Mississippi Psychological Association

BYLAWS

amended 11/15/2024

Article I Name……..
Article II Purpose……..
Article III Membership……..
Article IV Dues……..
Article V Meetings……..
Article VI Executive Council and Leadership Roles……..
Article VII Elections……..
Article VIII Policies and Procedures……..
Article IX Projects, Task Forces, and Committees……....
Article X Dissolution ……..
Article XI Amendments……..
Article XII Sunset Provision……..

ARTICLE I - NAME:

1.1 The name of this organization shall be the MISSISSIPPI PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (MPA).

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE:

2.1 The purpose of the MPA, the organized voice of psychology in Mississippi, is to advance psychology as a science and a profession by: contributing to scientific knowledge in psychology; disseminating this knowledge through education of the public as well as MPA's membership; and applying this knowledge through professional practice to promote health and human welfare.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP:

3.1 Members

The members shall consist only of all members in good standing of MPA.

3.2 Categories of Members

The Executive Council of Directors may establish categories of membership it deems necessary to carry out the purpose of MPA.

3.3 Members Eligibility

The Executive Council shall establish eligibility requirements for membership, and any qualified person who applies for membership and meets those requirements may become a member.

3.4 Rights of Members

Each member of a category that has voting rights shall be entitled to participate and vote in any action or issue that requires approval of the membership.

3.5 Loss of Membership

a) Non-payment of Dues: A member whose dues remain unpaid after the dues-renewal grace period has passed, will be deemed to have voluntarily resigned his/her/their membership. The individual may be reinstated by paying dues along with other administrative fees that may be assessed.

b) License Revocation, Suspension, or Surrender, and Ethical Violations: Disciplinary action by the Mississippi Psychology Board or by any other equivalent board of another jurisdiction that results in the revocation, voluntary surrender, or indefinite suspension of a member's license to practice psychology may disqualify a person from membership and result in the termination or suspension of membership. A member may also be suspended or expelled for violations of the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct and/ or the Mississippi laws and regulating guidelines relevant to professional practice. A member shall receive fifteen (15) days prior written notice of termination or suspension of membership and shall be entitled to submit a written response to the Executive Council not less than five (5) days before the effective date of the termination or suspension.

c) Other Good Cause: Members may be removed from membership by the Executive Council for good cause, including, without limitation, any grounds for termination of membership set forth in

such policies and procedures governing MPA. A member removed for cause shall receive fifteen (15) days prior written notice of the proposed termination or suspension of membership and the reasons therefore and shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard, either orally or in writing, before the Executive Council not less than five (5) days before the effective date of the proposed suspension or termination.

ARTICLE IV - DUES:

4.1 Membership Dues

Dues for each category of membership shall be determined by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Council based on the reasonable and conservative needs of the MPA to provide member services.

4.2 Failure to Notify

Any Member who fails to notify the MPA in writing of resignation from the MPA will be subject to payment of past dues, should that person wish to be reinstated to membership.

4.3 Financial Hardship

The Executive Council may, upon written request to the Association, establish reduced dues for a member of each member category who is experiencing financial hardship.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS:

5.1 Meetings of Members

a) There shall be an annual meeting of the membership to be held at such time, place, and mode as determined by the Executive Council.
b) The MPA shall elect officers concurrent with the Annual Convention business meeting or at such other time and at such place designated by the Executive Council. Additional meetings may be called by the Executive Council at any time by written or electronic notification. ,
c) Other meetings may be called by a petition signed by at least one-fourth of the Members.

5.2 Meetings of Executive Council

a) The Executive Council shall meet at least four times a year. to be held at such time, place, and mode is determined by the Executive Council.

b) A majority of EC (6) currently in office constitutes a quorum. A quorum is not broken by the subsequent departure of any of those present.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP ROLES:

6.1 Executive Council

The Executive Council is the policy-making and regulatory body of the MPA. The Executive Council consists of the following:

a) President
Shall be a member of the MPA who has just completed the term of President-Elect. The President assumes this office on the first of January following the annual meeting one year after having been elected President-Elect. Term of office is one year. During the term of office, the President shall serve as general presiding officer and shall oversee the current goals and projects for the MPA.

b) Immediate Past-President
Shall be a member of the MPA who has just completed the term of President. The President-Elect shall take office on the first of January of the calendar year after having been elected at the annual meeting and shall serve for one year. The Immediate Past-President shall oversee the MPA educational activities including the annual convention and serve as a sustaining advisor to the Executive Council.

c) President-Elect
Shall be a Member of the MPA duly elected by the membership. The President-Elect shall take office on the first of January of the calendar year after having been elected at the annual meeting and shall serve for one year. During the term of office, the President-Elect shall serve as assistant to the President and shall succeed the President should that office be vacated before the full term is served, complete the unexpired term, and continue through the regular term of office. During the term of office, the President-Elect shall oversee strategic planning and the MPA election process for the Association.

d) Communications Officer
Shall be a Member of the MPA who has been elected by the members. The Communications Officer shall take office on the first day of January of the calendar year after having been elected at the annual meeting and shall serve for two (2) years. The Communications Officer is limited to two, 2-year terms of office but can stand for election again after two years out of office. In the event that both the President and President-Elect are unable to complete their terms of office, the Communications Officer shall be deemed next in line of succession. The Communications Officer shall oversee all MPA communication activities and be responsible for taking Executive Council meeting minutes.

e) Financial Officer
Shall be a Member of the MPA who has been elected by the members. The Financial Officer shall take office on the first day of January of the calendar year after having been elected at the annual meeting and shall serve for two (2) years. The Financial Officer is limited to two, 2-year terms of office but can stand for election again after two years out of office. The Financial Officer shall oversee all MPA financial activities.

f) Membership Officer
Shall be a Member of the MPA who has been elected by the members. The Membership Officer shall take office on the first day of January of the calendar year after having been elected at the annual meeting and shall serve for two (2) year. The Membership Officer is limited to two, 2-year terms of office but can stand for election again after two years out of office. The Membership Officer shall oversee strategic membership planning, and implementation of membership initiatives, and shall monitor membership trends on an ongoing basis, providing regular reports to the EC. The Membership Officer shall work in close coordination with the President, the Financial Officer, Regional Representatives, and the Executive Director.

g) APA Council Representative
Shall be a Member of the MPA and a Member of the APA. The term of office of the Representative shall be for three (3) years. Candidates for Representative shall be nominated by the Executive Council. However, the representative shall be elected by the MPA members who are also APA members, with election carried out according to voting procedures established by the APA. It shall be the duty of the Representative to represent faithfully the interests of MPA members as identified by the Executive Council in all matters pertaining to the actions of the APA Council of Representatives.

h) Four Regional Representatives
Shall be members of the MPA who shall be elected from their respective geographical regions. The term of office for the Regional Representatives shall be two (2) years. Regional Representatives shall take office on the first day of January of the year following their election. Regional Representatives are limited to two 2-year terms of office but can stand for election again after two years out of office. Elections shall be held in accordance with Article VIII with the exception that the nominees must reside in the region they represent and nominations and election for a region must come from the MPA Members of that region. The Regional Representatives shall represent all MPA interests within their respective regions.

i) Executive Director
May be a member of the MPA. The Executive Director (ED) is appointed by the MPA Executive Council and serves as an advocate representative of the MPA on a state and federal level. The Executive Director functions as a non-voting member of the Executive Council. The Executive Director duties are defined by the executive council as needed.

6.2 Failure to Perform Duties

Should the Executive Council determine an Executive Council Member is not faithfully performing the duties of office and votes as such by a two-thirds majority, such a vote constitutes a resignation request of that Executive Council Member. If the Executive Council Member in question does not resign, they will be relieved of their MPA duties.

6.3 Vacated Position

In the event an Executive Council elected position is empty or vacated, the Executive Council may appoint a Member in good standing to serve out the term of the resigned Executive Council Member unless otherwise stated in the MPA's Bylaws or Policy and Procedures.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS:

7.1 Elected Positions

The President-Elect, Communications Officer, Financial Officer, Membership Officer, and four Regional Representatives shall be elected as outlined below, and according to the current MPA Policy and Procedure manual.

7.2 Election Administration

The election procedures are overseen by the President-Elect in consultation with the Executive Council and assisted by the Executive Director.

7.3 Nominating Ballots

Three (3) months prior to the annual convention, a nominating ballot listing the terms of office and the names of all those eligible for nomination will be sent to voting MPA members. Nominations must be returned within 30 days. The President-Elect will develop slates for each elective office based on these nominations.

7.4 Final Ballots

Ballots will be distributed to voting MPA members by the Communications Officer no later than 45 days prior to the annual convention and must be returned within 30 days. A plurality of votes cast will be sufficient to elect for any office. Announcement of the election results for the forthcoming year will be made at the annual convention.

ARTICLE VIII – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

8.1 A Policy and Procedure manual will be maintained by the Executive Council to guide the day-to-day implementation of the business of the MPA.

ARTICLE IX – PROJECTS, TASK FORCES, AND COMMITTEES:

9.1 Establishment

It shall be the responsibility of the MPA Executive Council to establish the priorities and sustain the goals of the association.

9.2 Implementation

The President may authorize the implementation of projects, task forces, and committees to carry out the priorities and goals for the association.

9.3 Policies and Procedures

Policies and Procedures related to projects, committees, and task forces shall be outlined in the MPA Policy and Procedures Manual

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION:

10.1 In the event of dissolution of MPA, assets shall be distributed to one or more charitable organizations or other charitable organizations, as defined in Section 79-11-501, either domestic or foreign, engaged in activities substantially similar to those of the dissolving corporation, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

10.2 In the event of dissolution of MPA, all records and files (physical and/or electronically) should be properly stored, as directed by the Executive Council, for 5 years before any destruction of material.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS:

11.1 Amendments to the Bylaws may be considered by the Executive Council (a) upon its own initiation, or (b) upon written petition of at least 10 percent of the membership. The proposed amendments will be adopted or rejected in accordance with the expressed vote of the plurality. The vote on amendments must be tallied and certified by the Executive Council within two weeks of the final date for voting. The

effective date of an adopted Amendment will be the date of the certification of the vote to adopt. The Executive Council shall begin, on that date, the timely implementation of the adopted amendment.

ARTICLE XII - SUNSET PROVISION:

12.1 Regardless of previous amendments as outlined in Article XI. These bylaws should be reviewed and edited as needed no less than every 5 years, in a manner outlined by the MPA Executive Council.