

**BYLAWS
OF THE
Southern California Psychiatry Society
OF THE
AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION**

CHAPTER ONE: NAME; PURPOSES; LEGAL IDENTITY

Section 1.1 Name. The name of this organization shall be the Southern California Psychiatric Society (herein after referred to as the "District Branch") of the American Psychiatric Association., (herein after referred to as the "Association.")

Section 1.2 Purposes and Objectives. The purposes for which the District Branch is organized are: (a) to promote the common professional interests of its members; (b) to improve the treatment, rehabilitation, and care of persons with mental disorders (including mental retardation and substance-related disorders; (c) to advance the standards of all psychiatric services and facilities; (d) to promote research, professional education in psychiatry and allied fields, and the prevention of psychiatric disabilities; (e) to foster the cooperation of all who are concerned with the medical, psychological, social, and legal aspects of mental health and illness; (f) to make psychiatric knowledge available to practitioners of medicine, to scientists, and to the public; (g) to promote the best interests of patients and those actually or potentially making use of mental health services; and (h) to advocate for its members.¹

Section 1.3 Legal Identity. The District Branch is organized exclusively as a professional organization not organized for profit, within the meaning of [Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.] No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.²

Section 1.4 Dissolution. In the event of dissolution, all assets of this District Branch shall pursuant to a resolution of the District Branch Council be forthwith distributed to the Association, a non-profit organization, or to another non-profit fund, foundation or corporation that is organized and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes and that has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 1.5 Territorial Jurisdiction. For the objectives stated above, the territorial jurisdiction of the District Branch shall be delimited by the boundaries of the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.³

Section 1.6 Principal Office. The principal office for the transaction of business of the District Branch is hereby fixed and located at 2999 Overland Avenue, Suite 208, Los Angeles, CA 90064. The Council may at any time, or from time to time, change the location

¹ Paragraph applies to 501(c)(6) organizations. For 501(c)(3) organizations, item (h) should read "to advocate for its members, to the extent consistent with Section 1.3 below." Section 1.3 should read: "No substantial part of the activities of the District Branch shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the District Branch should not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements of) any political campaign of any candidate for public office."

² Alternate wording: Change the bracketed portion to the applicable Section of the IRS code and include the sentence: "The _____ shall remain/shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of _____ as a nonprofit scientific organization."

³ Alternate wording for branches not defined by geography: "For the objectives stated above, the jurisdiction of the District Branch shall be defined as _____."

of the principal office from one location to another within the geographic boundaries of the District Branch. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept at the District Branch principal office, membership records containing each member's name, address, classification and such other information as deemed necessary. Termination of any membership, together with the date of termination, shall be recorded promptly.

CHAPTER TWO. MEMBERS

Section 2.1 Requirements for membership in the Southern California Psychiatric Society District Branch shall be the same as those for the Association at the time of application.⁴

Section 2.2 Qualifications. Any physician who is eligible for the categories of membership below shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2.3 Categories of District Branch membership. There shall be the following categories of members who are to qualify according to the standards and procedures of the Association as set forth in Chapter 2.1 of the Association Bylaws. They are (a) Members-in-Training; (b) Associate Members⁵; (c) General Members; (d) Fellows; (e) Distinguished Fellows (f) Life Members; (g) Life Fellows; (h) Life Associate Members; (i) Distinguished Life Fellows; (j) Inactive Members or (k) Inactive Fellows.⁶

Section 2.4 Voting. The right to vote shall be the same as in the Association Bylaws. Members with voting rights are Members-in-Training, General Members, Fellows, Distinguished Fellows, Life Members, Life Fellows, and Distinguished Life Fellows. All other categories of membership are non-voting. Each voting member shall have one vote.

(a) Each election conducted by or on behalf of the District Branch to fill a position and/or office of the Association or of the District Branch shall be conducted by a vote of District Branch members with voting rights as defined above using nomination procedures and ballot procedures as defined below in these bylaws.

(b) For each election, the District Branch Council shall decide whether the election is to be conducted by or under the direction of the District Branch, the California Psychiatric Association or the American Psychiatric Association.

Section 2.5 Election to Membership. Election to membership in the District Branch shall be as follows⁷:

(a) A Committee on Membership shall be appointed by the President and approved by Council.

(b) Applications for membership in the District Branch shall be made in accordance with procedures established from time to time by the Association Board of Trustees through its Membership Committee and by the Council.

⁴ It is important to include a statement to this effect.

⁵ Associate Member category closed to new members since December 1989.

⁶ Some categories of APA membership are not required to join a district branch (Medical Student Members, Honorary Fellows) or are outside the jurisdiction of a district branch (International Members and International Fellows).

⁷ APA moved all provisions for membership processing to its *Operations Manual*. Alternate wording for Section 2.5 could simply be: "Applications for membership in the District Branch shall be made in accordance with procedures established from time to time by the Council."

