

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
FORT BEND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Article I - Name

I. The name of the organization shall be the Fort Bend Psychological Association, hereinafter referred to as the "Association."

Article II - Purpose

I. The purposes of the Association shall be: to promote psychology as a science and as a profession; to promote human welfare; to promote ethical standards of practice; to provide a basis for professional growth and social interaction among psychologists and other mental health professionals in this area; to represent psychological practitioners from Fort Bend County and surrounding areas; and to attract new professionals to Fort Bend County.

Article III - Membership

1. MEMBER status will be restricted to persons who meet at least one of the following criteria:

A. Individuals who are a member of the American Psychological Association, the Texas Psychological Association or a regional psychological association affiliated with the American Psychological Association.

B. Individuals who are licensed or provisionally licensed as Psychologists by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

C. Individuals who have received a doctoral degree in psychology from a regionally accredited college or university and are working in a psychology-related role.

2. STUDENT MEMBER status will be restricted to persons who are enrolled in an academic program leading to a degree in a psychological field. The Executive Committee of the Association shall have discretion to determine the criteria to be met for student membership. Student members will not be allowed to vote in Association matters or to hold an elected office.

3. LIFE MEMBER status will be restricted to any Member who has reached the age of 65 and who has retired from the practice of psychology.

4. Persons eligible for membership, as defined in this Article, will become Members upon proper application to the Association and payment of dues.

5. Membership status will cease automatically if an individual fails to pay dues for one year or no longer meets the qualifications for membership status as defined in this Article.

6. Only Members and Life Members in good standing, as defined in Sections 1 and 3 of this Article, will have the right to vote in Association matters and to hold an elected office.

7. All Members must agree to abide by the Ethical Principles of the American Psychological Association.

Article IV - Dues

1. Dues are payable annually on a calendar basis.

2. The Executive Committee shall determine the annual dues for each membership status.

Article V - Administration

1. The affairs of the Association will be administered by an Executive Committee.

2. The Executive Committee will be composed of the following Officers: President, Vice President, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-At-Large. The Vice President will also be designated as the President Elect.

3. The President shall appoint, with Executive Committee approval, any Special Committees should the need arise.

4. Executive Committee members will not receive any stated salary for their services.

Article VI - Nominations and Elections

1. Nominations for four (4) members to the Executive Committee will be made annually, at least one meeting prior to voting. Nominations will be taken from voting Members present.

2. Voting will be by secret ballot. Ballots will be distributed to voting Members of the Association prior to the vote. The four (4) candidates receiving the largest number of legal votes will be declared members of the Executive Committee.

3. The President will assume the office of Past President, and the Vice President will assume the office of President. Executive Committee members shall assign the specific duties of each Officer during the first Executive Committee meeting of the year. Secretary and Treasurer positions may be held by the same Member concurrently.

4. The Past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Member-at-Large may be re-elected to the Executive Committee.

5. New Officers will assume office on January 2nd of each year, or as called to fill positions.

6. Special elections to fill vacancies may be called by the Executive Committee. Nomination and voting procedures will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

7. Any Officer who is an active practitioner in the field of psychology must be licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

Article VII – Meetings of the Executive Committee

1. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee will be scheduled by the President, but will occur a

minimum of four times during the year. Members will be notified about these meetings at least one week in advance.

2. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or the Executive Committee, provided all Members of the Association are properly notified at least one week in advance.

Article VIII - Parliamentary Authority

1. Methods of procedure will be those of the corresponding provision of the Bylaws and Association Rules of the American Psychological Association and, if those are insufficient, then of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

Article IX – Indemnification of Officers

1. Members of the Executive Committee, including Officers past or present, will be indemnified by the Association for actions involved in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Association if that person acted in good faith and reasonably believed that the conduct was in the Association's best interest. Allegations of ordinary negligence and/or gross negligence are to be considered proper for indemnification, but allegations of intentional or purposeful misconduct are specifically excluded from indemnification. Indemnification will be for reasonable and necessary legal fees, costs, and expenses incurred involving the defense of handling a legal claim where the Officer is party to a claim, defense of a claim, suit, or other legal proceeding. All matters regarding indemnification, the retaining of legal counsel, payment, or reimbursement of reasonable and necessary legal fees, costs and expenses, and settlement of claims will be with the consent and approval of the Executive Committee, after consultation with the involved Officer.

2. The limit of liability of the Association will be the funds available to the Association. No special assessment of Members or Officers will be made to offset the fees involved in indemnification.

Article X – Dissolution of the Association

1. The Association may be dissolved by a 2/3 vote in favor of dissolution by the Executive Committee. Dissolution of the Association must then be approved by a majority vote of the Members to dissolve the Association.

2. Upon dissolution of the Association, the Executive Committee shall distribute the Association's assets to a charitable organization(s) that promotes mental health in Fort Bend County.

Article XI - Amendments

1. This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by 51 percent of the eligible voters present provided that the proposed amendments have been sent to the membership at least two weeks prior to the date selected for voting on the change(s). Absentee votes may be submitted to the Secretary at any time prior to the voting date.

2. Revisions of the Bylaws which involve no change in existing meaning, policy, or procedures, may be made by the Executive Committee.

Revised September, 2014

Revised December, 2019