

**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 NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct.

*Voting Members*

- A. Certified Member
- B. Associate Member

*Non-voting Members*

- A. Supporting Member
- B. Student Member

SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Certified Member: Any interpreter using signed and spoken languages who holds a valid certification recognized by RID.
- B. Associate Member: Any interpreter using signed and spoken languages who does not hold a valid certification recognized by RID.

- C. Supporting Member: Any individual, organization or institution with an interest in supporting the purpose and activities of neRID, but do not meet the 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 related to the interpretation of American Sign Language or a major related to Deafness.

### SECTION 3. VOTING RIGHTS

- A. Privileges will be granted to Certified and Associate Members in good standing with neRID.
- 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 (2/3) 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. 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. NAD-RID CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Individual members of neRID and RID, while interpreting, shall follow the NAD-RID 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. Officers**

Officers of the Board are elected positions which have voting rights on the Board.

##### **1. Executive Officers**

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer

##### **2. Area Representatives**

- a. Metro
- b. Southeast
- c. Northeast
- d. Central-Western

##### **3. Appointed Community Representatives**

Appointed Community Representatives are appointed positions on the Board to represent a specific constituency within neRID. It is preferred that they are members of neRID. Appointed Community Representatives are non-voting members of the neRID board.

- a. K-12 Educational Interpreter Representatives
- b. Deaf Representative
- c. Student Representative

#### **B. Appointed Liaisons**

Appointed Liaisons assist the Board as needed to accomplish its goals. It is preferred that they be members of neRID. Possible positions include, but are not limited to: Publications, Professional Development, etc. Appointed Liaisons are non-voting members of the neRID board.

## 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

1. Foster an environment in which all neRID members, regardless of geographical locations, are valued and recognized.
2. Perform duties as prescribed by the voting membership, the Board or as required by law.
3. Approve the budget of the chapter annually.
4. Provide a comprehensive annual chapter report at the end of each fiscal year.
5. Aid in transition of new board members.
6. Serve as a liaison to the action teams.
7. Represent neRID in all appropriate activities or appointed proxy.

### B. Officers

1. President
  - a. Preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board.
  - b. Call for nominations for leaders of all action teams.
  - c. Report periodically to the membership regarding actions of the Board and other activities of the chapter.
  - d. Share with the Treasurer the right to sign checks and warrants for the withdrawal of corporate funds.
  - e. The President will vote only in the case of serving to break a tie.
  - f. Once completing their term(s) as President, the President will serve on the Board as Past President. Responsibilities of the Past President are to:
    - 1) Assist the President.
    - 2) Guide and advise the current Board as needed.
    - 3) Serve as a non-voting member of the Board.

2. Vice President

- a. Preside in the place of the President whenever needed, in case of absence, resignation, death or delegation of authority by the President.
- b. Assist the President and/or the Board in completion of duties as needed.

3. Secretary

- a. Keep accurate records of all meetings of the neRID, action teams, board and membership.
- b. Supervise the keeping of meeting records.
- c. Facilitate official correspondence needed for neRID.

4. Treasurer

- a. Make prompt payments and maintain financial records.
- b. Prepare all tax information and reports. Annually send this information to RID National Headquarters and present a report from the Treasurer to neRID members.
- c. Share with the President the right to sign checks and warrants for the withdrawal of corporate funds with board approval.
- d. Keep records of the membership.

5. Executive Officers

- a. Comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Officers are responsible for preparing the agenda prior to meetings of the Board.
- b. In the event that the entire board is unable to convene, the Executive Officers shall be given full power and authority to take action on emergency issues.

6. Area Representatives

Serve as liaisons between the board of directors, action teams and the membership in their geographic areas.

7. K-12 Educational Interpreter Representative(s)

- a. Must currently be working as a K-12 educational interpreter.
- b. Serve as a liaison between the Board, K-12 interpreters and educational representatives within the state.

8. Deaf Representative

Serve as a liaison between the Board and the Deaf community.

9. Student Representative

- a. Serve as a liaison between the Board, ITP students and students of various studies relating to deafness.
- b. Coordinate volunteers for conferences.

10. Action Team Chairs

- a. Serve as liaisons between the board of directors, action teams and the membership of their geographic area.
- b. Responsible for oversight and leadership of committees.
- c. Recruit current neRID members to serve on action teams.
- d. Serve as non-voting members of the Board.

#### SECTION 4. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A. Qualifications

1. President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary must be dual members of neRID and RID in good standing preferably for one (1) year immediately prior to service.
2. Area Representatives must be voting members in good standing with neRID.

B. Nominations and Elections

1. At least three (3) months prior to the end of the two-year term, nominations will be requested.
2. Prior to elections, the nominees' names, bios, photos and qualifications will be sent to the membership.
3. Election results will be announced by December 1.
4. If a tie should occur, a runoff election will be held prior to December 1.
5. Terms will begin January 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. K-12 Educational Interpreter Representatives will serve a two-year term.
- D. Deaf Representative will serve a two-year term.
- E. Student Representative will serve a one-year term.
- F. No individual may hold any elected position for more than two consecutive terms.

## SECTION 6. VACANCIES AND REMOVAL

- A. Removal of board member: The Board may declare vacant the office of any director who:
  - 1. Does not attend three (3) consecutive board meetings;
  - 2. Has not acted in good faith in the fulfillment of board duties.
  - 3. Removal of board members requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board or by the majority of the voting membership.
- B. Any vacancy among the Executive Officers occurring between elections shall be filled by action of the Executive Officers. The replacement shall be chosen to fulfill the requirements of the vacant position.
- C. Resignation: Any board member may resign upon giving written notice to the President.
- 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 Team that are to be filled will follow the same procedure. Furthermore, the President shall designate a member of the Board to serve as a liaison to each Action Team.

## ARTICLE VI, MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

- A. A meeting of the membership will be held annually. The date 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 will be encouraged to vote. A simple majority of the ballots cast will determine the outcome.

## **ARTICLE VIII, AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

### **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT APPROVAL**

The Bylaws may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of ballots cast by eligible voting members.

### **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT EFFECTIVE DATE**

Amendments to the Bylaws shall become effective thirty (30) days after a membership vote. 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 may be made available to neRID members. A written request must be submitted to the neRID Board. The request must be made by an neRID member and provide a reasonable explanation as to the purpose for the requested documentation. 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. 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.