

VIRGINIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
A Chapter of the National Rehabilitation Association

CONSTITUTION
Revisedion 09/18/2006

Article I

Name

The name of the State Chapter shall be the Virginia Rehabilitation Association (VRA), Incorporated; a Chapter of the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA).

Article II

Purpose

The Virginia Rehabilitation Association is a member organization whose mission is providing opportunities through education and enrichment for professionals in the field of rehabilitation for persons with disabilities.

- 1) To provide opportunities for education and training of professionals in the field of rehabilitation.
- 2) To encourage inclusion and development of the potential of persons with disabilities.
- 3) To provide a means of coordinating community efforts towards enhanced resources through advocacy efforts.

Article III

Definitions

For the purpose of this Constitution:

1. NRA means the National Rehabilitation Association, Inc.
2. VRA means the Virginia Rehabilitation Association, Inc.
3. BOARD means the Board of Directors of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association, Inc.
4. CHAPTER means any organization meeting the criteria as established by NRA.
5. DIVISION means any major, scientific, professional, or other interest groups recognized and approved by the NRA including any branch, unit or local group of such special interest.

Article IV

Territory

The geographical boundaries of the State Chapter shall coincide with those of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Article V

Membership

All members of the National Rehabilitation Association electing to affiliate with the Virginia Chapter shall be members of VRA. Membership in NRA shall be a prerequisite to membership in VRA. No member of the corporation shall be denied membership because of race, creed, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.

Section 1. Classes of Membership.

The classes of membership of this State Chapter shall be: Individual Member, Student Member and Organizational Member. Definition of each of the classes of membership and the fees associated with each class are defined by NRA.

Section 2. Privileges of Membership.

- a) All members shall have full voting privileges.
- b) All individual members in good standing shall be eligible for election to any office in VRA and may serve as a State Chapter representative to the National Rehabilitation Association Delegate Assembly.
- c) All members shall be entitled to participate in the State Chapter's annual membership meeting and other meetings of the State Chapter
- d) The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee of an organization having an Organizational Membership shall be entitled to all the privileges of an individual member.

Section 3. Meetings of Membership.

The Board of Directors of the State Chapter shall hold at least one meeting of the membership during a calendar year. The time and place of the meeting shall be established by the Board. Notification of the membership meeting shall be at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Section 4. Voting Privileges.

Members may vote at the annual membership meeting pertaining to business of the Corporation and State Chapter. Members may vote for elected officers of the State Chapter by ballot. Members will be provided an official ballot at least 30 days prior to the annual membership meeting. Members may submit their ballots in person at the annual membership meeting or submit their ballot electronically or by mail postmarked at least seven days prior to the annual membership meeting.

Article VI

Dues

There shall be no dues other than that portion of the NRA dues and collections required by the Constitution and By-Laws of NRA to be returned to State Chapters.

Article VII

Officers

Officers of the State Chapter shall be the President, President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. The membership will elect a President-Elect, and a Secretary to serve for one year terms. At the end of the one year term, the President-Elect will succeed to the office of President. At this time and annually thereafter, a President-Elect and Secretary shall be elected. The Treasurer will be elected in even numbered years to serve a two year term. The terms of office will begin on January 1 and the officers will serve for one year terms, except the Treasurer, which is a two year term. Duties of the officers shall be defined in the Bylaws.

Article VIII

Board of Directors

Section 1. Composition of the Board.

The Board of Directors of the State Chapter shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, the immediate Past President, one member representative from each recognized Division of the Chapter, and nine Board Members-at-Large. No individual may simultaneously hold more than one board position. No individual who is serving in a financially compensated position for the State Chapter is to serve on the Board of Directors for the duration of the compensated period. Duties of the Officers shall be defined in the Bylaws.

Section 2. Responsibilities and Powers of the Board.

The Board of Directors shall conduct the affairs of the State Chapter, consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Rehabilitation Association, Inc., and the policies of the Board of Directors of the State Chapter. The management of the affairs of VRA shall be vested in and exercised by or through the authority of the Board of Directors. Also included within the responsibilities and powers of the Board of Directors are:

- a) Adopting policies governing all fiscal affairs of the Corporation and the State Chapter

- b) Adopting a budget and authorizing all officers, board members and committees to carry out the activities set forth in the approved budget.
- c) Appointing standing and special committees, outlining their functions and terms of their members and acting on committee reports as needed
- d) To serve as Executive Board of the Corporation and the State Chapter.
- e) To transact the business of the State Chapter between State Board Meetings and the annual membership meeting.
- f) To maintain effective liaison with the National Rehabilitation Association and the Regional Chapter.
- g) To maintain compliance with State and Federal regulations that have authority over this organization.
- h) The President, with approval of the Board, shall appoint one or more members to represent the State Chapter at meetings of the NRA Delegate Assembly and at other meetings at which chapter representation shall be required. At least ten (10) days prior to the date of such meetings, the President shall advise the Executive Director of NRA of the appointed delegate(s).

Article IX

Affiliation

The State Chapter shall comply with rules, regulations and the Constitution and Bylaws of the NRA as they pertain to State Chapter affiliation.

Article X

Amendment

The Constitution of the State Chapter may be amended as follows:

1. An amendment proposed by a majority of the Board of Directors, may be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at the annual business meeting.
2. A proposed amendment is submitted to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for review and then submitted to the Board of Directors for a majority vote of approval. If approved, the proposed amendment is publicized to the general membership at least 30 days prior to a general membership meeting. Majority vote of members present shall be required for passage.

Article XI

Adoption of Bylaws

The State Chapter shall adopt Bylaws not in conflict with those of the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA).

Article XII

Miscellaneous

Section 1. Saving Clause.

All provisions of the previous Constitution and Bylaws of the State Chapter not specifically deleted or revised in this Constitution and not in conflict with this Constitution shall remain in effect until the Bylaws of the Corporation and of the State Chapter are adopted by the State Chapter Board of Directors and approved by NRA.

Section 2. Rules of Order.

Robert's Rules of Order (revised) shall govern all State Chapter meetings when applicable.

Section 3. Dissolution of the State Chapter.

In the event that the State Chapter (VRA) becomes an inactive chapter for a period of one year or more, the State Chapter may be considered dissolved. At this time, any funds remaining will be redirected to NRA to hold on behalf of VRA for future active status of the Chapter.

The Corporation and the State Chapter must follow the dissolution guidelines as outlined in the Bylaws of NRA. Should it become necessary to dissolve the Corporation and State Chapter (VRA) the following actions need to be taken:

- a) Notification of the determination to dissolve shall be distributed to all members and other interested parties,
- b) All financial obligations shall be resolved within a period of 90 days, and
- c) Any remaining funds will be sent to NRA for deposit in the general treasury to hold on behalf of the State Chapter for future considerations.

State Chapter Board of Directors approved on July 27, 2006

General Membership ratified the approved revisions on September 18, 2006