

**Bylaws of the
AMERICAN ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Ratified by the Membership: May 2016

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AMERICAN ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC. BYLAWS

ARTICLE I NAME

As established in the Articles of Incorporation, the name of this not-for-profit corporation shall be the American Art Therapy Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as AATA or the ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the ASSOCIATION as established in the Articles of Incorporation is to advance the field of art therapy among professionals and the public.

Section 2. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, this corporation is organized exclusively for such purposes as are authorized and permitted by Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), and this Corporation shall not carry on any activities which are not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from taxation under said Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Categories, Qualifications, and Privileges. Each AATA Membership category has specific qualifications and privileges. These are introduced below, and further delineated in the AATA Policies and Procedures.

- A. **Credentialed Professional:** Individuals who maintain current Registration (ATR) and/or Certification (ATR-BC) through the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. (ATCB).
- B. **New Professional/Professional:** Individuals who have completed master's level education required for obtaining the ATR, through the ATCB within the designated time-frame are eligible for New Professional membership. Individuals who have completed master's level education required for obtaining the ATR through the ATCB past the designated time-frame are eligible for Professional level membership.
- C. **Student.** Individuals who do not meet the qualifications for Professional Membership, who are currently enrolled in secondary school or institutions of higher learning, living in or outside the United States, and are interested in art therapy are eligible for a Student Membership.
- D. **Associate.** Individuals interested in art therapy, who wish to support the purposes and objectives of the ASSOCIATION, who are neither enrolled nor completed art therapy education programs.
- E. **International Member.** Individuals living outside the United States who have completed art therapy education programs or are working as professional art therapists.

- F. **Affiliate.** Organizations and Educational Institutions that wish to support the purposes and objectives of the ASSOCIATION are eligible for Affiliate Membership.
- G. **Retired Professional.** Retired Professional Members who have reached the age of 70, or who are entitled to retire with full benefits under the current Social Security regulations, and are no longer engaged in the active practice of art therapy.
- H. **Honorary Life.** The Professional Members as recommended by the Honors Committee may elect professional Members of AATA who have made outstanding contributions to the field of art therapy to Honorary Life Membership.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Board of Directors. The members of the Board of Directors shall consist of (4) officers, six (6) directors-at-large elected by the membership, and the Speaker of the Assembly of Chapters.

Section 2. Officers. The officers shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 3. Duties. The duties of all Officers and Directors shall be defined in the Board Manual.

Section 4. Committees of the Board. The Board of Directors may organize itself in committees as needed.

Section 5. Quorum. The majority of the Board members then in office shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Term of Office. Other than the President and President-elect, all Officers and Directors shall serve for a two-year term or until their successors are elected and may not serve for more than two consecutive terms in the same office. The President and President-elect shall serve for one term in the same office. After the President's term has ended, s/he may serve again on the Board (by election or appointment) only after at least one year has elapsed since his/her last term of office.

Section 7. Nominations and Elections. Elections shall be by mail or electronic ballot.

Section 8. Removal. The Board may remove an officer with or without cause by a two-thirds vote at any regular or special Board meeting. Any officer proposed for removal will be given notice of his or her removal and an opportunity to be heard prior to the vote to remove. The officer will be notified in writing of the Board's decision within 5 business days.

Section 9. Resignation. An officer may resign by written notice to the Board, effective upon receipt or such notice.

Section 10. Vacancies.

- A. Should a vacancy occur in the office of president, the president-elect shall automatically succeed to the office of the president and shall serve for the unexpired term.
- B. A vacancy in the office of president-elect shall remain vacant until a new president-elect is elected.
- C. Should a vacancy occur in the offices of both president and president-elect, the Board of Directors shall appoint a president pro-tempore from among its members until the next scheduled balloting at which time both a president and president-elect shall be elected.
- D. Vacancies occurring among all other offices shall be filled by appointment by the president, with the Board of Directors' approval, for the unexpired term.

Section 11. Duties of Officers.

- A. The president-elect shall exercise the power of the president in the president's absence or inability to serve.
- B. Unless stated otherwise, officers shall perform those duties prescribed by Law, the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, the Parliamentary Authority adopted by the ASSOCIATION, the Policies and Procedures of the ASSOCIATION, and those duties prescribed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Membership shall be held once a year at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors

Section 2. Notification. Notification of the annual meeting shall be sent to the membership no less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting. In the event of an emergency, the Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote, may postpone an Annual Meeting of the Membership. All members shall be notified of the postponement in a manner determined by the Board to be fair and reasonable under the circumstances.

Section 3. Quorum. A minimum of 50 voting members present at the Annual Meeting of the Membership shall constitute a quorum. Proxy voting is not permitted.

Section 4. Minutes Approval. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Membership shall be approved by a special committee of three (3) Professional Members appointed by the President. Approved minutes of the annual meeting of the membership shall be available for any Professional Member.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once per year at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Notification. Notification of physical Meetings of the Board of Directors no less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Section 3. Quorum. The majority of the Board members then in office shall constitute a quorum. Proxy voting is not permitted.

ARTICLE VII CHAPTERS

Section 1. The Board of Directors may at its discretion authorize local, state, or regional groups to be Chapters of the ASSOCIATION.

Section 2. The criteria, procedures, and relationship of any Chapter to the ASSOCIATION will be set forth in the Agreement between a Chapter and the ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE VIII INDEMNIFICATION

The ASSOCIATION will indemnify officers, directors, employees and others to the extent it is obliged by law to do so; AATA will consider indemnifying an officer, director, employee or other person who requests such indemnification to the extent AATA may be permitted by law to provide indemnification.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors, chapters, committees, or by written petition signed by ten voting members.

Section 2. All proposed amendments shall be received, considered, put in proper parliamentary form, and approved by the Board of Directors for submission to the membership for approval.

Section 3. A proposed amendment, which has been approved by the Board, will be submitted to the membership for a vote. Voting shall be by mail or electronic ballot. A majority of votes will determine the outcome, provided that at least as many mail or electronic ballots have been returned as would constitute a quorum if the meeting were held in person. Notice of proposed amendment(s) to the bylaws approved by the Board will be sent to the membership, who will have 30 calendar days (from the date of notice, not counting the actual day of notice itself) to vote either to approve or disapprove the amendment(s), on a ballot which will be sent with the notice and will be returnable either by mail or electronically. If the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the member will have until the next business day to vote; in the case of ballots submitted via regular mail, ballots must be postmarked by the 30th day.

Section 4. No amendment shall be made to the Bylaws which would interfere with or terminate the ASSOCIATION'S status as a charitable organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). All amendments to the bylaws must be reported to the IRS with form 990.

**ARTICLE X
NON-FOR-PROFIT STATUS DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of this corporation or in the event it shall cease to carry out the objects and purposes herein set forth, all the property and assets of the corporation will be distributed to another corporation or association of like purpose or purposes as set forth herein, and which possesses similar or like exemptions, pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as the directors may select and designate; and in no event shall any of said assets or property in the event of dissolution thereof, go or be distributed to members, either for the reimbursements of any sums subscribed, donated or contributed by such members, or for any other purpose.

**ARTICLE XI
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the ASSOCIATION in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order that the ASSOCIATION may adopt. The parliamentary authority of the ASSOCIATION shall be adopted by each CHAPTER.

**Amended:
By the Membership May 2016**