

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

The name of this Corporation shall be THE AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE II

Purposes

The purposes for which it is formed are

1. To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among qualified professional persons interested in group psychotherapy and to publish and to make publications available on all subjects relating to group psychotherapy.
2. To encourage the development of sound training programs in group psychotherapy for qualified mental health professionals; and to establish and maintain high standards of ethical, professional group psychotherapy practice.
3. To encourage and promote research in group psychotherapy.
4. To have all the powers permitted by law to effectuate such aims. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual; no substantial part of the resources or activities of the Corporation shall be devoted to influencing legislation; and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE III

Membership

SECTION 1. There shall be eight classes of members of this Corporation, to be known as: a) Clinical Members, b) Academic Members, c) Research Members, d) Associate Clinical Members, e) Student Members, f) Fellows, g) Distinguished Fellows, and h) Honorary Members.

SECTION 2. Clinical Members

a. *Rights and Privileges.* Clinical Members in good standing may participate fully in the affairs of the Association, by such activities as voting, serving on Committees, and holding office.

b. *Qualifications.* Clinical professionals who have 300 hours of group psychotherapy experience as responsible therapist or co-therapist, with a minimum of 75 hours of qualified group psychotherapy supervision.

Clinical professionals, for the purpose of this Bylaw, are: 1) clinical mental health professionals in such disciplines as may be designated by the Membership Committee upon recommendation to the Board of Directors who hold their respective state discipline licensures or, when not applicable, designated national memberships or certifications, 2) other mental health professionals who hold a Master's degree with equivalent clinical credentials as defined by the Membership Committee upon recommendation to the Board of Directors and who meet the above group psychotherapy requirements. A two-thirds vote of

those Board Members present and voting shall be required for approval of Membership Committee recommendations for changes in qualifying criteria.

SECTION 3. *Academic Members*

a. *Rights and Privileges.* Academic Members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of members in good standing as outlined in Section 2a and in subsequent sections of this Article.

b. *Qualifications.* Academicians who have held a faculty position with an accompanying academic appointment at an accredited university or college for a minimum of three years, and whose teaching experience during the academic appointment has included a minimum of six three-hour courses in the field of group therapy, group theory or group behavior.

Academic professionals, for the purpose of this Bylaw, must hold at least a Master's degree in their respective disciplines.

SECTION 4. *Research Members*

a. *Rights and Privileges.* Research Members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of members in good standing as outlined in Section 2a and in subsequent sections of this Article.

b. *Qualifications.* Research professionals who have published or have had accepted for publication a minimum of two research studies in the area of group therapy or of group processes in change-oriented groups which illustrate a high level of competence in formulation of problem research design, execution and conceptualization of findings and conclusions. At least one study should have been conducted after the granting of the professional or scientific degree.

Research professionals, for the purpose of this Bylaw, must hold at least a Master's degree in their respective disciplines.

SECTION 5. *Associate Clinical Members*

a. *Rights and Privileges.* Associate Clinical Members in good standing may participate fully in the affairs of the Association, including such activities' as serving on Committees, but may not vote or hold office.

b. *Qualifications.* Clinical mental health professionals in such disciplines as may be designated by the Membership Committee upon recommendation to the Board of Directors who hold their respective state licensure or designated national memberships or certifications, or other mental health field as defined by the Membership Committee upon recommendation to the Board of Directors. A two-thirds vote of those Board Members present and voting shall be required for approval of Membership Committee recommendations for changes in qualifying criteria.

SECTION 6. *Adjunct Member*

a. *Rights and Privileges.* Adjunct Members in good standing may participate fully in the affairs of the Association, including such activities as serving on Committees, but may not vote or hold office.

b. *Qualifications.* Individuals who have experience as leader or co-leader of therapeutic, educational and/or consulting groups.

SECTION 7. *Student and New Professional Members*

a. *Rights and Privileges.* Student and New Professional Members in good standing may participate fully in the affairs of the Association, including such activities as serving on Committees, but may not vote or hold office.

b. *Qualifications.* Individuals matriculated in degree or residency programs or individuals enrolled in certificate-granting programs, in the mental health professions and allied fields for as long as they remain in those programs; and individuals who have graduated from such programs within the prior three years, qualify as Student and/or New Professional Members. This membership shall be held on a year-to-year basis and shall require substantiation of student status annually.

SECTION 8. *Fellows*

a. *Rights and Privileges.* Fellows shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of members in good standing, as outlined in Section 2a of this Article.

b. *Qualifications.* Clinical Members, Academic Members and Research Members of the Association in good standing: 1) who have been such Members for five years, unless this requirement is waived by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors; and 2) whose outstanding performance in the field of group psychotherapy has been demonstrated by leadership in organizational service as well as excellence in one of the following areas:

- i. clinical practice or administration
- ii. teaching
- iii. research
- iv. publications

SECTION 9. *Distinguished Fellows*

a. *Rights and Privileges.* Distinguished Fellows shall enjoy all rights and privileges of Fellows as described in Section 7a of this Article.

b. *Qualifications.* Fellows who have been Members of the Association for at least 15 years and whose professional career has been such as to distinguish them as among the top theoreticians, practitioners, or trainers in the group psychotherapy field or whose leadership in the Association been marked with utmost distinction.

SECTION 10. *Honorary Members*

a. *Rights and Privileges.* Honorary Members may participate in the affairs of the Association, including such activities as serving on Committees, but may not vote or hold office. They will receive the Association's publication free of charge and will be exempt from all dues.

b. *Qualifications.* Persons who have given distinguished service in the fields of mental health or who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of group psychotherapy.

SECTION 11. *Life Clinical Members, Academic Members, Research Members, Associate Clinical Members, Fellows and Distinguished Fellows*

a. *Rights and Privileges.* Life Clinical Members, Life Academic Members, Life Research Members, Life Associate Clinical Members, Life Fellows and Life Distinguished Fellows shall have all the privileges of their categories.

b. *Qualifications.* Clinical Members, Academic Members, Research Members, Associate Clinical Members, Fellows and Distinguished Fellows who have had membership for 30 years or those who upon reaching age 65 have a combination of age and years of membership which total 85.

SECTION 12. *Methods of Election*

a. *Clinical Members, Academic Members, Associate Clinical Members and Student Members, New Professionals.* Applications for these categories shall be evaluated and decided by the Membership Committee. The Affiliate Local or Regional Society in whose geographical area the applicant resides may be contacted for review and comment. Applications for transfer from one category to another may be made as the specified qualifications are reached and such applications will be processed in the same way as that listed above.

b. *Research Members.* Applications for Research Member shall be evaluated and decided by the Research Special Interest Group. Procedures for assessing research competency shall be established by the Research Special Interest Group subject to approval by the Board of Directors. In addition, the local or regional society in whose geographical area the applicant resides may be contacted for review and comment.

c. *Fellows*. Applications for Fellowship may be submitted on their own behalf by Members in good standing for five years, or by any Member or Fellow on behalf of another qualified Member or by the Fellowship and Awards Committee on its own initiative. Such applications shall be evaluated by the Fellowship and Awards Committee, whose recommendations shall be submitted to the Board of Directors. A two-thirds vote of those Board Members present and voting shall be required for approval.

d. *Distinguished Fellows*. The status of Distinguished Fellow may be granted by the Board of Directors acting upon recommendation of the Fellowship and Awards Committee. A three-fourths vote of those Board Members present and voting shall be required for approval.

e. *Honorary Members*. Any Member, Fellow, Committee or Affiliate Society may recommend to the Fellowship and Awards Committee nominations for Honorary Members. Recommendations of the Fellowship and Awards Committee shall require approval by a two-thirds vote of those Board Members present and voting at the meeting to which the recommendations are presented.

f. *Life Clinical Members, Academic Members, Research Members, Associate Clinical Members, Fellows and Distinguished Fellows*. Life status shall be offered upon application to all so qualified.

SECTION 13. All members, by accepting such status, shall for all purposes be conclusively deemed to have accepted and to have agreed to be bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of this Corporation as the same may then exist or as the same may, from time to time, be altered or amended.

SECTION 14. Dues for each category of membership shall be established by the Board of Directors. Two-thirds approval of those Board Members present and voting is required in order to revise membership dues. The dues for each life membership category shall not exceed fifty percent of the dues of the membership categories. The dues are payable in advance for the fiscal year and include annual subscription to the official Journal of the Association. Unless dues are paid within three months after due date, membership shall be terminated but may be reinstated upon reapplication or upon receipt of a reinstatement fee to be determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV

Affiliate Local and Regional Societies

As part of the purpose of the Association in promoting the growth of group psychotherapy, the formation of Affiliate Local and Regional Societies shall be encouraged. These units should be entitled "Society" in order to avoid confusion with the national Association.

SECTION 1. The objective of the Affiliate Local and Regional Societies shall be 1) to provide a forum for exchange of information and experience in group psychotherapy; 2) to create opportunities for intensive discussion for small groups; 3) to make group psychotherapy known in the Societies' respective communities.

SECTION 2. Groups of Clinical Members, Academic Members, Research Members, Associate Clinical Members and Fellows of the Association, not fewer than ten in number, living in close geographical proximity, shall be encouraged to form local or regional societies. Application for Affiliation should be accompanied by the names of the officers, a copy of the Bylaws, and an expression of agreement to the conditions as herein formulated by the Board of Directors, and as added to or amended in the future. The Bylaws and Constitution shall be in conformity with the general principles of the parent Association, and are subject to its approval. Each Society's Bylaws should clearly define the Society's geographical area.

The Affiliate Societies Assembly shall evaluate each application and submit its recommendation to

the Board of Directors. A two-thirds vote of those Board Members present and voting shall be required for the granting of Affiliate status.

SECTION 3. Disputes between two or more Affiliate Societies or between a Regional and a Local Society developing within the area covered by the Regional Society will be handled in the first instance by the Affiliate Societies Assembly. If no satisfactory solution is arrived at, the dispute will be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee. Similarly, should no resolution be achieved the matter will be presented to the AGPA Board of Directors for final determination.

SECTION 4. Membership in Affiliate Local and Regional Societies shall be limited to Clinical Members, Academic Members, Research Members, Associate Clinical Members, Fellows and Student New Professional Members of the Association residing in the appropriate area who signify a desire to participate in the activities of the Society. The Affiliate Local or Regional Societies should be encouraged to foster among their own memberships the multidisciplinary character of the membership of the Association. Categories of affiliation for other than AGPA members may be established by Societies.

SECTION 5. To remain in good standing, Affiliate Local or Regional Societies shall hold at least one formal meeting annually, and the Secretary of such a Society shall send notices and reports of each meeting or other activity to the Secretary of the Association and to the Chairperson of Affiliate Societies. Affiliate Local and Regional Societies shall not hold publicly announced meetings two weeks before, during and two weeks after an Annual Meeting of the Association.

SECTION 6. The Affiliate Local or Regional Societies cannot speak for or commit the Association in any way. They shall have autonomy in electing their own officers, setting their own dues for expenses, setting the times and places of meetings, arranging programs, organizing study groups, conducting meetings according to its own rules of procedure, inviting speakers and auditors as they may choose, and cooperating with other Affiliate Societies as they may determine. All expenses of organization and meetings shall be met by their own members.

SECTION 7. An Affiliate Local or Regional Society on notice and after hearing may be disaffiliated by the Association for cause by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Board of Directors present and voting.

SECTION 8. *Affiliate Societies Assembly*

a. There shall be an Assembly consisting of one official representative from each Affiliate Local or Regional Society in good standing. The delegate of the Affiliate Local or Regional Society shall be the President or other duly elected or appointed delegate. There shall be four officers of the Assembly: the Chair, the Chair-Elect, the Retiring Chair and a Member-at-Large. The Chair, Chair-Elect and Member-at-Large shall be elected from among the delegates by the Assembly and shall be granted full membership on the Board of Directors with all rights, privileges and responsibilities as though elected by the membership-at-large. The Assembly Chair shall also serve as member of the Executive Committee. The term of office of the Assembly officers shall be two years and correspond to the term of the Officers of the Association.

b. The Assembly shall maintain adequate records and submit progress reports to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. The procedures of the Assembly are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

The following shall be the duties and responsibilities of the Assembly, plus additional ones as deemed necessary: (a) encourage and be available to assist in the formation of Affiliate Local and Regional Societies; (b) process affiliation applications; (c) encourage and be available to assist AGPA Local and Regional Societies in developing programs and activities; (d) act as liaison between the Affiliate Societies and the AGPA Executive Committee and Board of Directors; and (e) serve as an open forum for Local and Regional Societies to air and discuss all issues relevant to their function and make

suggestions to the Executive Committee and Board for appropriate consideration.

ARTICLE V

Meetings of the Association

SECTION 1. There shall be at least one Annual Membership Meeting held in connection with the Annual Scientific Conference. Notice of the time and place of the Annual Membership Meeting shall be included in the program listings of the Annual Scientific Conference.

SECTION 2. Special Membership Meetings may be called by the Board of Directors as necessary, in which case notices shall be sent by mail to all members not less than thirty days before such meetings are to be held.

SECTION 3. At Membership Meetings, only Clinical Members, Academic Members, Research Members, Fellows and Distinguished Fellows are entitled to vote. They may also act as proxy for one absent Clinical Member, Academic Member, Research Member, Fellow or Distinguished Fellow on written authorization for a specific meeting.

SECTION 4. At all meetings of the membership, one-third of the paid-up membership, or if one-third the paid-up membership in good standing be more than 100, then 100 shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI

Board of Directors

SECTION 1. The management of the Association and all of its affairs shall be entrusted to a Board of Directors consisting of not less than four nor more than twelve Directors.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the Association; the Retiring President for a one-year term; four additional elected Members; the Chair of the Affiliate Societies Assembly; the Chair of the Group Psychotherapy Foundation Board of Directors; the Chair of the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists Board of Directors; and the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. The Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall be an ex officio member of the Board of Directors with voice but no vote at Board Meetings. The number of elected Members of the Board may be increased at the Annual Membership Meeting at the recommendation of the Board.

SECTION 3. Upon the first election, the elected Members of the Board of Directors shall be divided as nearly as may be possible into three classes: the first group to serve one year, the second group to serve two years, and the third group to serve three years. Thereafter their successors shall be elected for a three-year term. Each shall be nominated and elected in the same manner as provided for Officers of the Association in Article VII.

There shall be no limit on the number of terms an elected Board Member may serve except that a minimum of one year shall elapse between terms. This condition shall not prohibit, however, an elected Board Member from running for office.

Similarly, a retiring Officer of the Board shall not be eligible to run for elected Board Member status until one year has elapsed following the completion of that Officer's retirement status.

SECTION 4. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5. The President of the Association shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors.

In the absence of the President, the President-Elect shall preside, with the Secretary and Treasurer following in that order.

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times and places as may be fixed by the Board of Directors from time to time. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by order of the President on written request of five members of the Board of Directors. Notice in writing of the time, place and purposes of each meeting of the Board of Directors shall be delivered personally or mailed to each Director at least five days prior to the time of holding such a meeting. No business shall be transacted at special meetings of the Board of Directors other than that set forth in the notice thereof.

SECTION 6. The following shall be the duties and functions of the Board of Directors, plus additional ones as deemed necessary: (a) to carry out all the purposes of the Association; (b) to be responsible for the business and the financial affairs of the Association; (c) to form, dissolve, reinstitute and reconstitute Committees and Commissions, except as herein otherwise provided for; (d) to select a slate of candidates for election to the Nominating Committee as provided in Section 10 of Article VIII; (e) to fill unexpected vacancies in all offices and in the elected membership of the Board of Directors; (f) to act on recommendations of all Committees and Commissions; (g) to remove from office for cause elected Officers and other Board Members, as provided in Article VII, Section 3 of these Bylaws; (h) to elect two representatives from the elected membership of the Board of Directors to serve on the Search Committee of the Group Psychotherapy Foundation; (i) to elect two representatives from the elected membership of the Board of Directors to serve on the Search Committee of the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists and to approve, remove and fill vacancies as necessary of the AGPA elected representatives to the Registry Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

Officers

SECTION 1.

a. The Officers of the Association shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Board may confer the status of President Emeritus upon one Past President for exceptional meritorious services who shall be a life member of the Board of Directors with voice but no vote at Board Meetings. The Association shall not have more than one President Emeritus at anyone time.

b. The Officers and the other Board Members of the Association, with the exception of the Chair of the Affiliate Societies Assembly, shall be elected by mail ballot vote of the membership. Nominations for Officers of the Association and for members of the Board of Directors shall be made by a Nominating Committee of five Fellows or Members elected by the membership of the Association as prescribed in Section 10 of Article VIII.

c. All candidates for Officers and Board of Directors shall pledge to attend all meetings except for cause and chair Committees when appointed by the President or the Board as provided.

d. *Selection of candidates for President-Elect.* To qualify as a candidate for President-Elect, a Member of the Association must be a past or current elected Member of the Board of Directors or Officer of the Association.

e. The Nominating Committee shall present to the membership for election by mail ballot vote a slate of no more than two candidates for each of the offices of President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer, and a slate of no less than two candidates for each Board Member position to be filled by election.

SECTION 2. The Nominating Committee shall circulate the complete slate, including candidates

for election to the Nominating Committee as provided in Section 10 of Article VIII, to the membership at least 150 days in advance of the Annual Meeting. Additional qualified candidates may be nominated by petition of five percent of voting Members in good standing. Such petitions must be received at the office of the Association not later than 110 days before the Annual Meeting. The official ballot must be mailed to the membership-at-large not less than 90 days, and returned for tabulation, not less than 60 days, prior to the Annual Meeting. Write-in votes may also be used by Members of the Association within the provisions of the Article. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

SECTION 3. *Removal of Directors or Officers*

Any one or more of the Directors or Officers may be removed for cause at any time, by a vote of two-thirds of the Board Members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors. Cause is hereby defined to be neglect of duty or conduct deleterious to the Association.

SECTION 4. The term of office for all Officers shall be two years. The President-Elect shall automatically assume the office of President upon expiration of the incumbent's term of office or upon the death or resignation of the incumbent. In the event that there is no President-Elect in office, the Retiring President shall assume the office of President until the next election. Should the Retiring President not be able to accept the office, the next most recent Retiring President shall be asked to assume the office and so on.

SECTION 5. The Officers shall have the powers and perform the duties customarily belonging to their respective offices. They will have the specific duties and powers listed below.

a. The President shall preside at all business meetings of the Association and act as Chair of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and act as ex officio member of all Committees; shall exercise general supervision over all the affairs of the Association; shall appoint such ad hoc Committees as may be deemed necessary and advisable; and shall perform such other duties as are incident to this office, or as may be properly required by actions of the Association or of the Board at duly constituted meetings. The President shall serve concurrently as an ex officio member of the Boards of Directors of the Group Psychotherapy Foundation and the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists with vote. At the conclusion of the Presidential term of office, the President shall serve one year as a Director.

b. The President-Elect shall, in the absence or incapacity of the President, perform the functions of the President and shall be a member of the Executive Committee and an ex officio member of all other Committees.

c. The Secretary shall keep records of all business sessions of the Association and of all Board Meetings and make reports thereon as the Board may from time to time instruct; shall conduct and have custody of the official correspondence of the Association and the Board; shall issue calls and notices of meetings; shall oversee the periodic assessment of the adequacy of the Bylaws and any proposed revisions thereto; and shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office, or as may be properly required by actions of the Association or of the Board at duly constituted meetings. The duties of the Secretary as set forth herein may, to the extent permitted by law, be delegated by the Board to the Association's Chief Executive Officer, and/or a designee of the Chief Executive Officer.

d. The Treasurer shall receive all monies due to the Association and shall disburse such sums as are necessary to meet lawful indebtedness incurred and authorized by vote of the Association or by the Board. The Treasurer shall have custody on behalf of the Association of all funds and securities of any type, and shall deposit the same in the name of the Association in such a bank or banks as the Board may direct; shall have custody of all property of the Association and shall hold the same subject to the order and direction of the Board. With the advice and consent of the Board, the Treasurer shall have the power to invest and reinvest surplus funds and with the advice of the Executive Committee shall prepare a

budget for each year's activities for the approval of the Board. The Treasurer shall arrange to have the accounts examined annually by certified public accountants and shall render to the Association at the Annual Meeting, on behalf of the Board, and verified to the Board, an accurate account of all sums received and disbursed during the preceding fiscal year; the assets and liabilities of the Association; and a report of the audit made of the accounts. Such other duties as are incident to the office, or as may be properly required by actions of the Association or of the Board at duly constituted meetings also shall be performed by the Treasurer. The duties of the Treasurer as set forth herein may, to the extent permitted by law, be delegated by the Board to the Association's Chief Executive Officer, and/or a designee of the Chief Executive Officer.

e. The Board of Directors shall employ a salaried chief executive who shall have the title of Chief Executive Officer. The Executive Committee is delegated the authority to determine the contract for ongoing compensation and other arrangements of the Chief Executive Officer. Such data will be reported to the Board of Directors.

The Chief Executive Officer shall manage and direct all activities of the Association in accordance with Association policies; shall administer the Association office staff and facilities to best represent the Association; shall employ, terminate and manage staff to carry out the work of the Association; and shall define duties, titles, responsibilities and accountability of staff.

The Chief Executive Officer serves as a non-voting ex officio member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors and all other committees of the Association; the Chief Executive Officer may name a designee to serve as a non-voting ex officio committee member.

With regard to the Group Psychotherapy Foundation, the Chief Executive Officer carries out the same management activities on behalf of the Foundation as is carried out for the Association, serves as Secretary-Treasurer, with all of the position's commensurate responsibilities, and serves with voice and vote on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and as ex officio member of all other committees of the Foundation; the Chief Executive Officer may name a designee to serve as non-voting ex officio committee member.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

SECTION 1.

a. All Chairs of Standing Committees except as hereinafter provided, shall be appointed for a term of two years by the President and confirmed by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors. In case of resignation or death of a Committee Chair, the President is to appoint a successor; such appointment shall be temporary until approved by the Board at its next meeting.

b. The Annual Meeting Committee shall have Co-Chairs, who shall serve for four years. Their term of office shall be arranged so that every two years each Committee will have one new Co-Chair. One year before assuming the Presidency, the President-Elect shall appoint, subject to Board approval the Co-Chair designate for the Committee who becomes a member of said Committee unless already serving. The Co-Chair designate will serve as assistant to the Co-Chairs for one year and will then serve as Co-Chair during the Presidential term of the President who so nominated.

SECTION 2.

a. The Standing Committees shall consist of: 1) Executive Committee, and Committees on 2) Membership, 3) Annual Meeting, 4) Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*,

5) Liaison, 6) Publications and 7) Fellowship and Awards.

b. Members of Standing Committees, other than Annual Meeting Committee Co-Chair designates, the Executive Committee, and the Editorial Board shall be appointed for a two-year term by the Chairs of the respective committees in consultation with the President; at least one-third of the members of the Committees shall be appointed from the membership of the preceding Committees.

c. Each Committee shall maintain adequate records and submit progress reports to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. *Executive Committee*

a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, who shall be the Chair, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Chair of the Affiliate Societies Assembly, the Chair of the Group Psychotherapy Foundation, the Chair of the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists and the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. The Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Committee with voice but no vote at Executive Committee meetings.

b. The Executive Committee is charged with the following responsibilities: to plan for the advancement of the Association's activities and welfare, to review and assess the affairs of the Association, to guide, oversee and coordinate the activities of all Committees of the Association, to advise and assist the Treasurer in preparing and recommending to the Board of Directors the annual budget and the management of the expenditure and income of the Association, to address ethical matters brought to their attention and to exercise the powers of the Board of Directors in the intervals between its meetings.

c. All actions of the Executive Committee in order to remain in effect have to be approved by the Board at the next meeting of the Board, provided no rights of third parties are prejudiced.

d. The Executive Committee, without assembling, may take action by a majority vote through either a mail or telephone ballot with like effect as if such action were taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee duly convened and held with a quorum present and voting.

SECTION 4. *Membership Committee*

This Committee shall consist of no less than four members, including the Chair. In accordance with the provisions of Article III of these Bylaws, the functions of the Committee shall be (a) to grant Clinical Membership, Academic Membership, Associate Clinical Membership and Student Membership to qualified applicants; (b) to develop and implement plans for the recruitment and retention of members and (c) to define standards for membership and revise them from time to time for approval by the Board of Directors and/or the general membership.

SECTION 5. *Annual Meeting Committee*

This Committee shall consist of no less than twelve members, including the Co-Chairs, and shall have responsibility for organizing, promoting and conducting the program of the Annual Conference and Institute.

SECTION 6. *Editorial Board of the Journal*

a. Prior to the appointment of a new Editor, the Board of Directors shall review the functions of the Journal.

b. The Editor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and is directly accountable to them. This appointment shall be for a five-year term and may be renewed once.

c. The Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy* shall consist of the Editor and as many Editorial Board members as may be deemed necessary to conduct the Editorial affairs of the Journal. These individuals must be members of the Association and their appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

d. The Editor, with the advice and consent of the Editorial Board, may appoint as many Consulting

Editors as maybe deemed advisable. Such Editors are not required to be members of the Association.

e. The members of the Editorial Board and the Consulting Editors shall serve at the pleasure of the Editor and in no case shall their term of office run beyond the tenure of the Editor. There shall be no limit, however, on how many times they can be reappointed by subsequent Editors.

SECTION 7. *Public Affairs Committee*

This Committee shall consist of no less than three members including the Chair. Its function shall be to advocate for health care issues in relevant public and social policy arenas. The accomplishment of this effort will include but not be limited to the dissemination of knowledge of group psychotherapy theory and practice and information about the Association to relevant groups and consumers as well as communication and/or collaboration with multidisciplinary professional efforts that address such issues as standard setting, service delivery systems, legal rights, ethics, privileges and responsibilities, third-party coverage and other such mental health issues as may be of concern to our members.

SECTION 8. *Publications Committee*

This Committee shall consist of no less than five members, including the Chair. The Editor of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy* shall be an ex officio member of the Publications Committee. Its function shall be (a) to develop, promote, issue, evaluate and distribute all media other than the Journal as authorized by the Board of Directors; (b) to carry out all contractual and policy changes and all non-editorial functions related to the publication of the Journal, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors; (c) to appoint editorial committees other than for the Journal as they may be required; and (d) to compile the history of the organization through the collection and storing of all relevant documents. All financial recommendations of the Publications Committee shall be submitted to the Executive Committee.

SECTION 9. *Nominating Committee*

a. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be the Retiring President of the Association, two others of whom shall be currently serving on the Board of Directors with vote and two others of whom shall be from the general membership.

The Nominating Committee shall serve two years concurrently with the tenure of the President. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for Officers and Members of the Board in accordance with Article VI, Section 3 and Sections 1 and 2 of Article VII. The Nominating Committee is to present its slate to the Board of Directors no later than the Spring Board Meeting each year. A majority vote will be required to veto a slate or any portion thereof. Should the Nominating Committee fail to act, the Board of Directors shall fulfill such a function.

b. A slate of candidates for the Nominating Committee shall be prepared by the Board of Directors and submitted to the membership of the Association for mail ballot vote.

c. The slate when submitted to the membership shall be divided into two categories and consist of four Members currently serving on the Board of Directors with vote, and four Clinical Members, Academic Members, Research Members or Fellows of the Association.

d. The two candidates in the current Board Member category receiving the highest number of votes, and the two candidates in the general membership category receiving the two highest votes shall be deemed elected to the Nominating Committee. The Retiring President of the Association shall be the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

e. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for leadership development, orientation and training of all components of the organization which include Board members, committee chairs, committee members and the chairs of Special Interest Groups. Additionally, the Nominating Committee shall coordinate leadership development activities with the Group Psychotherapy Foundation and the

National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists.

SECTION 10. *Fellowship and Awards Committee*

This Committee shall consist of no less than three Fellows, including the Chair whose responsibility it shall be to evaluate applications for Fellowship, Distinguished Fellowship and Honorary Membership, in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws, and to make recommendations to the Board for action. A list of qualified applicants with relevant information shall be mailed to all members of the Board of Directors and to the Officers of the Association for an expression of opinion, approval or disapproval, at subsequent Board of Directors meetings. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be required for approval. This committee shall also have the responsibility to recommend to the Board of Directors the presentation of awards and honors to individuals or groups that may have made a significant contribution to the mental health field. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting also shall be required for approval.

ARTICLE IX

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin July 1st and end June 30th of the following year.

ARTICLE X

Amendments

SECTION 1. Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed by any Member of the Association to be submitted to the membership for mail vote under the following conditions: (a) if the proposed amendment is introduced at an Annual Business Meeting or a special meeting of the membership of the Association and two-thirds of the entire membership for mail vote, or (b) if the proposed amendment is submitted to or originates in the Board of Directors and two-thirds of the Board Members present vote in favor of submitting it to the entire membership for mail vote.

SECTION 2. The ballots on any amendment so directed to be submitted to the entire membership, for a mail vote, must be returned within 30 days of the day of mailing to be counted. The affirmative vote of the majority of the ballots so returned shall be necessary and sufficient for the adoption of such amendment or amendments.

Any rephrasing, rewording, reorganizing or renumbering of the Bylaws, the sole purpose of which is to eliminate redundancy, poor use of language or to bring a new Bylaw or Bylaw revision into its correct sequence may be authorized by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors provided that such changes do not represent a substantive change in the intent or spirit of the Bylaws. In such instances a mail referendum of the membership' shall not be required.