued to the absentee by the President of the Executive Board. With a unanimous vote by the remaining Board Members, an Executive Board Member may be removed from office after three (3) absences. Written notice of a Board vote for removal shall be provided to the absentee Board Member within fourteen (14) days of such a vote.

Section 3. Election and Term of Office of Officers.

Except as provided below for the initial terms of the first Officers elected under these bylaws, the term of office of each Officer to the Executive Board shall be two (2) years. However, the term of office for the Past-President shall be one (1) year.

Initial terms of the first Officers of the Executive Board shall be one (1) year, commencing in 1994.

New officers assume office in January of the next calendar year following their election. An Officer may serve a successive term in office.

Section 4. Election and Term of Members-at-Large.

The term of office for each Member-at-Large to the Executive Board shall be two (2) years.

New Members-at-Large assume office in January of the next calendar year following their election. A Member-at-Large may serve a successive term in office.

Members-at-Large shall be elected at the annual meeting of the voting membership, during even-numbered years, by a plurality of votes cast.

Section 5. Election and Term of Office of Alternates.

The term of office of each Alternate to the Executive Board shall be one (1) year.

New Alternates assume office in January of the next calendar year following their election.

An Alternate may serve a successive term in office. Alternates shall be elected at the annual meeting of the voting membership by a plurality of votes cast.

Section 6. Vacancies.

Vacancies on the Executive Board shall be temporarily filled by a majority vote of the remaining Executive Board Members until the next annual meeting when the vacancy shall be filled by a plurality of votes cast in a special election.

Section 7. Removal from Office.

With good cause, an Executive Board Member may be removed from office, for reasons other than attendance, by unanimous vote of the remaining Members of the Executive Board. Before such action, however, the Board Member in question must be notified in writing that a removal is being considered by the Executive Board, and an opportunity must be given the Board Member to address the board in defense.

Article V Officers

Section 1. Officers.

The officers of this corporation shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. All officers shall be Members of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Vacancies.

Any vacancy among Officers between annual meetings shall be filled by action of the Executive Board.

Section 3. The President.

- a. The President shall have general supervision, direction, and control of the business and affairs of NorCRID. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Members and the Executive Board and shall have other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Executive Board.
- b. The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint such committees as may be provided for in the bylaws; and may create, with the approval of the Executive Board, such other committees as the President may deem necessary in promoting the purpose of NorCRID.

Section 4. The Vice President.

In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President and in so acting shall have all the powers of the President. The Vice President shall have other powers and perform other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Executive Board.

Section 5. The Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep full and complete records of the proceedings of the Executive Board, shall serve such notices as may be necessary or proper, shall supervise the keeping of the records of this corporation, and shall discharge such other duties of the office as prescribed by the Executive Board.

Section 6. The Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall collect the moneys of the organization and make disbursement as ordered by the Board. The treasurer shall write and sign checks in the course of ordinary organization business for amounts not to exceed a reasonable limit established by the Executive Board. Any check written for an amount greater than the established limit shall require the signatures of two officers of the Executive Board.

The Treasurer shall make financial reports for each board meeting and an annual report audited by two trustees to be selected by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall discharge such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Executive Board.

Article VI Meetings and Quorums

Section 1. Annual Meeting of the Membership.

- a. There shall be held each year an annual meeting of the Members of the corporation. The Executive Board shall set the date thereof at least thirty (30) days in advance.
- b. There shall be held each year at least one (1) annual workshop sponsored by NorCRID to upgrade interpreter skills.

Section 2. Special Meeting of the Membership.

There shall be as many other meetings of the corporation as are deemed necessary; such meetings may be called by the President, or by five (5) Voting Members of the Executive Board, or at the written request of at least twenty-five (25) Voting Members of the organization. In the event that a special meeting has been called, the President shall set the date of the meeting at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting.

Section 3. Remote Referenda.

Voting may take place remotely via commonly available technology easily accessed by the general membership. Remote referenda must be sent by the Executive Board to all eligible Voting Members at least thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for returning ballots. A vote shall be decided by a majority of valid ballots. Results of the remote referenda shall be provided to the Members of the organization within sixty (60) days of the deadline for returning ballots.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings.

- a. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing notices of the annual meetings of the corporation at least thirty (30) days in advance.
- b. Notices of the special meetings should be mailed at least fourteen (14) days in advance.

Section 5. Quorum for Meetings of the Membership.

Fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of the voting membership registered to attend the annual meeting or any special meeting where the membership will convene to address business shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Meetings of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall meet at least quarterly.

Section 7. Quorum for Meetings of the Executive Board.

A simple majority of the Voting Members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for meetings.

Section 8. Special Meetings of the Executive Board.

Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President or by a majority of the Executive Board with written notice or phone contact at least five (5) days in advance.

Section 9. Action Without a Meeting.

Any action by the Executive Board may be taken without a meeting if all Members of the Board individually or collectively consent in writing to the action. Such written consent shall be filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Board.

Section 10. Parliamentary Authority.

Robert's Rules of Order, current edition, shall be the parliamentary authority governing deliberations of this organization.

Article VII Committees

Section 1. Committees.

The President shall, immediately after election, appoint subject to confirmation by the Executive Board, chairpersons of the standing committees specified in this article. The President will be an ex-officio member of each committee. The Members of each committee shall serve until the next election of the President.

Section 2. Standing Committees.

The standing committees to this organization shall be the following: The Continuing Education Committee, Bylaws Committee, Professional Standards Committee, Membership Committee, Greg Smith Memorial Fund Committee.

Section 3. Reimbursement for Expenses.

Any committee selected and approved by the Executive Board will be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable costs, subject to prior approval by the Board.

Article VIII Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended or repealed by new bylaws with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting Members present at an annual or special meeting of the membership provided there is a quorum present. Written notice of the meeting and copies of the proposed amendments must be sent by the Secretary at the direction of the Executive Board to all Voting Members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Article IX
Representation to Sign Language Interpreters of California (SLIC)

If and when SLIC becomes solvent, decisions regarding membership shall be brought to the Voting Members of this organization.