



**BYLAWS OF
THE OREGON ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, INC.**

MISSION

The mission of the Oregon Association of the Deaf is to preserve, protect, and promote the civil, human and linguistic rights of deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the state of Oregon.

VISION

The vision of the OAD is that the language, culture, and heritage of deaf and hard of hearing Oregonians will be acknowledged and respected in the pursuit of life, liberty and equality.

VALUES

The Oregon Association of the Deaf embraces language, culture, civil and human rights.

- Language. We value the acquisition, usage and preservation of American Sign Language.
- Culture. We value the right of deaf and hard of hearing Oregonians to share similar beliefs, sense of belonging, and experiences as a signing community.
- Civil Rights. We believe in equality, dignity, and justice of all deaf and hard of hearing Oregonians.
- Human Rights. We believe that the acquisition and use of American Sign Language is an essential human right and American Sign Language must be preserved, protected and promoted.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Oregon Association of the Deaf embraces diversity and inclusiveness in achieving its mission. Diversity includes but is not limited to language, culture, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, national origin, disability and socioeconomic status.

OAD is committed to building and maintaining an inclusive environment where differences of opinions, beliefs, and values are sought, listened to, respected, and valued.

ARTICLE I – NAME

This incorporated organization under Section 501(c) (3) shall be known as OREGON ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF (hereinafter known as “OAD”).

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE

The purpose of OAD shall be:

- To create an opportunity for the deaf and hard of hearing in Oregon to join together in planning, devising, conducting, and participating in activities and programs to promote the general welfare of the deaf and hard of hearing in Oregon.
- To help and advocate the deaf and hard of hearing individuals with a hearing loss from birth or later in life.



ARTICLE III – GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Board of Directors. The government of OAD shall have four officers and three board members. Their duties shall be carried out accordingly as defined in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Section 2: Officers. The officers of OAD shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 3: Committees. Standing committees shall include: Awards; Biennial Conference; Education; Finance; Fundraising; Law; Legislation; and Oregon Youth Ambassadors Program (OYAP). Their duties shall be carried out accordingly as defined in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

ARTICLE IV – AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended or repealed by two-thirds of a quorum vote at the biennial conference. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing sixty (60) days before the OAD biennial conference. Amendments to the bylaws shall take effect immediately after ratification at the OAD biennial conference.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1: Biennial Meeting. OAD shall convene once in odd years for the purpose of electing board of directors and for the transaction of business.

Section 2: Roundtable Meeting. Roundtable meetings may be convened at the request of members with prior approval of the President for the purpose of providing OAD members the opportunity to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas relating to OAD issues. No formal decision making authority or motions may be made at Roundtable meetings.

Section 3: Board of Directors Meeting. OAD Board of Directors shall meet at least four times a year.

Section 4: Board of Directors Special Meeting. Special meetings may be requested by the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or at least two Board members.

Section 5: Notice. Written notice of all meetings shall be provided to OAD members. The notice shall state the place, date, and hour of meeting, and if for a special meeting the purpose of the meeting. Notices shall be sent to all members and/or directors at least ten days prior to the meeting. Notices for special meetings shall be sent at least five days prior to the meeting.

Section 6: Quorum. 25 percent of the active paid members present at any regular, special or conference meeting shall constitute a quorum in order for the meeting to continue and votes to be valid.

Section 7: Virtual Meetings. Virtual meetings may include the board of directors' meetings, special meetings, and standing committees. Motions, discussions and voting can be conducted virtually. This includes but is not limited to video conferences, e-mails, and/or live chats. All virtual meetings shall be documented and archived by the OAD Secretary.



ARTICLE VI – INDEMNIFICATION AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Section 1: Indemnification. The Board of Directors and officers of OAD shall be indemnified by the corporation to fullest extent permissible under the laws of this Oregon. OAD shall purchase reasonable liability insurance to protect the OAD Board of Directors, its officers, the members and its property from any civil suit and others.

Section 2: Conflict of Interest. A conflict of interest is defined as any situation in which a member's decisions or votes could substantially and directly affect the member's professional, personal, financial or business interests. In the event that a person nominated for or holding an office find himself or herself in such a position, he or she shall promptly disclose the conflict of interest to the Board of Directors and abstains himself or herself at any Board or committee meeting from any deliberations or vote on the matter giving rise to the conflict of interest.

ARTICLE VII -- PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

In parliamentary procedure, unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority governing deliberations of this organization.

Section 1: Robert's Rules of Order. Unless otherwise provided for in these bylaws, the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority of the OAD.

ARTICLE VIII - DISSOLUTION

OAD may be dissolved only with authorization of its Board of Directors given at a special meeting called for that purpose, and with the subsequent approval by no less than two-thirds vote of the members. In the event of the dissolution of OAD, the assets shall be applied and distributed as follows:

- All liabilities and obligations shall be paid, satisfied and discharged.
- Assets shall be distributed equally between Friends of Oregon School for the Deaf (FOSD), Camp Taloali, and/or any other non-profit deaf organizations in good standing with 501 (c) (3) status in Oregon having a similar nature to OAD's mission to preserve the civil rights and advocacy of deaf Oregonians.