

OKRID BYLAWS - UPDATED 2025

I. NAME

This organization shall be known as the Oklahoma Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (OKRID).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to fulfill the functions of a Chapter Affiliate of the national organization, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., RID, Inc. on a statewide level, to be operated at all times as a non-profit organization. The goals of the organization shall include:

- A. TO PROVIDE: effective training and advocacy for the membership
- B. TO SHARE: ideas, opinions, and interpreting experiences providing an avenue for professional support and interaction
- C. TO CREATE: a community that motivates members to achieve the highest standards in education, certification, and skill
- D. TO EDUCATE: the public regarding the appropriate use of interpreters and of the availability of interpreter services
- E. TO ACT: as a body to advance the standards as set forth in the Code of Professional Conduct of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

III. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

"Robert's Rules of Order" current edition shall be the parliamentary authority governing deliberations of this organization.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

- A. **Eligibility:** Membership in the organization is open to any individual who supports the goals and purpose of the organization. Membership in good standing shall be maintained by payment of annual dues.

- B. **Membership Categories:**

The organization shall have the following categories of membership:

- 1. **Voting Member**

Dual members in good standing of OKRID and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf as either a Certified Member or Associate Member.

Each Voting Member shall be entitled to one vote in meetings, referenda, and elections.

- 2. **Non-Voting Member**

Any person with an interest in supporting the purposes and activities of the organization.

- 3. **Student Member**

Any person with an interest in supporting the purposes and activities of the organization and enrolled in either a Bachelors or Associates program of study.

4. **Honorary Membership**

Awarded by the Executive Board to persons recognized for their outstanding contribution to the field of professional interpreting in Oklahoma. Honorary members may participate in all discussions at membership meetings, but may not make motions, vote, or hold office. No dues are required of honorary members.

5. **Organizational/Institutional Member**

Any organization/institution with an interest in supporting the purposes and activities of the organization.

C. **Membership Dues:**

1. Membership cycles shall run concurrently with the fiscal year.
2. Members shall pay annual dues within thirty (30) days of the due date. Unpaid dues shall result in a lapse in membership.
3. The decision to establish, raise or lower dues shall be authorized by the membership.
4. Any member may change their membership category, (e.g. from Student Member to Voting Member) by meeting the requirements of that category and paying the fee difference between the former category and the new category, if any.

V. **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- A. The affairs of the organization shall be governed by an Executive Board.
- B. The Executive Board shall meet at least two (2) times per fiscal year.
- C. Nominations for Executive Board positions shall be open for at least thirty calendar days before the election.
- D. The term of President-Elect shall commence July 1 in an even-numbered year, and continue until June 30 of the following year, at which time they will assume the position of President for 2 consecutive fiscal years.
- E. All officer terms, except the President-Elect, shall commence July 1 in odd-numbered years, and continue for two consecutive fiscal years.
- F. Executive Board members shall not serve more than two successive terms in the same position. Any partial term served less than one fiscal year shall not be considered a full term.
- G. Conditions for Removal - Conditions for removal of an officer shall be three (3) consecutive absences from meetings without just cause as determined by the Board or due to illegal action or for cause as detailed in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
- H. The Executive Board shall consist of:
 1. **President:**
 - a) Eligibility- Shall be a member in good standing of OKRID for not less than two (2) years prior to their election. Shall have been a certified or an associate member of RID prior to their election.

- b) Duties- The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Executive Board; shall serve as a co-signer on the organization's account with the Treasurer; shall serve as an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Board. Following the completion of his or her term, the President may serve an additional term on the Executive Board as Immediate Past President.

2. Vice President:

- a) Eligibility- A member in good standing of OKRID for not less than two (2) years prior to their election. Shall have been a certified or an associate member of RID prior to their election.
- b) Duties- The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President, and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Executive Board.

3. Secretary:

- a) Eligibility- A member in good standing of OKRID for not less than one (1) year prior to their election. Shall have been a certified or an associate member of RID prior to their election.
- b) Duties- The Secretary shall keep complete and accurate records of the proceedings of all meetings of the organization and of the Executive Board; shall notify all members of the organization of any full membership meeting, whether annual or special, and such notification must be provided no less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting; shall keep an accurate membership roll; and shall notify members at least thirty (30) days in advance of the due date for membership dues.

4. Treasurer:

- a) Eligibility- A member in good standing of OKRID for not less than one (1) year prior to their election. Shall have been a certified or an associate member of RID prior to their election.
- b) Duties- The Treasurer shall maintain financial records of the organization and make disbursements as requested by the Executive Board; shall serve as a co-signer on the organization's account with the President; shall present a financial report at each meeting of the Executive Board; shall distribute a written financial report at the annual convention of members; and shall submit a certified copy of the organization's financial statement—detailing all receipts and disbursements—to the RID Regional Representative and the national office of RID within thirty (30) days following the end of each fiscal year.

5. Deaf Member-at-Large:

- a) Eligibility - A member in good standing of OAD (Oklahoma Association of the Deaf) at the time of election. The Deaf Member at Large shall be a voting member of NAD (National Association of the Deaf) and/or RID.
- b) Duties- The Deaf Member-at-Large shall serve as a representative and advocate for the Deaf community within the organization; shall provide the Executive Board and committees with valuable insights and perspectives to ensure that all organizational policies, programs, and services are inclusive and culturally appropriate for Deaf individuals; shall advise on matters related to accessibility and effective communication, helping to identify and remove barriers within the organization's operations and events; shall act as a liaison between the Deaf community and the organization, fostering ongoing communication and collaboration; shall attend all executive Board meetings and actively participate in organizational initiatives. The Deaf Member-at-Large may be assigned to committees, task forces, or special projects.

6. Deaf-Parented Members-at-Large:

- a) Eligibility- A member in good standing of OKRID for not less than one (1) year prior to their election. Shall have been a certified or an associate member of RID prior to their election.
- b) Duties- The Deaf Parented Member-at-Large shall serve as a representative of interpreters who are raised by one or more Deaf parents, offering valuable insight into the unique cultural and linguistic experiences of Deaf-parented individuals within the interpreting profession; shall advocate for inclusion, visibility, and support for Deaf-parented interpreters; shall promote cultural awareness related to Deaf family dynamics; shall act as a liaison between CODA and Deaf-parented communities and the organization; shall attend all Executive Board meetings and actively participate in organizational initiative. The Deaf Parented Member-at-Large may be assigned to committees, task forces, or special projects.

7. Members-at-Large:

- a) Eligibility- Members in good standing of OKRID for not less than one (1) year prior to their election. Shall have been a certified or an associate member of RID prior to their election.
- b) Duties- The Member-at-Large shall serve as a representative of the general membership, providing valuable perspectives to the board that reflect the needs, concerns, and interests of ASL interpreters within the state; shall act as a liaison between the interpreting community, local partners, and the organization; shall attend all Executive Board meetings and actively participate in

organizational initiatives. The Member-at-Large may be assigned to committees, task forces, or special projects.

c) The Board shall include two Members-at-Large.

8. President-Elect:

- a) Eligibility- A member in good standing of OKRID for not less than two (2) years prior to their election. Shall have been a certified or an associate member of RID prior to their election. Current board members are eligible for nomination to the position of President-Elect. If elected, that person shall serve in their current office and President-Elect simultaneously. Following the completion of his or her term(s) as President, that person may serve one (1) more year as Immediate Past-President.
- b) Duties- The president-elect serves as a key member of the leadership team, with the primary responsibility of preparing to assume the role of president. During their term, the president-elect shall work closely with the current president to gain a thorough understanding of the organization's operations, goals, and challenges; shall attend board meetings in a non-voting capacity; and shall engage in strategic discussions to develop insight into leadership processes. While the president-elect does not have voting privileges and does not participate in executive decisions, their role during this term is both preparatory and observatory, equipping them to lead effectively when their term begins. In the event a current officer is serving as President-Elect simultaneously, that person shall retain their voting privileges.

9. Immediate Past-President:

- a) Eligibility- Must have served as President immediately preceding the assumption of the Immediate Past-President role and have completed the full term, except in cases of special circumstances. The individual must be a member in good standing with OKRID and hold either certified or associate membership status with RID.
- b) Duties- The Immediate Past-President shall provide guidance and counsel to the Executive Board, drawing upon their experience and insights gained through prior service on the Board. The Immediate Past-President shall not have voting privileges for their one-year term.

10. Advisors to the Board: The President may appoint representatives of related associations and agencies to act as advisors to the Executive Board. Advisors to the Board shall not enjoy voting privileges.

VI. COMMITTEES

- A. The executive board shall establish any committees including standing, special and/or ad hoc.

- B. The President shall appoint members of committees established by the executive board.
- C. Committees shall consist of at least two members in good standing.
- D. The president shall designate a member of the board to serve as a non-voting liaison to each established committee.
- E. A majority of the committee shall constitute a committee quorum.
- F. Committee reports should be submitted to the executive board detailing committee activities as requested by the board.

VII. MEETINGS

- A. There shall be an annual convention of members of the organization.
- B. The Executive Board shall have the responsibility for establishing the date and location for the convention and related activities.
- C. The Executive Board shall have the powers to conduct the business of the association between annual meetings.
- D. Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Executive Board. Once approved, the Secretary shall notify all Executive Board members at least fifteen (15) calendar days before the meeting. The notice must include the date, time, location (or virtual access details), and the purpose of the meeting.
- E. The organization may conduct business during meetings or by electronic vote established by the Executive Board.
- F. A special meeting of the membership may be called by a petition signed by twenty percent (20%) of the general membership. This petition must clearly state the purpose of the meeting, which may include addressing grievances or concerns regarding the actions or decisions of the Executive Board. The petition must be submitted to the Secretary of the organization. Upon verification of the required number of signatures, the Secretary must notify the Executive Board and schedule the special meeting within thirty (30) calendar days. The meeting notice sent to members must include the specific agenda from the petition.

VIII. VOTING

- A. Referendums and elections may be held:
 - 1. At a special or regular business meeting of the organization
 - 2. By electronic vote established by the Executive Board
- B. Voting may be cast by secret ballot.
- C. Quorum:
 - 1. A quorum shall be required for any vote to be valid.
 - 2. A quorum shall consist of 20% of the voting members
 - a) Votes held in a meeting of the organization, virtually or in-person, require a quorum in attendance at the time of the vote.
 - b) Votes held electronically via ballot require a quorum of returned or submitted responses.
 - 3. A vote shall be decided by a simple majority

D. Reversing a Decision Any decision of the Executive Board may be vetoed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those eligible and voting during a regular or special meeting of the membership or through electronic referendum.

E. Elections of Board Members:

1. In the event of a tie, a run-off election shall be held until a simple majority of the ballots cast is reached.

2. Any vacancy on the Executive Board shall be filled by action of the Executive Board

IX. FISCAL YEAR OF THE CORPORATION

The fiscal year of the corporation shall begin on the first day of July of each year and end on the thirtieth day of June the following year.

X. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

A. The Bylaws may be amended or repealed at any regular or special meeting of the organization or by electronic referendum.

B. Referendums to amend the Bylaws shall require (30) days prior notice prior to the vote being opened.

C. Bylaws revisions or amendments, required to comply with RID policies and procedures, shall not require a vote but shall be automatically incorporated into these Bylaws. The membership shall be notified in writing of such revisions within thirty (30) days.

XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Oklahoma Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its activities or operations.

XII. DISSOLUTION

A. In case of dissolution, all records, monies, and holdings shall be forwarded to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

B. Dissolution may occur in the following manners:

1. Upon a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the membership.

2. Non-recognition of affiliate status by RID for failure to comply with requirements of affiliate chapters as set forth by RID.

C. No single member shall be held liable for debts incurred by the organization.