

# FORT WORTH REGIONAL DAY SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

## CONSTITUTION

*Note: The use of the word 'deaf' in this document is only for convenience. The term is intended to include both 'deaf and hard of hearing individuals'.*

### ARTICLE I - NAME

**Sec. 1** The name of this non-profit organization shall be known as the Fort Worth Regional Day Schools for the Deaf Alumni Association, Inc., hereafter referred to as FWRDSDAA.

### ARTICLE II - INCORPORATION

**Sec. 1** The FWRDSDAA shall have as its object, the body politic and corporate by the name and style of the Fort Worth Regional Day Schools for the Deaf Alumni Association. As a corporation chartered by the state of Texas, it shall follow the procedures set out for corporations organized for general welfare.

### ARTICLE III - MISSION

**Sec. 1** The objective of FWRDSDAA shall be twofold: to promote a spirit of deaf alumni unity and camaraderie through communication and reunions among deaf alumni; and location of deaf alumni and acquisition and maintenance of school memorabilia.

**Sec. 2** The purpose of FWRDSDAA shall be to advance the interests of the organization and to promote the welfare of the deaf schools and deaf education programs within Tarrant County, and to foster close relations among FWRDSDAA members.

**Sec. 3** The goals of FWRDSDAA shall be fourfold:

- (a) to help identify, select and develop FWRDSDAA leaders;
- (b) to foster good communication with the local deaf community;
- (c) to promote fellowship between members and establish active contact with eligible and future members; and
- (d) to hold a reunion every two (2) years where members, families and friends may intermingle socially.

## **ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP**

**Sec. 1** There shall be three (3) types of membership: Active, Student and Honorary Members.

### **Sec. 2 ACTIVE MEMBER**

**Sec. 2 (a)** Any deaf individual who has attended any school within Tarrant County at a minimum of six (6) months, and any teachers and support staff who have worked/work at any school with the deaf students is entitled to active membership in the FWRDSDAA upon the payment of fees prescribed in Section 1 of Article IV of the By-laws. Active members shall enjoy all rights afforded to members such as making motions, voting and holding office.

**Sec. 2 (b)** Each deaf graduating senior of a regular public, private, mainstreamed or special school within Tarrant County will be given a free membership in FWRDSDAA following graduation, which shall be in force until the next reunion convention.

### **Sec. 3 STUDENT MEMBER**

**Sec. 3 (a)** Any person who is a full time student in any accredited learning program. Full time students shall be those who are enrolled for a full day or on a regular basis.

**Sec. 3 (b)** Student members have the same rights and privileges of active members with the exception of making motions, voting, and holding office.

### **Sec. 4 HONORARY MEMBER**

**Sec. 4 (a)** Any person so voted honorary membership by the FWRDSDAA. Honorary members have the same rights as Active members.

## **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND ELECTION**

### **Sec. 1 OFFICERS**

**Sec. 1 (a)** The elected officers of the FWRDSDAA shall consist of a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Webmaster, a Historian, and the Alumni Contact.

**Sec. 1 (b)** The aforementioned first eight Officers, Immediate Past President and two Trustees to be appointed by the President and approved by the elected officers shall constitute the Executive Board for the governance, management, and conduct of FWRDSDAA business between conventions.

**Sec. 1 (c)** The Immediate Past President shall serve as a member of the Executive Board as the third Trustee. The immediate past president will vote only to break a tie for the Executive Board.

## **Sec. 2 ELECTIONS**

**Sec. 2 (a)** At least four weeks prior to the date of the Reunion Business Meeting, the Executive Board shall submit a slate of candidates and post a copy of the proposed officer slate on the FWRDSDAA website for members' consideration and vote. Selection of each officer is contingent upon a majority of Alumni Association members voting in favor of the proposed officer slate, through a written ballot either by proxy or in person at the Reunion Business Meeting. The elected officers shall serve for two years or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

**Sec. 2 (b)** No person shall be eligible to hold any FWRDSDAA office who cannot understand and converse fluently in American Sign Language.

**Sec. 2 (c)** A member may be elected to office in absentia provided a signed statement announcing personal willingness to serve is obtained by the President beforehand and exhibited at the regular reunion convention.

**Sec. 2 (d)** Each candidate must have paid current and any past dues at the present reunion convention, and is in good standing

**Sec. 2 (e)** No more than one of the elected officers may be a hearing person at any one time; and that individual must be totally integrated with the deaf community. Hearing people may participate in committees, and they will not have any voting powers in the Executive Board.

**Sec. 2 (f)** After election, all officers and members of the FWRDSDAA Executive Board are required to make the following pledge prior to commencing their terms of office: "I do solemnly promise that I will faithfully do the duties of my office and support the Constitution and By-Laws of the FWRDSDAA to the best of my ability."

**Sec. 2 (g)** The pledge of the newly elected officers shall be administered by the retiring president, or if the officer is re-elected, by the ranking officer who is not re-elected.

**Sec. 2 (h)** No more than two of the elected officers may be a resident outside the vicinity of 100 miles around Tarrant County, and these individuals cannot hold the office of President, Treasurer and Secretary. If due to unforeseeable circumstances, any of the named officers has to move outside the 100 mile vicinity, he/she must resign from the office, but can still assume other office, if approved by the Executive Board.

**Sec. 2 (i)** All officers, except for the office of the President, may be re-elected without limitation to their office.

### **Sec. 3 RESIGNATIONS**

**Sec. 3 (a)** Resignations shall be submitted in writing to the President, with statements of reasons for the resignation. If the President resigns, the submission shall be made to the Immediate Past President, which will be communicated to the Executive Board.

**Sec. 3 (b)** Any vacancy except that of the President occurring in an elected office for any reason shall be immediately filled by the Executive Board to serve until the next regular reunion convention.

### **ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS**

**Sec. 1** Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be put to members of the FWDRSDAA for approval by vote in the following Reunion Business Meeting, with approval contingent upon a majority of FWDRSDAA members voting in favor of the proposed amendments, through a written ballot either by proxy or in person at the Reunion Business Meeting.

**Sec. 2** At least four weeks prior to the date of the Reunion Business Meeting, a copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be posted on the FWRDSDAA website for consideration and vote.

### **ARTICLE VII - DISSOLUTION**

**Sec. 1** The FWRDSDAA shall not have the power to dissolve itself as long as there are ten (10) dissenting members in good standing.

**Sec. 2** Upon dissolution of the FWRDSDAA, after payment of all existing debts and liabilities, all remaining assets shall be held and given either to a new or reorganized entity similar to this organization; and monies could also be used as scholarships for qualified graduating deaf students from public Tarrant County high schools who are also pursuing higher education.