

**GEORGIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BYLAWS**

(As revised at the annual meeting on September 3, 2022)

ARTICLE I Name

Section 1. The organization shall be known as Georgia School for the Deaf Alumni Association, Inc. (Hereafter known as "the GSDAA" or hereinafter in the Bylaws known as the "Alumni Association").

Section 2. The Alumni Association shall be incorporated under the laws of the state of Georgia as non-profit organization for educational, charitable, and deaf culture purposes.

ARTICLE II Objectives

Section 1. The objectives of the Alumni Association are:

- a. To keep in close touch with its Alma Mater.
- b. To lend every effort possible to the growth and preservation of Deaf rights (the word "Deaf" includes any kind of hearing loss) in the State of Georgia and the nation, when possible, especially to the Georgia School for the Deaf

ARTICLE III Membership

Section 1. Active Membership: Graduates, former students, and employees of the Georgia School for the Deaf, upon payment of required dues and in good standing, shall be entitled to full membership (*refer to Article VI, Section 4*).

Section 2. Associate Membership: An individual, not as described in Active Membership, (Section 1, above), may be admitted with all membership privileges except holding office (as listed in Article VI), upon payment of the required membership dues.

Section 3. Membership and membership dues shall be for one year from the month that dues are paid to the same month of the following the year.

ARTICLE IV The Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors (hereinafter the "Board") shall be the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the three Trustees, and the Standing Committee Chairs.

Section 2. The Board shall have the power to use any available funds of the alumni except the Scholarship and the Museum Funds to promote the interest of the Alumni Association.

Section 3. The Board, at the board meeting, shall spend up to \$1000.00 with approval of 2/3 of the Board members present.

Section 4. The Board shall have the power by a two-third vote, with sufficient reasons, to suspend or remove any officers from his/her duties or from the privileges of the Alumni Association, however such suspended shall have the right to appeal to the Alumni Association at a Board meeting.

Section 5. If a member of the Board absents himself/herself from two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board without sufficient reason, he/she shall be considered removed by the Board and a successor shall be named by the remaining members.

- a. Excused absences shall include true emergencies, illnesses, and job-related conflicts.
- b. Any member of the Board, whose job frequently conflicts with his/her duty and attendance, shall consider abstaining from accepting the position.

ARTICLE V Elections

Section 1. The officers and the three trustees, except the Treasurer, shall be elected separately by a majority ballot of the members every two even-numbered years at the regular meeting.

- a. The Treasurer shall be elected every four years.
- b. There shall be no voting by mail, online, or proxy.

ARTICLE VI Museum

Section 1. The Georgia School for the Deaf Alumni Association Museum shall be renamed Alvin Edward “Ed” Steele, Jr. Museum (short for Steele Museum).

- a. The Steele Museum shall have at least a chair/coordinator and two standing Museum curators and a historian who must be GSDAA members. They shall assume the responsibilities of promoting the protection and preservation of artifacts, pictures and historical memorabilia relating to the Georgia School for the Deaf.
- b. The Alumni Association shall purchase property where GSDAA can own within 5 years.

ARTICLE VII Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Alumni Association shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer and must be graduates of the Georgia School for the Deaf.

Section 2. The outgoing President shall assume the office of Immediate Past President for a period of six (6) months with all the rights and duties of membership on the Board.

Section 3. The outgoing Treasurer shall assume the office of Immediate Past Treasurer for a period of six (6) months as a mentor to the new Treasurer.

Section 4. All the officers of the Alumni Association, including the Board, shall be active members for two (2) years prior to election, graduates of the Georgia School for the Deaf, and residents of Georgia or employees of the Georgia School for the Deaf. and residents of Georgia or employees of Georgia School for the Deaf, (*Refer to Article III, Section 1*).

Section 5. The officers shall have general management of the affairs of the Alumni Association as expressed by resolution or otherwise.

Section 6. Newly elected officers shall assume office immediately after final adjournment of the current meeting and continue until their successors are elected and qualified. The following oath shall be administered by the retiring President or any other member in good standing.

"I solemnly pledge to observe and uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of the Alumni Association, and to faithfully perform the duties of my office, to the best of my ability. "

Section 7. In the event of a resignation of an officer, a formal notice with a statement of reason thereof shall be submitted to the President of the Alumni Association who shall be empowered to appoint a qualified member, as defined in *Article III, Section 1*, of the Alumni Association to fill the vacancy subject to the approval of the Board. In the event the President resigns, he/she is to submit in writing to the Secretary of the Alumni Association.

Section 8. Spouses and/or partners may not hold any offices simultaneously.

Section 9. Officers of the Alumni Association may be paid for any necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. They shall submit vouchers or written reports of their expenses to the Board for approval.

Section 10. Notwithstanding any provision of this article, the Board of Directors may by resolution, authorize, and officer or officers, agent, or agents, of the Organization to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any bonds, notes, or instruments in the name or on behalf of the Organization. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

ARTICLE VIII Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President

- a. Shall preside at all meetings of the Alumni Association and of the Board at its regular meetings and any other official meetings under the jurisdiction of the Alumni Association.
- b. Shall perform all the duties ordinarily associated with the office of President, including cosigning all checks payable with the Treasurer.
- c. Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and other functions.
- d. Shall appoint a Parliamentarian, a Historian, a Webmaster, a Newsletter Editor, the Standing and Non-standing Chairs, and others with approval from the Board.

Section 2. The Vice President

- a. Shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence.
- b. Shall perform duties assigned by the President.
- c. Shall succeed in case of the President's resignation, inability to perform his/her duties, or death.

Section 3. The Secretary

- a. Shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Alumni Association at its various meetings and prepare the same for publication as may be directed by the Alumni Association.
- b. Shall have charge of all papers and correspondences of the Alumni Association except that properly belongs to other officers.
- c. Shall give in ample time to each member notice of a upcoming meeting.
- d. Shall perform such other duties as may be delegated to him/her as directed by the Board.

Section 4. The Treasurer

- a. Shall have the custody of all monies and securities belonging to the Alumni Association.
- b. Shall keep an accurate account, verified by Vouchers, of receipts and expenditures and submit an audited report of the same to the Alumni Association at its regular meeting.
- c. Shall pay no bills over \$1000.00 unless approved by the Board.
- d. Three (3) Alumni Association Trustees shall inspect and audit the Treasurer's books at least twice annually.
- e. Shall be responsible for filing IRS Tax Forms every year.
- f. Shall be responsible for all State of Georgia incorporation fees.

Section 5. The Membership Chair

- a. Shall give members notice of their dues, when due and keep record of those who are in arrears.
- b. Shall maintain membership records.
- c. Shall give an updated list with addresses to the Alumni Association Newsletter the Editor, the Webmaster, and the Treasurer.
- d. Shall verify membership at the Alumni Association General Meeting.

Section 6. The Scholarship Chair

- a. Shall be in the charge of the Scholarship Funds and new future funds.
- b. Shall choose a committee of two to assist in the scholarship selection.
- c. Shall make an annual report to the Board from the Scholarship Committee.

ARTICLE IX Auditors

Section 1. The President of the Alumni Association shall pick two auditors to check the books of the officers of the Alumni Association thirty (30) days prior to its annual meeting.

Section 2. The same two auditors shall check the Treasurer's report and submit its report to the next Board meeting.

ARTICLE X The Committees

Section 1. There shall permanent funds for the following committees.

- a. General
- b. GSD Sports/Homecoming

- c. Hall of Fame
- d. Museum*
- e. Scholarships*

*Cannot be used for other funds

Section 2. Museum Committee:

- a. The Museum Committee, consisting of at least three (3) members, shall be appointed by the President. The Museum Committee Chairperson must be a Georgia resident and a graduate of the Georgia School for the Deaf.
- b. The members of the Museum Committee shall have at least three (3) members. The members of the Museum Committee will be appointed by the Museum Chairperson with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- c. The Museum Committee shall have a permanent historian.

Section 3. Law Committee:

- a. The Law Committee, consisting of three (3) members, shall consider all proposed amendments to the Bylaws, properly submitted to the chair of the Law Committee, and shall recommend their acceptance or rejection.
- b. The committee shall provide a new copy of the revised Constitution and Bylaws to the members within ninety (90) days after the regular Alumni Association meeting.

Section 4. Homecoming Event Committee:

- a. The President, with approval, shall appoint the Sports/Homecoming Event Chair at least six(6) months before the Sports/Homecoming date.
- b. The Chair must develop the Sports/Homecoming Event plan at least three (3) months to be presented to the Board for approval.
- c. The committee shall be responsible for recording revenues and expenses. Any monies (left-over or incurred) from said event must be given to the Treasurer within five (5) business days after the Sports/Homecoming event.

Section 5. Scholarship Committee:

- a. The Scholarship Committee will develop any new policy or guidelines for future Scholarship Funds to be presented to the Board for their approval.

Section 6. Newsletter Committee:

- a. The Alumni Association Newsletter Chair shall be the editor.
- b. The functions of the Newsletter shall be as mentioned in ARTICLE XII - Official Publication of the Association.

Section 7. Fund Raising Committee:

- a. The Board will develop a policy or guideline for the purpose of raising funds.
- b. The Chair appointed by the President with the Board approval shall be responsible for recording the Fund-Raising revenues and giving the net revenue to the Treasurer in a timely manner.

Section 8. Membership Committee

- a. The Membership Committee shall be appointed by the President.
- b. Shall oversee any member-related issued, i.e., dues, mailings, etc.
- c. Shall host membership drives, membership-related contests, to increase the membership fund, etc.

Section 9. Non-standing Committees:

- a. President shall appoint the non-standing committee chair and members with the Board approval.
- b. President shall assign the duties to the non-standing committees.
- c. The Nominating Committee shall be established two (2) months before the election.

ARTICLE XI Funds

Section 1. There shall be permanent funds for the following specific purposes:

- a. General
- b. Museum*
- c. Scholarships*
- d. Sports/Homecoming Events
- e. Hail of Fame

*Cannot be used for other funds

ARTICLE XII Dues

Section 1. The membership dues shall be determined by members at its regular meetings.

- a. Annual membership dues shall be \$10 per year unless changed by members.
- b. Lifetime membership dues shall be a one-time \$100.
- c. Alumni at 80 years of age or older shall become lifetime members without paying dues.

Section 2. The privilege of membership in the Alumni Association accrues to any members in good standing to vote at annual meetings, certain Board meetings, serve on committees, receive ail the publications of the Alumni Association, and receive all notices of the Alumni Association's meeting and, except for Associate members, may hold office.

ARTICLE XIII Official Publications of the Association

Section 1. The official publications of this Association shall be the Georgia School for the Deaf (GSDAA) Newsletter.

Section 2. It shall be printed and distributed monthly or quarterly providing an editor is available and depending on sufficient funds and news.

Section 3. Subscription is included in membership dues.

Section 4. The President shall appoint an editor to take charge of the publications.

ARTICLE XIV Meetings

Section 1. The Order of Business of this Association shall be as follows:

- a. Invocation (optional)
- b. Reading of Minutes
- c. Communications
- d. President's Address
- e. Report of Officers
- f. Report of Committees
- g. Unfinished Business
- h. New Business (Election of new officers)
- i. Announcements
- j. Adjournment

Section 2. Meetings of the Board shall be held as often as needed and shall be called by the President.

- a. The Board shall have the power to call a special meeting whenever it deems necessary, or whenever 70% or more of the active members of the Alumni Association make a petition for such a meeting.
- b. At the special meetings of which the 70% request, such meeting should be attended by at least 55% of the 70%.
- c. General meetings will be held annually in the Polk/Floyd County areas in Georgia.
- d. At Board meetings there must be at least five (5) Board members present.

Section 3. At the annual meeting, there shall be fifteen (15) members in good standing, beside the officers, to constitute a quorum.

Section 4. In all matters of business affecting the Alumni Association, except amendments to the Bylaws, a majority vote of the active members present shall be decisive.

Section 5. The President shall, when necessary, appoint others to help preserve order during any regular meeting of the Alumni Association.

ARTICLE XV Locations

Section 1. All Board meetings shall be decided by the Board.

ARTICLE XV Alumni Reunion and Class Reunion

Section 1. There shall be an Alumni Reunion hosted by this Alumni Association every five (5) years, starting in 2010.

Section 2. The Alumni Association shall not host any Class Reunions and shall not be responsible for them.

ARTICLE XVI Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Alumni Association may be made at its general meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the active members in attendance.

Section 2. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be in writing and mailed to the Law Committee Chair three months prior to the annual meeting at which time the Law Committee shall study and make reports at the general meeting. The Law Committee shall list all amendment propositions at the general meeting for each member's consideration.

ARTICLE XVII Annual Meeting

Section 1. The annual business meeting of the members of this Alumni Association shall be held on the premises of the Georgia School for the Deaf, or in the vicinity of Floyd County/Polk County, Georgia, between the months of March, April and May every year or the Board shall, by unanimous vote, have the power to change the meeting place and/or date when circumstances warrant such action.

ARTICLE XVIII Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The proceedings of all meetings of the Alumni Association and the Board shall be governed according to the parliamentary laws as set as forth in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition.

ARTICLE XIX Dissolution

Section 1. In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Alumni Association shall be given to the Georgia School for the Deaf Alumni Association Museum (Steele Museum), operating exclusively for charitable, educational, and moral welfare of the deaf.

The Georgia School for the Deaf Alumni Association, Inc. does not discriminate in any of its educational programs, events, or activities based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion, disability, sex or gender.