

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLIND TEACHERS CONSTITUTION

Originally drafted July 1972, Revised June 2025

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the American Association of Blind Teachers, hereinafter known as AABT. AABT shall be a not-for-profit membership organization incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

Provide a forum for discussion of special problems encountered by qualified blind persons certified to teach, blind persons employed as teachers, and blind students in training for the teaching profession.

Advance the teaching profession and protect the interest of blind persons therein.

Acquire, preserve and disseminate materials of special interest to blind teachers and students preparing to be teachers.

ARTICLE III: AFFILIATION

AABT Incorporated shall be affiliated with the American Council of the Blind.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP, VOTING AND DUES

A. Membership

Voting Members

Any person interested in supporting the aims and goals of the American Association of Blind Teachers shall be eligible for membership in AABT.

Charter Members

Each person joining AABT on or before July 31, 1972 shall be a charter member.

Life Members

Any member may become a life member of AABT. The cost of such membership shall be determined by majority vote of the Executive Board.

B. Voting

Each voting member who attends a membership meeting of AABT shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

C. Dues

Each member's annual dues shall be paid at a date to be set by the Executive Board. The date by which dues should be submitted to the Treasurer shall be communicated to the general membership no later than thirty days prior to the date set by the Board. Dues shall be payable in an amount to be set from time to time by a majority vote of members present and voting at any annual meeting.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, TERMS OF OFFICE AND ELECTIONS

Officers and Board

AABT shall elect from among its voting members a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, and four (4) directors, one of whom shall be a student. The officers, directors and the immediate past president shall constitute the Executive Board.

Terms of Office

Officers shall be elected for terms of two (2) years in odd numbered years, and directors shall be elected for terms of two (2) years in even numbered years. No officer or director [except for the Treasurer] shall serve in the same position for more than two (2) consecutive terms, but may be eligible for re-election after the expiration of one (1) intervening term. [Partial terms do not count against these two (2) terms.]

Elections

Officers and directors shall be elected by a majority of the voting members present and voting at an annual Convention.

Nonvoting Board Members

The editor of the AABT newsletter shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Board with a seat and a voice, but without the right to vote.

ARTICLE VI: POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Executive Board Authority

The Executive Board shall be the governing body of AABT between annual conventions, provided that it may not take any official action in conflict with existing policies or decisions made by the membership.

Duties of Officers

The officers shall perform the usual functions of their offices as prescribed by the current Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise prescribed by this Constitution.

Duties of the Secretary

The secretary shall prepare and retain an accurate summary of all official actions taken at any special or regular meeting of the membership or the Executive Board. [The board shall maintain an archive of AABT official documents in an accessible digital format.]

Duties of the Treasurer

The treasurer shall maintain a roll of the members in good standing, shall notify members of payable dues, and shall make a financial report at each annual convention of the membership. [Whenever practicable, the treasurer shall be bonded in an amount to be set by the Executive Board.]

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Conventions

A regular meeting of AABT will be held once a year, to be known as the Annual Convention. Unless otherwise decided by a majority vote of the membership, the Annual Convention shall be held in conjunction with that of the American Council of the Blind. Eight (8) voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Extraordinary Conventions

Additional meetings of the AABT, to be known as Extraordinary Conventions, may be convened under unusual circumstances by the president or by petition of one tenth (1/10) of the membership.

Executive Board Meetings

The Executive Board shall meet at times and places set by the president, or by petition of four (4) members of the Board. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this constitution shall be submitted in writing to the secretary not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual convention. The exact text of the proposed amendments shall be [widely distributed electronically to the membership] at least thirty (30) days prior to the convention. Amendments shall be adopted by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting in the affirmative.

ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION

Procedure

If at any time a dissolution of AABT should prove necessary or desirable, as recommended by the Board of Directors, the same procedure shall be followed as for amending the constitution.

Disbursement of Assets

In the event of dissolution, any funds or assets owned by AABT shall be liquidated and disbursed in accordance with recognized legal procedures to be used for purposes consistent with the objectives of AABT.