

Professional Rehabilitation Workers with the Adult Deaf

BYLAWS

(As Amended at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 19, 1967)

ARTICLE I—NAME

*Section 1.* The name of this organization shall be “Professional Rehabilitation Workers With the Adult Deaf.”

ARTICLE II—PURPOSES

*Section 3.* The purposes of this organization shall be: (1) To promote the development and expansion of professional rehabilitation services for the adult deaf; (2) To provide a forum and a common meeting ground so that the organization may be instrumental in bringing about a better understanding of deaf people as a whole by encouraging students, professional persons and laymen to develop more than a superficial understanding of the needs and problems of this group—especially the problems related to communication techniques needed to work effectively with the adult deaf in a rehabilitation setting; (3) To promote and encourage scientific research of the needs and problems engendered by deafness which inhibit in important ways the successful overall functioning of a deaf person; (4) To promote and develop recruitment and training of professional workers for the deaf; (5) To sponsor a professional publication for the promotion of inter- and intra-disciplinary communication among professional persons primarily concerned with deaf adults and others interested in such activities; and (6) To cooperate with other organizations concerned with deafness and rehabilitation of the deaf and with allied services in promoting and encouraging legislation pertinent to the development of professional services and facilities for the adult deaf.

*Section 2.* The word “Professional” is herein construed to mean any person who devotes a substantial part of his time providing rehabilitation-oriented services, administration, research or training in behalf of deaf adults. The disciplines of rehabilitation, education, psychology, social work, audiology, speech therapy and allied fields are specifically included in this definition.

*Section 3.* The phrase “adult deaf” is herein construed to mean any person whose hearing (with or without amplification) is non-functional for everyday use, who has attained the age of 16 and who

is no longer a full-time pupil in any private or public school for the deaf; However, full-time attendance in a vocational or other training program in such a school is included in this definition.

*Section 4.* This organization shall be non-profit and non-political. No activities shall be undertaken for the individual profit of any of its officers and members, and no alliance, financial or otherwise, shall be made with any political party or any candidate for political office.

#### ARTICLE III—QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

*Section 1.* Membership in this organization may be either Regular or Honorary.

*Section 2.* In order to qualify for Regular membership, the applicant must: (1) Have at least an undergraduate degree in education, psychology, social work, rehabilitation or allied fields, and (2) Be currently providing professional services as defined in Article II, Section 2 of these Bylaws, and (3) Be accepted by the Membership Committee. Regular members shall be eligible to make motions and vote, to serve on committees, and to hold office in the organization.

*Section 3.* Dues for regular membership shall be \$10.00 per year. Membership begins on July 1 of each year. Dues may not be prorated and shall include a subscription to the Organization's publication.

*Section 4.* All applications for Regular membership shall be accompanied by payment of dues in full.

*Section 5.* Honorary membership may be awarded to any Regular member who has made an outstanding and lasting contribution to the development and/or extension of professional rehabilitation services to the adult deaf. Such membership shall continue for the lifetime of the recipient, and may be awarded only by two-thirds vote of all members registered at a regular convention. The award shall be commemorated by a suitable certificate. Not more than one honorary membership may be awarded at any single convention. Honorary members shall have all the privileges of regular members outlined in Section 3 of this Article, except that no dues or registration fee shall be assessed Honorary Members.

*Section 6.* Persons now employed in professional work with the adult deaf as defined in Article II, Sec. 2, but who lack the qualifications for Regular membership as set forth in Sec. 2 of Article III may be accepted as Regular members by the Membership Committee during a period of three years beginning July 1, 1966. Persons accepted for Regular membership after this three year period must meet all of the qualifications set forth in Section 2 of Article III.

#### ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS

*Section 1.* The officers of this organization shall be a President,

First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

*Section 2.* The duties of the President shall be to preside over general conventions of the organization and over meetings of the Executive Board; to appoint chairmen and members of special and standing committees as set forth elsewhere in these Bylaws; to issue calls to convention through the organization's official publication and/or by any other means he may deem advisable; and to generally administer and enforce these Bylaws. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating and Elections Committee.

*Section 3.* The First Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the latter's absence. In the event the Presidency is vacated he shall assume the office. He shall ensure that interpreters skilled in the language of signs are available at all general, section, or panel meetings during conventions. Should a deaf person or persons be elected to the Executive Board, the First Vice-President shall be responsible for obtaining interpreters for Board Meetings. Preference, where possible, should be given to interpreters who are registered with and/or accredited by the Registry or Interpreters for the Deaf. The First Vice-President shall also act as a member of the Bylaws Committee.

*Section 4.* The Second Vice-President shall be the Chairman of the PRWAD Conventions Committee. He shall submit copies of the proposed agenda to the Executive Board for its approval at least 90 days prior to the date of the Convention, and subsequently notify the membership of the approved agenda at least 30 days prior to the Convention.

*Section 5.* The Secretary shall transcribe the minutes of business meetings during the convention, coordinate and/or carry on the general correspondence of the organization, and maintain all records of the organization except those pertaining to financial matters. He shall be responsible for receiving and tabulating mail ballots during elections and referendums. He shall receive all applications for membership, and immediately transmit applications to the chairman of the Membership Committee. He shall transmit the dues of new members to the Treasurer. The Secretary shall be primarily responsible for maintaining current membership rolls, and shall be responsible for providing duplicate, up-to-date membership rolls to the Editor of the official publication.

*Section 6.* The Treasurer shall have general responsibility for the financial affairs and records of the organization. He shall be bonded for an amount proportional to the sum in the organization's treas-

ury. He shall receive the dues of new members from the Secretary and shall provide membership cards to the members. He shall coordinate and facilitate the handling of financial matters during conventions, although he may delegate the actual handling of funds to other Regular members of the organization. Prior to the first business session of each convention, he shall prepare a financial statement listing all liabilities and assets of the organization. This statement and his records shall be examined and approved by the Executive Board, a committee, or a certified public accountant appointed by the Board. He shall also prepare a biennial budget for approval by the Executive Board.

*Section 7.* The term of all officers shall be for two years, beginning July 1 of the biennium and ending June 30 of the biennium.

*Section 8.* In the event of a vacancy in any office except the Presidency, a successor shall be elected to serve the remainder of the term by majority vote of the Executive Board within sixty (60) days after the vacancy occurs. Election may be by mail ballot and shall be conducted by the Secretary or, should the office of the Secretary be vacant, by the President.

#### ARTICLE V—EXECUTIVE BOARD

*Section 1.* There shall be an Executive Board consisting of all officers of the organization plus four (4) Board members.

*Section 2.* In the first general mail ballot for the biennium beginning July 1, 1967, two Board Members shall be elected to serve one two-year term, and two Board Members to serve one four-year term. Thereafter, all Board Members shall be elected to four-year terms, such terms to begin July 1 of the biennial year.

*Section 3.* No Board Member shall succeed himself, except in the case that two Board Members who are elected for two-year terms in the first election may be re-elected for a full four-year term.

*Section 4.* In the event of a Board vacancy, with the exception of the Presidency, between elections, the Executive Board shall elect a replacement for the duration of the term. Replacements may be elected for a subsequent term.

*Section 5.* It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to determine the date and site of regular conventions; to determine policy matters of the organization between conventions; and, in general, to act for the membership between conventions. None of its actions, however, shall overrule, contradict, or render ineffective any action taken by any regular convention as a whole. The organization will have a convention at least once during the biennium.

*Section 6.* It is desirable for the Executive Board to meet at six-month intervals between conventions. Until such time as this is feasi-

ble, the Board shall meet on the call of the President, who shall convene such meetings at his discretion or upon the written request of three Executive Board members.

*Section 7.* Five members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum at Board meetings.

*Section 8.* It is desirable, if the financial status of the organization permits, that all officers and members of the Executive Board be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred at conventions or at meetings of the Board, including travel expenses.

#### ARTICLE VI—ELECTIONS

*Section 1.* The election of Officers and Board Members of the organization shall be by mail balloting carried out in the following manner: (1) At least six months prior to the beginning of a new term, the Nominating and Elections Committee shall distribute a ballot to the membership by mail. This ballot shall include two nominees for each office to be filled, except for the office of President. The ballot shall also include provision for a write in vote for each office. For the office of President, the name of the current First Vice-President shall be the only name placed on the ballot, although the provision for a write in vote shall also be included. (2) The membership shall mark and return its ballots to the Secretary of the organization within thirty (30) days. (3) If no nominee for a vacancy receives a majority of all votes cast for that vacancy, the Nominating and Elections Committee shall conduct a run-off election between the two nominees polling the most votes for the vacancy.

*Section 2.* The President and the First Vice-President shall not be eligible for a second consecutive term in the same office. Other officers may be eligible for no more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

#### ARTICLE VII—STANDING COMMITTEES

*Section 1.* There shall be a Membership Committee consisting of six persons appointed by the President. Such appointments shall be subject to the approval of a majority of the Executive Board. The committee shall elect two co-chairmen from among its members. One chairman shall receive applications for Regular membership from the Secretary and circulate them among his sub-committee members for consideration. The Chairman shall then inform the Secretary of the decision of the committee as a whole. The second chairman, together with his sub-committee members, shall be responsible for promoting membership.

*Section 2.* There shall be a standing Bylaws Committee consisting of three members of the Organization appointed by the new President at the close of each Convention to serve through the next Con-

vention. The First Vice-President shall be a member of this committee. The committee shall elect its own chairman. All amendments to these Bylaws shall be submitted to the Chairman in accordance with Article X, Section 1. During the Convention, the committee shall report upon all amendments properly submitted. The Regular members present shall then act upon the reports. None of the members of this committee, with the exception of the First Vice-President and the President, who is an ex-officio member, shall be members of the Executive Board.

*Section 3.* There shall be a Nominating and Elections Committee consisting of five members elected by the Executive Board. The Secretary of this organization shall serve as the non-voting Secretary of the Committee. This committee shall be responsible for conducting the elections as set forth in Article VI, Section 1 of these Bylaws.

*Section 4.* The Editor and Editorial Advisory Committee of the organization's official publication shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Board and any appointment may be revoked by a two-thirds majority of the Board.

#### ARTICLE VIII—CONVENTIONS

*Section 1.* The organization shall meet at least once during each biennium after July 1, 1967 on such dates and at such a place as may be determined by the Executive Board.

*Section 2.* The purpose of such conventions shall be to stimulate the membership towards the objectives of the organization as set forth in Article II, Section 1 of these Bylaws, to promote professional growth among the members, and to conduct the business of the organization as a whole.

*Section 3.* A simple majority of the Regular members registered for the convention shall constitute a quorum for the business sessions of the convention.

#### ARTICLE IX—RULES OF ORDER

*Section 1.* The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised" shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

#### ARTICLE X—AMENDMENTS

*Section 1.* These Bylaws may be amended upon vote two-thirds of the membership present in any business session of the organization during conventions, a quorum being present and voting. However, Regular members must submit amendments to the chairman of the Bylaws Committee in writing at least 90 days prior to the convention, and such amendments must be published and mailed to all Regular members at least 30 days prior to the convention at which balloting is to be held on the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE XI—DISSOLUTION

*Section 1.* Should the organization be dissolved for any reason whatsoever, any balance remaining in the treasury shall be turned over to the National Association of the Deaf.