

# BYLAWS OF THE ACUPUNCTURE SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## ARTICLE 1 — Name and Purpose

### Section 1 — Name

The name of the organization shall be the Acupuncture Society of the District of Columbia, abbreviated ASDC.

### Section 2 — Purpose

ASDC, a professional membership organization, encourages the integration of the methods and modalities of oriental medicine, into health care services within the District of Columbia by appropriately trained and licensed practitioners. The organization also works to expand public awareness, understanding and access to acupuncture and Oriental medicine within the District of Columbia.

The organization has been founded for the following purposes:

- A. To serve as official representative of, and spokesperson for the individual professional acupuncturist and Oriental medicine practitioner, as defined in Article II;
- B. To provide an organizational forum in the District of Columbia for licensed acupuncturists, practitioners of Oriental medicine and those training to become licensed acupuncturists;
- C. To represent and assist the membership in licensure, regulation and health care issues; D. To develop and maintain, when deemed necessary, standards of ethics, education and professional competence;
- E. To collaborate with and educate individuals, organizations and legislative bodies on issues and activities in support of and in accordance with our purpose;
- F. To assist in the establishment of health care regulations and laws that protect the public;
- G. To gather and disseminate factual information and relevant opinion regarding issues of concern to the profession;
- H. To provide continuing education programs for health professionals in the District of Columbia;
- I. To advocate and promote consumer education, consumer freedom of choice, and affordable access to acupuncture and Oriental medicine;
- J. To promote, encourage and support research in acupuncture medicine;
- K. To support and cooperate with the national and state professional organizations of acupuncture and Oriental medicine.

## ARTICLE 11- MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING PRIVILEGES

### Section 1 — Statement of Policy:

This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation or belief, or national origin, in regards to membership and other programs and policies.

### Section 2 — Categories of Membership and Voting Status

- A. Full Memberships — Full memberships are open to acupuncturists licensed in the District of Columbia. Those holding this category of membership may vote in general elections and at general meetings of the ASDC.
- B. Associate Memberships — Associate memberships are open to the following three groups:
  - a. Students who are currently enrolled in a complete course of study in a school of acupuncture and Oriental medicine.
  - b. District of Columbia, licensed health care providers other than licensed acupuncturists; and
  - c. All other individuals who support the purpose of the ASDC.

Voting by full members is tallied by simple majority of all votes cast. Associate members are not eligible to vote in general elections or at general meetings of the organization.

### Section 3 — Dues

There shall be annual membership dues payable by each member to this organization. The membership year shall run from January to December. The amount of the dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors and may differ for the various categories of membership.

## ARTICLE 111- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Section 1 — Composition of the Board

- A. The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of SIX (6) ASDC members. Five shall be full members and one may be selected from the (non-voting) Associate membership categories. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at a general meeting of the organization. A quorum shall consist of no fewer than five board members.

- B. The Board of Directors and officers of the ASDC shall be elected by and from the eligible membership. The Board of Directors shall nominate the candidates. The officers shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- C. The members of the Board of Directors shall serve terms of two years. Board members may serve no more than three consecutive terms of office.
- D. The Board of Directors shall be empowered to fill vacancies on the board until the next general elections.

## Section 2 — Powers and Duties of Officers and Directors

- A. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee and the membership; shall prepare an agenda for all meetings; shall present a report of activities of the ASDC at the Annual Meeting; shall keep the Executive Committee up-to-date on all ASDC affairs; shall have such powers as are necessary for the functioning of the ASDC as prescribed by the Executive Committee within the scope of the by-laws.
- B. The Vice President shall assist the President in all duties; shall preside over meetings in the absence of the President and replace the President in case of the latter's inability to serve; shall have other duties as prescribed by the Executive Committee.
- C. The Treasurer shall supervise the general funds of the ASDC; shall record all collections and disbursements of ASDC funds, provide a report to the Executive Committee and general membership on the financial status of ASDC at each scheduled meeting; shall have other duties as prescribed by the Executive Committee.
- D. The Secretary shall keep minutes and records, except financial, of all ASDC meetings, both general and of the Executive Committee; shall have other duties as prescribed by the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE IV - ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of Directors shall call a meeting of all members of the organization annually in the month of March for the purposes of reporting on the status of the organization, to provide an accounting of the funds of the organization, to elect members to the Board of Directors, and to transact any other business of the organization which may be presented. Members will be notified of the date, time, place and agenda items not later than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date.

## ARTICLE V - GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Section 1 — Location

The principal office of the Society shall be in the office of the President of the ASDC or other designated location.

### Section 2 — Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be from January to December.

### Section 3 — Conflict of Interest

No officer or director of ASDC may act independently on any matter in which that member has a special private, conflicting or financial interest.

### ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended by the Board of Directors, annually, by a majority vote.