



Constitution & 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.

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As Amended at the 52st Biennial conference, Bay City, Michigan, August 29, 2009

CONSTITUTION

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 Social Activity Chairperson. 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 Pageant 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 Constitution and By-Laws of this Association may 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.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 – Requirement of Membership

Section A: The active members of this Association are the dues – paying individuals. Life members are the individuals who purchased life membership prior to 1966.

Section B: All members in good standing shall have voice and full voting privileges at all general and emergency general meetings of this Association.

Section C: Any member may be suspended or expelled from the rights and privileges of his/her membership if such action(s) are proven to be a detriment to this Association and its members.

1. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors is sufficient cause for suspension or expulsion.
2. Such members shall have the right to appeal such decision before the membership during an assembled conference.

ARTICLE 2 – Dues and Assessments

Section A: The Association membership dues shall be payable annually beginning January 1st in a calendar year.

1. The rate of dues shall be determined by conference assembly for as listed:
 - a. Individual membership
 - b. Senior citizen individual membership shall begin at the individual's age of 60.
 - c. Affiliated organization membership – special dues.

Section B: If dues are not paid within three (3) months after they become due, the member shall no longer be a member in good standing and shall not be allowed to participate in the proceedings of any meeting of this Association or his/her chapter. Upon receipt of dues to make membership current, the member will regain his/her full privileges.

Section C: The payment of dues shall be made either to the Membership Coordinator or chapter treasurer.

Section D: Assessments may be levied on all members by resolution of the Board of Directors. Such assessments shall be made only once in any twelve (12) months period of time.

ARTICLE 3 – Executive Board

Section A: The Executive Board shall be empowered to act in emergencies, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

Section B: They shall prepare an agenda for the Board of Director's Meetings and Conferences.

Section C: They shall vote on all minor transactions and authorize payments on bills or reasonable amounts.

Section D: In the event of state of national emergency or disaster, when a regular conference cannot be held, the Executive Board elected at the most recent conference shall continue and oversee the affairs of this Association.

Section E: All legal documents given and accepted by this Association shall be executed by the President and Secretary as such officers.

Section F: Interested citizens, Michigan School for the Deaf Alumni Association (MSDAA) Representative and a Michigan Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf (MIRID) Representative shall be appointed as members-at-large by the Executive Board. The number of members-at-large shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the number of officers, chapter representatives on the board.

ARTICLE 4 - Duties of Officers

Section A: President shall:

1. Preside all meetings of this Association and enforce order.
2. Enforce due observance of the constitution and by-laws.
3. Appoint standing and special committees.
4. Appoint the nominating committee at least six (6) months before the biennial conference.
5. Maintain liaison with the National Association of the Deaf at all times.
6. Call special meetings as necessary.

Section B: 1st Vice President shall:

1. Perform all duties of the President in his/her absence.
2. Perform other assignments that the President may delegate.
3. Advise and assist the chairperson of the local planning committee with the biennial conference program.
4. Serve as the chairperson of the Association law committee.

Section C: 2nd Vice President shall:

1. Serve as the Editor of the Association's newsletter.
2. Maintain and distribute Association publications including brochures, flyers and announcements.
3. Provide the public relations service on behalf of the Association.
4. Maintain and update Association's website.
5. Perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and 1st Vice President.
6. Perform other assignments that the President may

delegate in his/her absence.

Section D: Secretary shall:

1. Record minutes of all official Association's and Board of Director's meetings, and shall prepare same for publications within sixty (60) days.
2. Be responsible for all official correspondence conducted in behalf of this Association and its Board of Directors as delegated to him/her by the President and/or the Board of Directors.
3. Receive and certify all credentials of the delegates or representatives of recognized chapters and organizations.
4. If this Association does not have an Executive Director for the Home Office then the secretary shall:
 - a. Be responsible to preserve the history files.
 - b. Be responsible for the organization of files in this Association's Home Office.

Section E: Treasurer shall:

1. Be responsible for all money's collected and disbursed by this Association and record all accounts of receipts and expenditures.
2. Prepare quarterly up-to-date financial reports prior to each meeting of this Association and Board of Directors.
3. Sign as the principal co-signer of checks of this Association.
4. Post a bond every two (2) years, amount to be determined by the Board of Directors, including the theft indemnity clause, bond premium to be paid by this Association.
5. Maintain various funds as set up, with advice of the Board of Directors.
6. Have his/her signature on all standing committee's and any special committee's bank account, if any.

Section F: Membership Coordinator shall:

1. Keep records of all membership dues, and issue receipts and membership cards upon receipt of dues collected and sent in by chapter treasurers.
2. Keep an up-to-date membership and address list.
3. Conduct drive to recruit new members.
4. Notify the local chapter of new member(s) from their area.
5. Notify 2nd Vice-President of any new and renewal members and their addresses.

Section G: Social Activity Chairperson shall:

1. Plan activities or events with assistance of any MDA members or non-members.
2. Submit plan and itemized budget to the Board of Directors for approval.
3. Be responsible for the receipts and expenditures of the activities or events.
4. Shall make a financial report to the Board of Directors during the next board meeting after the completion of an activity or an event.

Section H: Regional Representatives shall:

1. Represent Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents of the

region.

2. Represent the Association at any function in the region.
3. Responsible for securing place for Association activities and meetings.
4. Provide information about the Association.

ARTICLE 5 – Chapters

Section A: Establishment

1. The Board of Directors shall promote the establishment of Association chapters covering such areas in the state of Michigan as it may deem advisable.
2. The Executive Board shall provide duly-executed chapters bearing the Association seal to the chapters.

Section B: Purpose

1. The purpose of chapters are to recruit more members in their respective areas for this Association.
2. The aim is to maintain interest and assist in carrying out the general objectives of this Association.

Section C: Objectives.

Objectives of chapters are to be conducted in harmony with those of this Association. Each chapter may conduct its own affairs as it deems best. Chapters are encouraged, if circumstances permit, to donate moneys to the general fund of this Association.

Section D: Indebtedness.

Under no circumstances shall chapters incur indebtedness in the name of this Association.

Section E: Election of Chapter Officers

1. Chapters shall hold their elections at the earliest possible time after the Association conference.
2. The names and addresses of all chapter officers shall be forwarded to the Association secretary immediately after each election.
3. If a chapter officer is elected to an office of this Association, he/she will automatically be required to give up his/her office in his/her chapter.

Section F: Duties of Chapter Treasurer

The Chapter Treasurer shall assume full responsibility to collect dues and forward same with names and addresses to the Association Membership Coordinator within thirty (30) days of their receipts. The membership cards will be issued by the Association treasurer only.

Section G: Representatives to the Board of Directors Meetings

1. Each chapter and affiliated organization president shall automatically become a member of the Board of Directors.
2. Each chapter and affiliation organization president shall attend all Board of Directors meetings. In case of absence, he/she shall appoint an alternate who is a member in good standing. A written or verbal authorization for the alternate must be forwarded to the Association secretary.

Section H: Expenses for Board of Directors Meetings

Each chapter shall assume the responsibility of reimbursing

expenses for transportation and meals incurred by their representatives.

ARTICLE 6 – Functions of Board of Directors

Section A: The Board of Directors shall:

1. Be empowered to transact all business affairs of this Association between conferences.
2. Determine per diem expenses to the executive board, law committee chair and the editor during conference from time to time.
3. Assume the responsibility of reviewing any proposals, motions, or amendments prior to conference.
4. Have the power to suspend any officer(s) for good and sufficient reason by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
5. Have the authority to administer all funds donated to this Association.

Section B: Reimbursements

1. Reasonable expenses incurred by the duly-elected officers, the immediate past president and the members-at-large attending board meetings shall be reimbursed by this Association.
2. The MDA Recording Editor and President's committee chair(s) attending on the President's request shall also be reimbursed by the Association.
3. The Association shall reimburse the travel expenses for the auditors to check Treasurer's reports.
4. The Board of Directors shall decide the amount or rate of reimbursement effective for two years after the conference.
5. The member has a choice to request or decline reimbursement.

ARTICLE 7 – Quorum

Section A: The number of members of the Board of Directors present shall constitute a quorum.

1. A majority vote shall decide all transactions.

Section B: Members of this Association present at all conferences and officially announced general meetings shall constitute a quorum.

1. A majority vote shall decide all transactions except amendments. (See Constitution, Article X)

ARTICLE 8 – Conference

Section A: The Association shall hold a conference every odd numbered year.

Section B: Conference Bids

1. This Association shall accept bids from host chapters for future conferences. It shall schedule at least four (4) years in advance.
2. Host conference bids must have approval in writing from the officers of the chapter making the bid.
3. Chapters shall submit host conference bids to the Board of Directors at any time up until the general opening of the conference. The bid must be accompanied with letters of confirmation from a site.

4. The next conference site shall be determined by the Association members in assembly at conference.

5. If no one submits a bid, the Board of Directors shall have the discretion to choose a site and the host committee for the conference.

Section C: Host Committee

1. The bidding chapter receiving the majority vote shall be host committee for the next conference.
2. Host committee shall select its own chair and notify the Association President.
3. Chair shall appoint sub-committees to handle registration, program and banquet.
4. The host committee shall mail conference information along with hotel/motel reservation card, at least six (6) months before any conference.
5. The host committee shall work closely with the Board of Directors in the planning for conference.
6. The host committee shall submit all reports of conference and finances to the Association President within ninety (90) days after the conference, and shall become final upon the Board of Directors' approval.

Section D: Financial Report

1. The financial report shall include an itemized record of all receipts and expenditures as recorded on the last day of the conference.
2. After all expenditures are paid; conference monies on hand shall be divided sixty (60) percent to be given to the host chapter and forty (40) percent to be given to the Association.
3. In the event of a deficit, this Association shall withdraw moneys from MDA conference fund to help defray debts incurred as result of the conference. (Bylaws Article 9, Section C1)

Section E: Conference Agenda

Conference agenda shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section F: Nominations for Officers

Nominations for any office may be made in two (2) ways.

1. From floor
2. By the nominating committee

Section G: Voting Procedure

1. During business sessions, the voting shall be by show of hand.
2. During elections, the election of candidates shall be by written ballot.
3. Balloting shall continue until the candidate has received a majority vote.
4. A majority vote of an assembly present may transact any and all business of this Association except amendments. (See Article X)

Section H: Veto

The assembly may veto any decision or action of the Board of Directors.

Section I: National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference Delegates

The Association President and Vice-President are the delegates to the NAD biennial regional meeting and conference. Selection of additional Association delegate(s) to NAD conference shall be made by the assembly at the Association's biennial conference.

Section J: Solicitation

No soliciting for any purpose shall be allowed at any conference without prior authorization by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 9 – Funds

This Association shall maintain a general fund and reserve funds, as specified:

Section A: General Fund shall be maintained to help defray its operation expenses.

1. All revenues from dues, affiliation fees, contributions, and transfer of funds from other sources shall be deposited into this Association's checking account. The checking account maximum balance shall be any excess funds as decided by the Executive Board shall be transferred to the savings account.
2. Any two (2) of seven (7) duly-elected officers are required to co-sign for disbursement of moneys from the general fund.
3. Treasurer is authorized to spend a total of no more than \$100.00 each month. Amounts above \$100.00 require approval of the Executive Board.
4. No moneys are withdrawn from the checking or savings account for making investments before the approval of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must receive complete information on any investment before making decision.

Section B: Reserve NAD Quota Fund

This fund shall be maintained to help defray the annual quota assessment imposed on this Association by the NAD. The per-person quota fee set by the NAD shall be collected from the dues and be deposited into this fund. The state fee set by NAD shall be disbursed out of the Association operating expense fund.

Section C: Reserve Conference Fund

This fund shall help to defray deficits incurred by the committee hosting the biennial conferences of this Association.

1. Only the Board of Directors shall be empowered to disburse monies from the conference fund. This shall be asked on proof of reasonable needs of the host committee.

Section D: Reserve Scholarship Fund

This fund is established to preserve the memories of Thomas Lewis Brown and Willie Hubbard, long time and beloved teachers of Michigan School for the Deaf, and Grace Lacey, beloved friend and interpreter for the deaf people, especially in the Detroit area.

1. The purpose of the fund is:
 - a. To disburse reasonable amount of scholarship fund, upon approval of the Board of Directors, annually to each legally deaf recipient, male and female, who graduate from secondary school

programs, two from Michigan School for the Deaf and two from mainstreaming settings which practice the total communications philosophy, based on academic achievements and leadership.

b. Detailed procedures and eligibility will be set forth by the Board of Directors.

Section E: Reserve Ben Beaver Award Fund

This fund (combination of Michigan School for the Deaf, Don Brown, and Ben Beaver Funds) is maintained to be used for class action suits for the benefit of all deaf people's rights.

1. The minimum balance of this fund shall be kept at of three thousand (\$3,000) dollars. This fund shall earn interest. Any amount in excess of \$3,000 may be used for the purpose of this section.
2. The responsibility for collecting contributions and disbursing monies shall be assumed by the Board of Directors.

Section F: Home Fund

This fund shall be maintained for the expenses incurred by the running of the Home Office.

Section G: Audit of Funds

1. The President shall appoint three (3) auditors, who are of good standing members of this Association who live within 100 miles of the current Association Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer's report requires the signatures of at least two (2) out of three (3) auditors.
2. The financial status of this Association shall be audited by the two (2) auditors at least two (2) times a year.
3. The fiscal year of this Association is from January 1 to December 31.

ARTICLE 10 – Committees

1. All committee chairs shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.
2. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except of the nominating committee.
3. All committee chairs and his/her entire committee members are required to become members of this Association.

Section A: Law Committee

Law committee shall review the constitution and bylaws of this Association and recommend proposal for changes to the Board of Directors and the conference.

1. Recommendations must be presented to the Board of Directors ninety (90) days and to members in good standing sixty (60) days prior to the conference.
2. Final decisions of revisions are made at the conference.
3. The 1st Vice-President shall be the chair of the constitution and bylaws committee.

Sections B: Ways & Means Committee

Ways & Means committee shall provide overall financial statements and recommendations for improvement or growth, to the Board of

Directors at the biennial conference.

1. This committee shall review the income, expenditures and programs financed by this Association, and submit a proposed two-year budget to be put into effect on January 1st. This proposed budget shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

2. The approved budget will be put into effect beginning January 1 after each biennial conference.

Section C: Resolution Committee

Resolution committee shall prepare resolutions, policy statements or plans of action to be followed up by the Board of Directors.

Section D: Necrology Committee

Necrology committee shall prepare a list of members who have passed away between conferences.

Section E: Nominating Committee

Nominating committee shall ask for nominations for state officers, and prepare a slate for the election process (see Article 4, Section A4).

Section F: Award Committee

Award committee shall determine individual awards for outstanding deeds or donations of time and money for the benefit of Deaf people of this Association.

1. Suggested awards listed:

President's Award

Volunteer of the Year

Employer of the Year

Interpreter of the Year

Ben Beaver Leadership Award

Special Awards

Section G: Miss Deaf Michigan Pageant (MDMP)

1. MDMP is a committee of the Association for conducting the biennial contest for Deaf or Hard of Hearing young female adults. MDMP shall follow the rules set forth by the Miss Deaf American Pageant under National Association of the Deaf.

2. The MDA President shall appoint MDMP Director when there is no recommendation from the MDMP board. The director has two-year term.

3. The MDMP Director must be a good standing member of MDA.

4. The MDMP Director shall have voice and voting privileges at the Board of Director meetings, conference committee meetings and Association business meetings.

5. The MDMP Director may select assistant director, secretary, treasurer and other members to serve on the MDMP committee.

6. The Pageant shall be held at the MDA biennial conference unless both the MDA Board of Directors and MDMP committee agree to separate locations and times ahead of time.

7. The MDMP committee has the authority to operate the pageant in any way they desire. They are to work with the conference committee on scheduling, ticket prices and etc.

8. The MDMP committee may open an account at any

bank. The account shall be audited by the MDA auditors.

9. The funds in the account shall be used for the expenses of operating the Miss Deaf Michigan Pageant and for sending Miss Deaf Michigan, Chaperone and Director to Miss Deaf America Pageant.

10. The bank account shall remain open to earn interest and to build up funds for the biennial contest.

11. When MDMP becomes inactive, all its funds shall be transferred to the MDA treasury and placed on hold in its reserved fund for the MDMP.

12. MDMP has the option to establish emergency fund within MDA account.

13. The MDA shall provide a crown and scholarship for the winner. The amount of scholarship is to be determined by its Board of Directors.

14. In event of a decision made by the MDMP committee that may have negative impact on both the MDMP and MDA, the MDMP Director shall inform and meet with the MDA President before executing their decision. MDA Board reserves the right to make the final decision.

ARTICLE 11 – Affiliations

Section A: Except for Deaf organization in Article V of the constitution, any other agency or organization, incorporated or not, may affiliate with this Association by signing an article of affiliation, going on record as begin wholehearted willing to cooperate in the work of this Association in advancing its purposes.

Section B: Each agency or organization shall pay an annual affiliation fee of fifty (\$50.00) dollars to this Association. The fee shall be deposited into the general fund.

Section C: Each agency or organization, upon annual payment of an affiliation fee, shall be entitled to any current information and newsletters.

Section D: On representative of each affiliated agency or organization has voting and voice privilege at the Association's Board of Directors meeting and business meeting during the biennial conference.

ARTICLE 12 – Official Publication

Section A: This Association shall publish a newsletter, the MDA Record, at least four (4) times a year. It shall include minutes of the Board of Directors meetings.

Section B: The purpose is to keep the members and affiliated organizations up to date by distributing information and news about the activities of this Association.

Section C: The Editor (2nd Vice-President) shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in publishing of the MDA Record by this Association.

Section D: All newsletters shall be mailed to those listed on the official membership list. Other individuals or organizations may subscribe to the MDA Record, at a fee determined by the Board of

Directors.

ARTICLE 13 – Association Colors

Section A: The official colors of the Association are red, white and blue.

Section B: The Board of Directors shall approve all designs using the colors before the materials are printed or produced.

ARTICLE 14 – Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall be the parliamentary authority on all matters not covered by the constitution and by-laws of this Association.

Dates of Amendments

1985 – Kalamazoo

1993 – Flint

1995 – Troy

1999 – Mt. Pleasant

2001 – Troy

2005 – Pontiac

2007 – Kalamazoo

2009 – Bay City

Oath for Officers

"I hereby promise to observe and uphold the Constitution and By-laws of the Michigan Deaf Association, Inc. to protect the rights of Deaf Citizens. I will at all times discharge the duties of my office to the best of my ability. So help me God."

"This is not a part of the Constitution and By-Laws. It was added as a guide for a person who leads the oath (9/29/1995).

Traditional Responsibilities for President

At the beginning of a new term, the President fills the vacancies not elected at the conference, such as regional representative, pageant director, youth director, conference chair, and MIRID representative.

In preparation for the conference, the President is to appoint a person to chair the following duties: nominating, necrology, awards, resolutions. Each chairperson selected may form a committee to assist him/her with his/her duties.

The President is to select a chairperson for the annual picnic committee.