

**BYLAWS
OF
THE NEBRASKA REGISTRY OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF (neRID)**

ARTICLE I, NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (abbreviated neRID).

ARTICLE II, OBJECTIVE

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of neRID is to promote and encourage the profession of the interpretation of American Sign Language and English. The organization is a non-profit affiliate chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Incorporated (abbreviated RID).

ARTICLE III, MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. MEMBERS

Membership in the organization is open to any individual who supports the goals and purpose of neRID regardless of race, color, national orientation, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or any other factor.

Membership in good standing shall be maintained by payment of annual dues and adherence to the RID Code of Professional Conduct.

Voting Members – Dual members of RID and neRID

- A. Certified Member
- B. Associate Member

Non-voting Members

- A. Student Member
- B. Supporting Member
- C. Organizational/Institutional Member

SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Certified Member - Any interpreter of American Sign Language and English who holds valid certification accepted by RID.
- B. Associate Member: Individuals engaged in interpreting or transliterating that do not hold current NAD-RID certification.
- C. Supporting Member: Any non-certified individual with an interest in supporting the purposes and activities of the organization, but does not meet eligibility requirements for Sections 2.A. or 2.B. under Article III, Membership.
- D. Student Member: A non-certified individual currently enrolled in a course of study in interpretation of American Sign Language and English.
- E. Organizational/Institutional Member: Any Organization/Institution with an interest in supporting the purposes and activities of neRID.

SECTION 3. VOTING RIGHTS

- A. Privileges will be granted to members in good standing with neRID who also hold a current membership with RID.
- B. Each voting member of this organization shall be entitled one vote in meetings, referenda and elections.
- C. Any decision of the board may be vetoed by a two-thirds majority of voting members.

SECTION 4. MEMBERSHIP FEES

- A. Completed membership form, dues and current RID membership (if applicable) will be due July 1. Applications can be submitted at any time; however rates, rights and benefits are not retroactive.
- B. Notification will be given at least thirty (30) days prior to July 1.
- C. Non-payment of annual dues thirty (30) days after July 1 will result in invalidation of membership.

- D. The board has the authority to fix and/or amend the amount of annual dues, as they deem appropriate. The board shall propose any amendment of the amount of annual dues, to be approved by membership. Notification of any changes in the dues structure will be given to the membership at least sixty (60) days prior to implementation.

SECTION 5. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

This organization may establish special interest groups, which shall be open to all members of the organization. All special interest groups must be self-sustaining. No funds from neRID may be used.

SECTION 6. CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Individual members of neRID and RID, while interpreting, shall follow the Code of Professional Conduct established by and implemented by RID and shall be subject to the Ethical Practices System of RID.

Article IV, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. BOARD

- A. President
- B. Vice-President
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer
- E. Historian
- F. Deaf Representative
- G. Student Representative
- H. Area Representative
 - a. Metro
 - b. Southeast
 - c. Northeast
 - d. Central-Western
- I. Past President

SECTION 2. POWERS AND LIMITATIONS

All organizational powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the board. Unless so authorized by the board, no officer or agent shall have any power or authority to bind the organization to any contract or engagement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable monetarily for any purpose or in any amount. All charges, responsibilities, and membership directives shall persist until fulfilled, regardless of any changes to the makeup of the Board.

SECTION 3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL BOARD MEMBERS

- A. General Duties
 - a. Foster an environment in which all neRID members, regardless of geographical locations, are valued and recognized.
 - b. Perform duties as prescribed by the voting membership, the board or as required by law.
 - c. Approve the budget of the chapter annually.
 - d. Provide a comprehensive annual chapter report at the end of each fiscal year.
 - e. Aid in transition of new board members.
 - f. Serve as a liaison to the action teams.
 - g. Represent neRID in all appropriate activities or appointed proxy.
- B. Officers
 - a. President
 - i. Preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board.
 - ii. Call for nominations for leaders of all action teams.
 - iii. Report periodically to the membership regarding actions of the board and other activities of the chapter.
 - iv. Share with the treasurer the right to sign checks and warrants for the withdrawal of corporate funds.
 - v. The president will vote only in the case of serving to break a tie.
 - b. Vice-President
 - i. Preside in the place of the president whenever needed, in case of absence, resignation, death or delegation of authority by the president.
 - ii. Assist the president and/or the board in completion of duties as needed.
 - c. Secretary
 - i. Keep accurate records of all meetings of the neRID, action teams, board and membership.

- ii. Supervise the keeping of meeting records and distribute to membership.
 - iii. Facilitate official correspondence needed for neRID.
- d. Treasurer
 - i. Make prompt payments and maintain financial records.
 - ii. Prepare all tax information and reports. Annually send this information to RID National Headquarters and present them to neRID members.
 - iii. Share with the president the right to sign checks and warrants for the withdrawal of corporate funds with board approval.
- e. Area Representatives
 - i. Serve as liaisons between the board of directors, action teams and the membership in their geographic area.
- f. Action Team Chairs
 - i. Serve as non-voting members of the board.
 - ii. Responsible for oversight and leadership of committees.
 - iii. Recruit current neRID members to serve on action teams
- g. Executive Committee
 - i. Comprised of the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer; is responsible for preparing the agenda prior to meetings of the board; and
 - ii. In the event that the entire board is unable to convene, the executive committee shall be given full power and authority to take action on emergency issues.
- h. Deaf Representative
 - i. Serve as a liaison between the board and the Deaf community.
- i. Student Representative
 - i. Serve as a liaison between the board and ITP students.
 - ii. Coordinate volunteers for conferences.
 - iii. The board appoints this position.
 - iv. This is a non-voting position.
- j. Historian
 - i. Compile, maintain and preserve neRID's history, artifacts, facts, etc. in collaboration with neRID's board, membership and the community we serve.

- k. Past President
 - i. Serve as a non-voting member of the board.
 - ii. Guide and advise the current board as needed.
 - iii. Assist the president during the transition to office.
 - iv. Assist with identifying potential candidates for future offices.

SECTION 4. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- A. Qualification
 - a. President, vice president, treasurer and secretary must be dual members of neRID and RID in good standing for at least two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to service.
 - b. All others must be a voting member in good standing of neRID and RID.
- B. Nominations and Elections
 - a. Three months prior to the end of the two-year term, nominations will be requested.
 - b. One month prior to elections nominee's names, bios, photos and qualifications will be sent to the membership.
 - c. Election of officers to be held on or prior to the fall conference by electronic voting or in person process.
 - d. Terms will begin January 1.
 - e. Election results will be announced by December 1.
 - f. If a tie should occur, a runoff election will be held prior to December 1.

SECTION 5. TERMS OF OFFICE

- A. President, Secretary, Southeast Area Representative and Central-Western Area Representative will serve a two-year term with elections on odd years.
- B. Vice President, Treasurer, Northeast Area Representative and Metro Area Representative will serve a two-year term with elections on even years.
- C. Student Representative will serve a one-year term.
- D. Deaf Representative will serve a two-year term.
- E. Historian will serve as determined by the board.
- F. Past President will serve as determined by the board.

- G. No individual may hold any elected position for more than two consecutive terms.

SECTION 6. VACANCIES AND REMOVAL

- A. Any vacancy on the executive board occurring between elections shall be filled by action of the executive board; the replacement shall be chosen to fulfill the requirements of the vacant position.
- B. Resignation: Any board member may resign upon giving written notice to the president.
- C. Removal of board member: The board may declare vacant the office of any director who:
 - a. Does not attend three (3) consecutive board meetings;
 - b. Has not acted in good faith in the fulfillment of board duties.Removal of board members requires a two-thirds majority vote of the board or by the majority of the voting membership.
- D. Appointment of Vacancy: Any vacancy of an elected office must be filled by an appointment of the board until the next election year. This appointment is not considered a full term.

ARTICLE V, ACTION TEAMS

Upon the board's approval, the president shall appoint any action teams including standing, special and/or ad hoc Action Teams composed of members in good standing. Appointments shall be made or reaffirmed as needed. Chairpersons may select the other members of their respective action teams. Any vacancies in the membership of any action teams that are to be filled will follow the same procedure. Furthermore, the president shall designate a member of the board to serve as liaison to each action team.

ARTICLE VI, MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

- A. A meeting of the membership will be held annually. The date(s) and time of the annual meeting of the membership will be decided by the board and an agenda of the meeting will be sent to the membership no later than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

- B. Special meetings may be called at any time by a majority of the board or at the request of at least ten (10) percent of the members in good standing. Notice of special meetings will be given to the membership no later than thirty (30) days prior to the special meeting.

ARTICLE VII, ELECTIONS AND VOTING

- A. General voting: Voting may take place during a membership meeting or by referendum.
- B. Referendum: The board may designate a vote on any business that might come before the membership at the annual membership meeting, special meeting or by electronic communication. All members in good standing who are eligible to vote will be informed of the voting agenda and are encouraged to vote. A simple majority of the ballots cast will determine the outcome.

ARTICLE VIII, AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT APPROVAL

The By-Laws may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds majority of ballots cast by eligible voting members.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT EFFECTIVE DATE

Amendments to the by-laws shall become effective thirty (30) days after vote at the close of the business meeting at which they were passed. A copy of all amendments to these bylaws shall be forwarded to the RID Regional Representative who will forward them to the national office or other designated place.

SECTION 3. EXEMPTIONS

Bylaw changes made to comply with RID policies and procedures shall not require a vote but shall instead become automatically incorporated within these bylaws. All bylaws incorporated in such a manner shall be reported to the membership.

ARTICLE IX, INSPECTION RIGHTS AND CORPORATE SEAL

- A. Documentation of neRID activities can be made available to neRID members. A written request must be submitted to the neRID Board. The request must be made by a neRID member and provide a reasonable explanation as to said person's interest. The Board will respond to the request within ten (10) business days.

- B. The neRID logo may only be used by neRID for official and/or approved purposes only. The neRID logo may not be used by an individual member for personal use.

ARTICLE X, FISCAL YEAR OF THE ORGANIZATION

The fiscal year of neRID will begin on July 1 and end on June 30 of each year.

ARTICLE XI, AFFILIATION

The Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf is to be considered an affiliate chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

ARTICLE XII, DISSOLUTION

- A. In case of dissolution, all records, monies and holdings shall be forwarded to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. for the purpose of continuing education of interpreters.
- B. Dissolution may occur upon two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership.
- C. No single member shall be held liable for debts incurred by the organization.