

12/15/2015 version, voted on at 2016 annual meeting.  
03/26/2008 version, voted on at 2010 annual meeting.  
03/04/2005 version, voted on at the 2005 annual meeting (Life members).  
03/06/2020 version, voted on at 2020 annual meeting.  
09/21/2021 version, approved on 11/23/2021 by Council.

## **CONSTITUTION**

**of**

**The American Psychopathological Association, Inc.**

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### **ARTICLE I**

#### **The Name**

This Association shall bear the name The American Psychopathological Association, Inc.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Objective**

The objective of this Association shall be to promote the scientific study of psychopathology, including mental disorders of emotion, cognition, behavior, and volition. The Association addresses the study of phenomenology, measurement, and etiologic/risk and protective factors, including biologic, social, cultural, environmental, and contextual influences for psychopathology. A particular focus of the organization is the promotion of methodologic rigor in the study of psychopathology. Its membership represents multiple disciplines engaged in the prevention, evaluation, treatment, and research on the causes and consequences of mental disorders. The Association has a commitment to public health and the promotion of mental health in society.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Official Organ**

The Council may designate an official organ of the Association.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **Membership**

Membership in the Association shall have five categories: active fellowship, active membership, life fellowship, life membership, and trainee membership.

Active fellows shall be limited to individuals who have made important, original, and independent contributions to the knowledge of psychopathology. Maintenance of active fellowship requires payment of annual dues. Active fellows may nominate other members and vote on Association business.

Active members shall be limited to individuals who, through their application to become an APPA member, express a commitment to the scientific advancement of knowledge about psychopathology. Maintenance of membership requires payment of annual dues. Active members may vote on Association business.

Life fellows/members will consist of those active fellows or members of at least fifteen years' duration who, upon retirement from professional activities, may choose to request this category. They shall continue to receive information about association activities. They may continue to nominate other members and vote on association business. They can continue to provide financial support to the association using the contribution opportunities.

Trainee members will consist of graduate students, medical students, post-doctoral fellows, and residents-in-training. Maintenance of membership requires payment of annual dues. Following the completion of training, trainee members shall become regular members.

Active and trainee membership is acquired through self-nomination. A majority vote of those present at the annual business meeting shall be necessary for election to the category of APPA Fellow. Candidates for APPA Fellow shall be proposed in writing to the Council by the Membership Chair.

## ARTICLE V

### Officers

The officers of the Association shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Membership Chair whose duties shall be those usually fulfilled by such officers. There shall also be four Councilors. Collectively, the officers and councilors will be known as the APPA Council, and these 11 individuals constitute the voting members of the Council. One of the Councilors shall be the outgoing President, who will become a Councilor for a one-year period during the year succeeding his/her administration. The remaining three Councilors will be elected to serve non-overlapping four-year terms. Elections for these positions will be held as necessary to replace the councilor(s) whose term(s) has (have) expired. Once elected, the Vice-President will serve on Council for four years, one year each as Vice-President, President-elect, President, and Post-presidency councilor.

The Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair are important long-term positions in the organization and will each serve four-year renewable terms. Elections for each of these positions will be held in alternating years of a three-year cycle, such that an election for only one of the positions occurs in any given year. In the first year of service, the Secretary/Treasurer/Membership Chair-Elect shall serve alongside the outgoing officeholder as a Councilor of APPA. The order of the elections in the four-year cycle will be determined and, if necessary, revised by the voting members of the Council on the basis of a majority vote.

At any point in which a Council member cannot complete his/her term, the Council will engage the process for electing an interim member, but the term of the interim member will be limited to the time remaining in the term of the officer whom he/she is elected to replace.

The nomination of candidates for office shall be made by a nominating committee appointed by the President. The nominating committee shall consider all names sent to it by email by February 1st of each year and will present their recommendations to the Council. The Council will select a slate to be presented to the membership by active members, fellows (no trainees) by email for an electronic vote for election prior to the annual business meeting at the annual meeting.

The nominating committee shall consist of at least three fellows, at least one of whom shall be a former president of the Association.

The Council shall meet at least once in the fall of the year prior to the annual meeting to conduct business. The Association may at the annual meeting, alter or reverse any action of the Council by a majority of at least two-thirds of those present.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Quorum**

Active and life members and fellows who attend the annual business meeting shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Election to Fellowship**

Candidates for fellowship must be nominated in writing by two active fellows. Each fellowship candidate shall submit a current C.V. to the membership chair, along with two letters of nomination from active fellows. The membership chair will present a statement of qualifications for each nominated fellow prior to the consideration of candidates by the Council. Only those fellowship candidates recommended by a majority of the Council shall be eligible for election. In all cases, the vote of the Council on a candidate shall be reported to those attending the annual business meeting, who will then vote on acceptance.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Amendment of Constitution**

Any proposed amendment to the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Council, signed by five active members, at least eight weeks before the annual meeting. The Council shall then give notification to each active member of the proposed amendment, which shall then be acted upon at the following meeting: a two-thirds majority of those present shall be necessary to carry an amendment.

Adopted 1915. Amended 1923, 1941, 1952, 1966, 1969, 1982, 1984, 1994, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2016, 2020, 2021.