

Georgia Organization of School-Based Speech-Language Pathologists ByLaws

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Georgia Organization of School-Based Speech-Language Pathologists, Inc. (GO SSLP, Inc.)

ARTICLE II. MISSION/PURPOSE

The Mission of GO SSLP is to provide exemplary speech-language services to children enrolled in the public schools through the professional exchange of information and ideas as well as advocacy for improved services and conditions at the local, state, and federal level.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERS/MEMBERSHIP

Members of GO SSLP consist of individuals who are certified and/or licensed speech/language pathologists, speech/language pathology assistants, or students currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate/graduate program focusing on communication disorders. A member is also a person who demonstrates an interest in the goals of GO SSLP, the field of communication disorders, and issues pertaining to speech pathology services in the school systems. Dues will be determined by the Advisory Board. A member must have paid his/her dues (unless Honorary Member) in order to be a member in good standing.

Section 1: Classes of Membership. The membership of this organization shall consist of three classes: Professional, Student, Honorary

- A. Professional Member: Any member that meets member requirements that includes active, inactive or retired SLPs.
- B. Associate Member: Students currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate/graduate program focusing on communication disorders.
- C. Honorary: Any individual who demonstrates an interest in the goals of GO SSLP, the field of communication disorders, and/or issues pertaining to speech pathology services in the schools.

Section 2: Dues. Dues will be established by the Advisory Board. A member to be considered in good standing has paid current year's dues.

ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

GO SSLP, Inc. shall be governed by an Advisory Board led by the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team shall be made up of the Chair, Co-Chair, Past Chair, and Financial Chair. The Leadership Team shall oversee or lead the advisory board which includes the Leadership Team, Regional Representatives, Continuing Education Committee Chair, Legislative Chair, and Membership Chair. The Leadership Team shall oversee all other standing or adhoc committees. See Appendix for roles/responsibilities of the Leadership Team, Advisory Board, Standing Committees, Ad-Hoc committees as well as an organizational chart.

The Chair and Co-Chair shall be determined through the election process as defined in this document. Committee chairs and regional representatives will be appointed by the Leadership Team. Committees may be created or dissolved based upon the needs of the organization and approved by the Leadership Team.

ARTICLE V. ETHICS/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

GO SSLP agrees to abide by the principles and Code of Ethics of the American Speech/Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) current Code of Ethics. GO SSLP shall conduct its business in a uniform, impartial, and non-discriminatory manner. GO SSLP advocates for the professional interests of its members, the individuals they serve and provides a forum for exchange of professional information and ideas.

The purpose of the Conflict of Interest policy (see Appendix) is to ensure that decisions about GO SSLP's operations and the use of GO SSLP's assets are made solely in terms of benefit to GO SSLP and are not influenced by any private profit or other personal benefit to the individuals affiliated with GO SSLP who take part in the decision. In addition to actual conflicts of interest, persons are also obliged to avoid actions that could be perceived or interpreted in conflict with GO SSLP's interest. This policy is intended to supplement, but not replace applicable state and federal laws and ASHA policies governing conflict of interest applicable to non-profit organizations.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

Section 1: The Chair and Co-Chair of GO SSLP will be elected by a majority of votes cast through an electronic ballot. The voting period will end 14 days from distribution of the electronic ballot. The results of the election will be announced at the membership meeting.

Section 2: The Chair and Co-Chair will serve a two year term. If the Chair cannot complete the two year term, the Co-Chair will become the Chair and the Advisory Board will appoint a new Co-Chair.

Section 3: The Chair and Co-Chair will hold office until the biennial elections are held in the Spring. The new Chair and Co-Chair will take office after completion of the current school year.

Section 4: The Chair can only serve for 2 consecutive terms.

Section 5: The Nominations Committee will consist of a Nominations Chair, a past GO SSLP Chair, and three GO SSLP members at large appointed by the Nominations Chair.

Section 6: The nomination form (the form by which GO SSLP members may nominate a candidate for the Chair and/or Co-Chair positions) will be posted on the website and sent to the GO SSLP members via email.

Section 7: The Nominations Committee will present a slate of not more than 3 candidates for each position.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCE

Section 1: The Financial Chair works with the Executive Office and CPA to assure compliance with tax laws and regulations to preserve GO SSLP's financial integrity.

Section 2: The Financial Chair will keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures and pay out funds in accordance with the approval of the Leadership Team. The Financial Chair will present a financial statement when requested by the Leadership Team and make a full report at the end of the membership year.

Section 3: The Chair of GO SSLP will prepare an annual budget upon receipt of proposed budgets from committee chairs at least 30 days prior to the start of the new membership year.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws can be submitted to the Advisory Board by members of the organization and/or by the Advisory Board.

Section 2: Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws will be posted for review and feedback.

Section 3: The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Advisory Board.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION

GO SSLP, Inc. may be dissolved with prior notice (14 days) and 2/3 votes of the Advisory Board and members. Upon dissolution, unexpended funds will be donated to a charity chosen by the sitting Advisory Board.