

Amended Bylaws of the West Hudson Psychiatric Society of the American Psychiatric Association

Article I – Identification

Section 1: Name: The name of this organization shall be the West Hudson Psychiatric Society of the American Psychiatric Association.

Section 2: Incorporation: The West Hudson Psychiatric Society shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of New York as a nonprofit professional organization. No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any members, officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized to pay for reasonable compensation for services rendered.

Article II -- Purpose

The purpose of the West Hudson Psychiatric Society of the American Psychiatric Association shall be to improve the treatment, rehabilitation and care of the mentally ill, and the retarded and emotionally disturbed; to advance the standards of all psychiatric services and facilities, to maintain communication with all those who are concerned with medical, psychological, social and legal aspects of mental health and illness; to provide psychiatric knowledge to our membership, other practitioners and the public and to promote the best interests of patients. The Society shall provide for social contact among psychiatrists united by geography of this district branch.

It shall work together with the American Psychiatric Association to further the common goals of our profession

Article III -- Territorial Jurisdiction

For the purpose above stated, the territorial jurisdiction of this District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association shall be delineated by the geographical boundaries of the New York Counties of Rockland, Orange, Sullivan and Delaware.

Article IV – Membership

Requirements for membership in the West Hudson Psychiatric Society shall be the same as those for the American Psychiatric Association at the time of application. There shall be the following categories of membership: Life Fellows, Fellows, Life Members, General Members, Life Associate Members, Associate Members, Members-in-Training, Distinguished Fellows, Inactive Fellows and Inactive Members, as defined by the Bylaws.

Article V -- Election to Membership

A committee on Membership, consisting of three Members, shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Council. Each member of this committee will serve a two-year term

Applications for membership, except Honorary, will be made in writing on forms approved by the Council and by the American Psychiatric Association. Procedures regarding endorsement and submission shall be determined in collaboration with the appropriate officials of the American Psychiatric Association. The Membership Committee shall inquire into the standing of each applicant and make a report and recommendation to the Council and the President. On approval by the Council and/or the President, the member is admitted into the District Branch.

Following the approval of this District Branch for the purpose of processing American Psychiatric Association membership applications, election to membership shall without further process confer membership of the appropriate grade in the American Psychiatric Association. The Sec. shall notify the appropriate officials of the Association of such election in accordance with the Bylaws and/or rules and regulations adopted from time to time by the American Psychiatric Association.

Applicants concerning whom no action is taken by the Council within 90 days, or who are rejected, may appeal according to the provisions of the Constitution of the American Psychiatric Association. Rejected applicants who wish to reapply for membership to this Districts Branch must complete at least six months before doing so.

Article VI -- Dismissals and Resignations

Section 1: Any member failing to pay his dues or other assessments for two consecutive years shall automatically be dropped from the membership 30 days after written notice of such proposed action has been sent to the member concerned. This procedure may be waived for good cause by action of the Council. Only members in good standing shall be allowed to resign. (See also Article XIV-Dues)

Section 2: Ethics Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures: 1. Complaints charging members of the Association with unethical behavior or practices shall be investigated, processed, and resolved in accordance with procedures approved by the Assembly and the Board. The name of a member who resigns during an ethics investigation may be reported to the membership. 2. If a complaint of unethical behavior against the member is sustained, the member shall receive a sanction ranging from admonishment to expulsion. Any decision to expel a member must be approved by a two thirds affirmative vote of all the members of the Board present and voting. The name of a member who is expelled for an ethics violation will be reported to the membership with specifications of the violation found.

Article VII -- Officers

Section 1: The officers of the Society shall be a President, a President-Elect, Secretary and a Treasurer. These officers, the Past-President, the Delegate to the Assembly of District Branches, the alternative Delegate elected as members at large along with Committee Chairpersons and the

Newsletter Editorials shall constitute the Council.

Section 2: Only Active Members shall be eligible for nomination and election to office.

Section 3: The President is the Executive Officer of the District Branch. He shall preside at all meetings of the membership and of the Council and shall otherwise perform such duties as are customary for presiding officers.

Section 4: The President-Elect, in the absence of the President, shall perform the duties of the President. He shall assume the office of President as of the last day of the Annual American Psychiatric Association Meeting on or about two years following his election as President-Elect. The President-Elect shall assist the President by acting as overall coordinator of all committee functions.

Section 5: The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Society and of the Council; keep a list of the members; issue notices of all meetings; notify officers and members of committees of their election or appointment and certify all official records.

Section 6: The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds and collect all dues. He shall pay all expenses of the Society by and with the consent and approval of the membership. He shall make an annual report to the Society at the Annual Business Meeting upon the official transactions of income and expenditures of the Society.

Section 7: The Representatives to the Assembly of District Branches of the American Psychiatric Association or his Alternate shall represent this Society in the Assembly, and/or its subgroups, at all official meetings of the American Psychiatric Association, and report back to the Society.

Section 8: All officers shall enter upon their duties at the close of business on the last day of the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association next following their election, or as soon thereafter as possible officers, and the two representatives to the Assembly of District Branches shall continue in office for two years, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The Delegates to the Assembly of District Branches shall serve for a term of two years, or until his successor is duly elected and qualified.

Article VIII -- Election of Officers

Section 1: All officers shall be elected in the following manner: a Nominations and Elections Committee, composed of five members who are Members of the American Psychiatric Association and Members in good standing of the West Hudson Psychiatric Society shall be appointed by the Council and announced to the Society with the Past-President as Chairman (if available). This Committee will present its recommendations to the Society at the Fall meeting.

Any two active members may, on their own initiative make a nomination for any office by a letter which reaches the President in time for him to present it to the Society at the next meeting.

If there is no contest for any officer after nominations are received at the meeting following the Spring meeting, the President may call for an immediate vote of the membership and unanimous election of all officers of the proposed slate may be effected. If there is a contest for one or more

offices, the Recorder will send a mail ballot thereafter to all active members, the ballot containing all nominations. Election will be effected in the following manner: All ballots received by the Nominations and Elections Committee by the specified date will be tabulated, and an announcement made to the membership. The candidate for each office receiving the greatest number of votes as determined by three tellers appointed by the President, shall be declared elected.

Article IX -- Vacancies

Section 1: In the event the office of President becomes vacant, the President-elect will become Acting President for the remainder of the year and then will begin his term as President.

Section 2: If the position of President-Elect becomes vacant, the President will request the Nominating Committee to meet at an early date for the purpose of selecting one or more candidates for President-Elect. As soon as practical, at a regular or special meeting a new President-Elect will be chosen. The person so chosen and will serve as President-Elect until the end of the term, when he will become President.

Section 3: If the position of Delegates to the Assembly of District Branches becomes vacant, the Alternate Delegate will assume the duties of the office until the following Annual Meeting, when a new Delegate to the Assembly shall be elected.

Section 4: In the event any other office becomes vacant before expiration of the term, the Council shall elect a member to serve for the unexpired portion.

Article X -- Delegates

Section 1: The District Branch shall be represented at the meetings of the Assembly of District Branches of the American Psychiatric Association by the Delegate.

Section 2: Such Delegates shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee, elected by the Membership at an annual meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until a successor is elected.

Section 3: When appropriate, such Delegates shall be instructed by the Council and or the District Branch as to its wishes on various matters, and shall vote as instructed by the membership of the West Hudson Psychiatric Society. The Delegate shall submit reports to the District Branch on the activities of the Assembly.

Article XI -- Amendments to Bylaws

Bylaws may be adopted, amended or suspended by a majority vote at any stated meeting provided written notice of proposed change has been given to the membership at least one meeting preceding the proposed action.

Article XII – Quorum

A quorum of the Psychiatric Society shall be one quarter or 20 Active Members, whichever is least. A quorum of the Council shall be a majority of that body.

Article XIII – Meetings

Section 1: Meetings of the Council shall be held at least once every two months, unless otherwise determined by the Council, There shall be a minimum of four meetings a year. The annual business meeting shall be the last District Branch Meeting preceding the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association.

Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the President or upon petition signed by one quarter or 20 members, whichever is least, of the Psychiatric Society.

Section 3: Members shall be notified of meetings by the secretary not less than one week before the meeting.

Article XIV – Dues

Every Fellow, General Member, Associate Member, Member-in-Training, and Medical Student Member shall pay both dues and assessments as determined by the Board and the District Branches. All other categories of membership shall be exempt from paying dues and assessments to both the Association and its District Branches. The dues paying member shall be exempt from paying such dues and assessments when the sum of the members years of active membership in the Association plus the member's age at the start of the fiscal year shall equal 95.

Any dues paying member of the Association and/or its District Branches who fails to pay all dues and assessments may forfeit his memberships. Notice of such failure shall be made to the member, the Treasurer of the Association, and the Board (after the member is in arrears for one full calendar year). Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, the Treasurer shall notify the member by registered mail that the member will forfeit his or her memberships if the amount due is not paid in full by specified date. (The letter from the Treasurer to the member shall inform the member of the conditions under which he or she may be exempted from payment of dues and assessments.) If payment in full or an appeal for exemption has not been received by the specified date, the Secretary of the Association shall notify the member of the loss of membership in the Association and the District Branches.

Resignation or loss of membership in the Association or in the member's District Branch for any reason shall entail loss of membership in both.

Article XV -- Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, all assets of this District Branch shall be forthwith distributed to APA solely for scientific and educational purposes.

Article XVI -- Transfer and Advancement

Procedures for transfer of membership between District Branches and for advancement of membership shall be established by the Association. In the event of such a transfer or advancement being denied, any appeal shall be conducted in accordance with procedures to be established at the time by the Association.

Article XVII--Code of Ethics

All members of the District Branch shall be bound by the ethical code of the medical profession, specifically defined in the *Principles of Medical Ethics* of the American Medical Association and in the Association's *Principles of Medical Ethics With Annotations Especially Applicable to Psychiatry*.

Amended on January 2012