



F.E.H.I. By-Laws

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Florida Educators of Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Individuals. The abbreviated name shall be F.E.H.I.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To promote professional growth.
2. To give an opportunity for closer cooperation and communication among its members.
3. To provide a forum for the exchange of information regarding effective instructional techniques, materials, and technology in the education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
4. To serve as a source of accurate and current information concerning the education and legislation pertaining to students who are deaf or hard of hearing

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Membership

A. Eligibility for membership

1. Full membership in this organization shall be available to:
 - a. Teachers holding active Florida teacher's certification in Hearing Disabilities.
 - b. Teachers who are currently working toward certification in Hearing Disabilities.
 - c. Administrators and supervisors holding active certification in Hearing Disabilities.
 - d. Professionals providing direct service to students who are deaf or hard of hearing (i.e. speech/language pathologists, audiologists, interpreters).
 - e. College and university professors in programs preparing teachers in the education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
2. Associate membership shall be available to:
 - a. Students currently enrolled in college and university programs in education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
 - b. Paraprofessionals working full-time in programs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
3. Honorary membership shall be bestowed upon:
 - a. Those administrators or supervisors of programs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing not holding certification in that area.
 - b. Those members retiring from an active teaching or supervisory role in the area of education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

B. Rights of Membership

Those individuals holding a full membership will be eligible to vote at any general meeting of the membership. The associate and honorary members will be nonvoting members.

Section 2. Dues

The annual dues of this organization will be set by the executive board.

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The executive board shall be composed of the five executive officers.

Section 2. Each member of the executive board shall have one vote with the exception of the Past President.

Section 3. Two regular meetings of the executive board shall be held each year. Additional meetings may be held at other times when necessary as called by the president. Financial reimbursement for mileage and accommodations and a per diem shall be provided by the organization to each board member attending the meetings. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) or more of the voting board members present.

Section 4. The executive board shall exercise general management of the affairs of the organization and shall be the financial and business instrument of the organization. All officers report and are immediately responsible to the executive board. In general, its duties shall be executive, and it is empowered to perform all such duties as are set forth elsewhere in the By-Laws. Its actions in such matters shall be reported to the membership at the annual meeting.

Section 5. Honorary and monetary awards given by the association shall be determined by the executive board.

ARTICLE V

OFFICES AND DUTIES

A. Board Members' Offices

The offices of this organization and members of the executive board shall be:

1. President
2. President-Elect (Program Chair)
3. Secretary/Treasurer
4. Legislative Delegate
5. Past-President

B. Eligibility for Office

Only individuals holding full membership may be eligible to hold office in F.E.H.I.

C. Duties of the Officers

1. President
 - a. Shall plan and conduct meeting of the executive board and general meetings of the membership
 - b. Shall serve as member of the Coalition of Educators of Exceptional Students (CEES) and shall attend the spring meeting of CEES, if possible.
 - c. Shall write an article for each issue of the FEHI newsletter.
 - d. Shall promote professional growth among teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing through membership in FEHI.
 - e. Shall advocate for quality education and services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing
 - f. Shall assist the president –elect with plans and arrangements for the annual convention.
2. President-Elect (Program Chair)
 - a. Shall serve as chair of the annual convention during the two years of tenure in office. The President-Elect may form and chair a committee to assist with the planning arrangements for these conventions and shall maintain an orderly file or notebook of the convention planning details
 - b. Shall act in the place of the president at any meeting from which the president is absent.

3. Secretary/Treasurer

- a. Shall write minutes of Board meetings and provide a copy to each officer. Shall write minutes of general membership meetings at the annual convention and keep an orderly file or notebook during the two-year tenure.
- b. Shall be responsible for the soliciting and gathering of information for the writing and distribution of the FEHI newsletter a minimum of two times annually. The Secretary may form and chair a committee to complete this activity.
- c. Shall be responsible for maintaining accurate membership records.
- d. Shall be responsible for the collection of dues.
- e. Shall be responsible for the payment of bills incurred by the organization.
- f. Shall maintain accurate financial records.
- g. Shall submit annual financial statement to members in the post-conference newsletter and at the convention business meeting.
- h. Shall solicit renewal of memberships annually.

5. Legislative Delegate

- a. Shall represent FEHI at the fall and spring meetings of the state Coalition for Education of Exceptional Students (CEES).
- b. Shall serve as a communication liaison between the organization and legislative offices and/or state agencies on matters pertaining to the education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- c. Shall inform FEHI members of current issues and bills of special interest in the legislature.
- d. Shall write an article for newsletter requesting suggestions of issues to address on the CEES platform.

6. Past-President

- a. Shall be an advisor to the board for the term of one year following term as President.
 - b. Shall be a conference committee member, assisting the President and President-Elect.
- A letter of resignation should be submitted to the executive board should any officer find that she or he is unable to fulfill the duties of the office to which she or he was elected following election. The board will then appoint, via a board election, a replacement to the vacated office.

D. Terms of Office

All offices except the Past-President shall be for a two-year term. The Past-President office shall be for a one-year term. Any vacancies will be filled by appointment by the executive board. Appointment will be decided by a majority vote of the executive board.

E. Elections

1. Nominees for all elected offices shall be solicited by the executive board.
2. The executive board will determine a slate of candidates for the elected offices.
3. The executive board will present the slate of proposed candidates and a description of each candidate's qualifications to the membership for approval prior to the convention business meeting.
4. Additional candidates may be nominated by the membership from the floor of the business meeting.
5. If additional candidates are nominated for an office by the membership from the floor, ballots will be distributed so that the membership may vote for the candidate of their choice at the business meeting.
6. The results of the election will be announced at the annual business meeting.
7. The newly elected officers will be installed by the president at that same business meeting.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

A. Convention Meetings

The convention shall be held in the fall of each year, the time and place to be determined by the executive board. Membership must be notified (60) days prior to the convention.

B. Special Meeting

A special meeting of the membership may be called at the discretion of the executive board provided that membership is notified at least three weeks prior to the meeting date.

C. Quorum

A quorum shall constitute the body of the membership present at any meeting, regular or special, provided that notice of the meeting was sent in accordance with the by-laws.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDING THE BY-LAWS

The By-Laws of this organization may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership. Written notice of the proposed amendment or amendments must have been given at the preceding meeting of the executive board. The executive board shall study all proposed amendments and make recommendations to the membership.

ARTICLE VIII

RATIFICATION OF THE BY-LAWS

These By-Laws shall become effective immediately following approval by the majority of members voting at the annual meeting.

Amendment 1:

F.E.H.I. is organized exclusively for charitable, educational purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Amendment 2:

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization 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 in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Amendment 3:

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of the Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Date Adopted by Board of Directors: February 13th, 2010

Naba El-Khoury President's Signature

Robin Harwell Secretary's Signature