



By-Laws

Organized in 1887

Incorporated in 1911 under the laws of State of Michigan

A non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

By-Laws

Article I -----	Name	Page 2
Article II -----	Mission	Page 2
Article III -----	Goals	Page 2
Article IV -----	Registered Address	Page 2
Article V -----	Term	Page 2
Article VI -----	Membership	Page 2
Article VII -----	Officers	Page 2
Article VIII -----	Regional Representatives	Page 3
Article IX -----	Board of Directors	Page 3
Article X -----	Meetings	Page 3
Article XI -----	Home Office	Page 3
Article XII -----	Amendments	Page 3
Article XIII -----	Dissolution	Page 3

As Amended at the 53rd Biennial Conference, Lansing, Michigan, August 13, 2011.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I - Name

Section 1: The name of this non-profit organization is "Michigan Deaf Association, Inc." (MDA)

Section 2: This Association, formerly known as Michigan Association of the Deaf, Inc. (MAD) was organized in the City of Flint, Genesee County in 1887 and incorporated in the State of Michigan in 1911.

Section 3: This Association shall be a cooperating member with the National Association of the Deaf, also known as the NAD.

Section 4: This Association is classified as a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE II - Mission

The mission of the Michigan Deaf Association is to preserve the rights and quality of life of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in the State of Michigan.

ARTICLE III - Goals

The goals of the Association are to advocate, promote and achieve:

- A. Effective communication between Deaf and Hard of Hearing and hearing citizens;
- B. The rights to the same opportunities, the same access and the same independence as hearing people;
- C. The preservation of American Sign Language and Deaf Culture and
- D. Provision of social and educational services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

ARTICLE IV - Registered Address

The registered address of this Association shall be the address of the Association's Home Office and/or the Association President.

ARTICLE V - Term

The existence of this corporation is perpetual.

ARTICLE VI - Membership

Section 1: Individual

- A. The membership of this Association shall be open to any Deaf/HH and hearing citizen with understanding that Hearing member may vote but may not be elected officer.

B. Any member shall have voice and vote privileges at the Association meetings.

Section 2: Organization

A. Any Deaf organization in the State of Michigan supporting this Association's purpose and objectives may affiliate with this Association.

B. Any individual who is the member of affiliated organization shall have voice and vote privileges at this Association's meetings.

C. The affiliated organization shall pay special annual dues on rate per member set forth by the Conference assembly. (See Article 2 in the By-Laws.)

Section 3: Each year, graduates of any secondary educational program for the Deaf in the State of Michigan are entitled to a year's free active membership in the Association. Their membership qualifies them to attend meetings of the Chapter nearest their homes. Chapters are responsible in securing the names of such graduates and awarding the membership.

ARTICLE VII - Officers

Section 1: Title and Term

A. The Officers of this Association shall be a President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator and Public Relations Coordinator. These seven (7) duly-elected officers shall serve as an Executive Board.

B. Their terms of office shall be from conference to conference. (2 years)

C. The immediate past President shall serve on the Executive Board and Board of Directors for one year only.

Section 2: Election Procedure

A. The election of officers shall take place only at Biennial Conferences of this Association.

B. A member is eligible to hold an office in this Association if he/she, 1) is a resident of the State of Michigan, 2) is in good standing, and 3) has been a member for at least one year. A former member who wishes to return to the Association and be eligible to hold an office shall pay current year and last year's dues.

C. Newly-elected officers shall take oath on the same day of election. However, they shall not take office until thirty (30) days after an election. The previous officers shall conduct this Association's business during that thirty (30) day period, but shall not initiate any new programs or projects without consulting the newly-elected officers. The newly-elected Board shall be a part of any meeting or business transactions conducted by the previous Board during the thirty (30) day period of transition.

Section 3: Vacancy of Office

A. In the event of the death or resignation of a resident, the 1st Vice-President shall assume the presidency and appoint another person from the Board of Directors to the office of 1st Vice-President, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

B. In the event of the death or resignation of an officer other than the President, the President may appoint another person to fulfill the vacancy, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

C. An officer who desires to resign from office shall submit a written resignation to the Executive Board and it shall be read at the next scheduled Board of Director's meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - Regional Representatives

Section 1: Title and Term

A. The Association shall have two (2) representatives from each of four regions. (Eight representatives total):

Region 1 - Southeastern MDA region counties: Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, Lapeer, Genesee, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Wayne, Lenawee, Monroe.

Region 2 - Southwestern MDA region counties: Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Clinton, Allegan, Barry, Eaton, Ingham, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Jackson, Hillsdale, Branch, St. Joseph, Cass, Berrien.

Region 3 - Central MDA region counties: Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Arenac, Gladwin, Clare, Osceola, Lake, Mason, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland, Bay, Montcalm, Gratiot, Saginaw.

Region 4 - Northern MDA region counties: Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Otsego, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Emmet, Mackinac, Chippewa, Luce, Schoolcraft, Delta, Menominee, Dickinson, Marquette, Iron, Baraga, Houghton, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Keweenaw, Alger.

B. Their term shall be from conference to conference. (2 years)

Section 2: Election Procedure

A. The election of Representatives shall take place at Biennial conference of the Association. Two representatives are elected from each region.

B. A member is eligible to be Representative in this Association if he/she, 1) is a resident of the region in the State of Michigan, 2) is good standing member, and 3) does not hold any office.

C. Newly-elected Representative shall take oath on the same day with the new officers.

D. If not all Representatives are elected at the conference, the President shall appoint members to fill the positions with the approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX - Board of Directors

This Association shall have a Board of Directors. It shall consist of seven (7) duly-elected officers. The Presidents of recognized Chapters and affiliated organizations, Regional Representatives, appointed director of Miss Deaf Michigan Ambassadorship Program and appointed members-at-large. All members of the Board of Directors shall have equal voice and vote.

ARTICLE X - Meetings

Section 1: The Business of the Board of Directors shall be conducted at any time and place in the State of Michigan, whenever a duly-called meeting of its officers and directors shall be assembled. They shall meet at least two (2) times a year and a meeting before the General Session during the Biennial Conference.

Section 2: The meeting of this Association shall convene at Biennial Conferences during odd-numbered years.

ARTICLE XI - Home Office

Section 1: Authorization

The Association may maintain a home office on such location and in such quarters as shall be designated by the Board of Directors. The designated location shall be remained until changed by vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Executive Director

Applications for the Office of Executive Director shall be screened and appointed by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall have the responsibility of maintaining the home office within the policies, guidelines and financial limits established by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall report to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII - Amendments

The By-Laws of this Association shall be amended only at the Biennial Conferences by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present. Such proposed changes must be written and distributed to members sixty (60) days prior to the Conference.

ARTICLE XIII - Dissolution

In the event this Association decides by majority vote at a duly-called Conference to dissolve itself, the Association shall decide by majority vote to distribute all tangible goods and assets included reserve and special funds to any organization or program that focus on Deaf people in the State of Michigan. The recipients of Association assets shall be tax exempt within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.

Dates of Amendments

1985 – Kalamazoo

1993 – Flint

1995 – Troy

1999 – Mt. Pleasant

2001 – Troy

2005 – Pontiac

2007 – Kalamazoo

2009 – Bay City

2011 - Lansing