## Massachusetts Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

## **CONSTITUTION**

## Amended February 8, 2015

# ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as the Massachusetts Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MassRID).

# ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

### Section 1:

This organization is to be a non-profit chapter to fulfill the functions of the national Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Inc., (RID) throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The purpose shall be:

1. To provide for a more effective use of the interpreters by and for deaf people, as well as for the general public.
2. To seek ways and means to make interpreting services more readily available for deaf people.
3. To exchange ideas, opinions, and experiences concerning interpreting.
4. To further the use of all effective communication skills in serving deaf people.
5. To work for the advancement and training of qualified interpreters.
6. To strive for the attainment of the highest standards in the use of communication skills with deaf people.
7. To create awareness among deaf people and the general public of the need for and the availability of interpreting services.
8. To act as a body to advance professional and ethical standards for interpreters.
9. To share and exchange information with the deaf communities in relation to all facets of interpreting.

# ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1: General Members/Voting Members

1. General Members/Voting Members are those persons who have demonstrated their interpreting skills by having passed a national RID, Inc. interpreting test and receiving a certificate to that effect, or by having passed the MCDHH interpreter screening, and are members in good standing of the RID, Inc. General Members must live or work in Massachusetts. General Members/Voting Members will conduct business, may vote, hold office, chair and serve on committees.

### Section 2: Supporting Members

1. Supporting Members are persons without regard to interpreting skill who wish to support and participate in the activities of the organization. They may not vote or hold office, but may serve on committees. Senior citizens may pay a reduced fee.

### Section 3: Student Members

1. Student members are persons who are full-time or part-time students currently participating in a certified Interpreter Training Programs (ITP). Students must present valid student identification or other verification to pay a reduced fee.

### Section 4: Organizational Members

1. Organizational Members are businesses, organizations, agencies, schools, or individuals who contribute to the support of MassRID. Individual sponsors and representatives of sponsors may participate in meetings and shall receive written communications of MassRID. Organizational Membership is a non-voting membership category.

### Section 5: Honorary Members

1. Honorary Members are persons upon whom the membership of MassRID has decided to bestow a free lifetime membership. If the Honorary Member meets the criteria for a General/Voting Member, then the Honorary Member shall be given that status. If the Honorary Member falls into another category (Supporting, Student or Organizational), the Member will not have voting privileges.

# ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATIONAL

### Section 1: Coordination

1. The affairs of MassRID shall be coordinated by a Board of Directors comprised of four (4) officers and six (6) regional representatives. In addition, the immediate past President may serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for one term. In situations resulting in a tie vote of the board, the ex-officio member may vote to break the tie.
2. The officers shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
3. Regional Representation:

1. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be divided into six (6) regions. The initial boundaries of each region shall be determined by the officers with the approval of the membership. Thereafter the boundaries of each region, if deemed necessary, shall be revised by the Board of Directors with the approval of the General/Voting Membership.

2. Each Regional Representative shall represent the members of MassRID within her/his respective region.

### Section 2: Meetings

1. General meetings shall be meetings of all members of the organization. Business conducted at General Meetings shall include, but not be limited to,business of the organization brought to the members by the Board of Directors**,** as well as by interested members and dispensed with by those voting members present and by proxy.
2. Board Meetings shall be meetings of the Board of Directors of the organization. The business conducted at Board Meetings shall include**,** but not be limited to;putting into action motions passed at the previous General Meeting and matters discussed shall be brought to the attention of the full membership.
3. Regional Meetings shall be held in each of the six (6) designated regions and attended by, but not belimited to, members living and/or working within said region. Business conducted at Regional Meetings shall include, but not be limited to, discussions of concerns for the particular region in which the meeting is held.
4. Committee Meetings shall be separate meetings of the members of the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees pursuant to ARTICLE VI of this Constitution. Business conducted at the Committee Meetings shall include, but not be limited to, discussions of concerns for the particular Committee holding said meeting. Any decisions, documents, etc., which have a binding effect on the organization or membership must be approved by the general membership.
5. Special Meetings can be General, Board or Regional meetings andshall be called with at least fourteen (14) days notice in either written or electronic form.

# ARTICLE V – TERM OF OFFICE

### Section 1: Officers

# The officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years with duties commencing immediately following the Spring General Meeting.

1. Officers shall be elected on the even years.
2. Any vacancy of an Office after a General Election or within a term shall be filled by a mail-in or electronic ballot which will occur no later than 60 days after the general election or after such vacancy occurs.
3. Officer positions may be shared by two members, however only one Officer may cast a vote and be counted in the quorum.
4. No officer shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

### Section 2: Regional Representatives

1. The Regional Representatives shall be elected by members of their respective regions, during the Spring General Meeting, for a term of (2) two years.
2. All Regional Representatives will be elected on the odd year.
3. Any vacancy of Regional Representatives shall be filled by a mail or electronic ballot, sent to members of that region, which will occur no later than 60 days after the general election or after such vacancy occurs. Any vacancy occurring of Regional Representatives with less than one year remaining in the term may be filled by the affirmative vote of the majority of the Directors. A Regional Representative appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of their predecessor’s office.
4. Regions that have Co-regional Representatives may send one or both Representatives to Board meetings, however only one Representative may cast a vote and be counted in the quorum.
5. No region representative shall hold the same office for more than three consecutiveterms.

### Section 3: Student Representatives

1. Non-voting Student Representatives shall be appointed by a Massachusetts Interpreter Training Program and/or a MassRID Board approved Deaf Interpreter Training Program.
2. Student Representatives shall be appointed for a consecutive two year term.
3. No student representative shall serve more than one two-year term. Terms shall be staggered to include 1st year interpreting students and one second and/or third year student from each ITP and/or Board approved Deaf Interpreter Training Program. In the event no two students from staggered years can be identified, then two students of the same year may join until an interested student of a different year can be identified to serve.
4. No more than six student representatives shall serve on the Board at one time.
5. No more than two students from each Massachusetts Interpreter Training Program and/or Board approved Deaf Interpreter Training Program shall sit on the Board at one time.

# ARTICLE VI – STANDING COMMITTEES

### Section 1: Liaison Committee

1. The Liaison Committee shall consist of a chairperson selected from among the General Membership by the Board of Directorsand as many members as may be appointed cooperatively by the Board and the Chairperson. This committee shall be responsible for outreach into both the Deaf and hearing communities by the distribution of pamphlets, and/or general information to public and private agencies, courts, hospitals, schools, etc.

### Section 2: Professional Development Committee

1. The Professional Development Committee shall consist of a Chairperson selected from the General Membership by the Board of Directors and as many members as may be appointed cooperatively by the Board and the Chairperson. The Committee shall be a resource to advise interpreter training programs and the Federal Interpreter Education Grant. The Committee shall provide or co-sponsor workshops relevant to interpreters and their continued development both as to skills and professionalism.
2. The Committee shall be responsible for any and all MassRID owned materials relevant to training.

### Section 3: Policy Committee

1. The Policy Committee shall consist of a Chairperson selected from the General Membership by the Board of Directors and as many members as may be appointed cooperatively by the Board and the Chairperson. The Committee shall monitor the interpreting situation within the state and develop group guidelines and policy when necessary.

### Section 4: Membership Recruitment Committee

1. The Membership Recruitment Committee shall consist of a Chairperson selected from among the General Membership by the Board of Directors and as many members as may be appointed cooperatively by the Board and the Chairperson. The function of the committee shall be to recruit and sustain membership regardless of race, creed, disability, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. The Chairperson will be responsible for maintaining and updating the membership list and will periodically furnish updated lists to the members of the Board of Directors. The Chairperson will also be responsible, with the assistance of the Committee as needed, for developing and distributing the Annual MassRID Directory.

### Section 5: Fundraising Committee

1. The Fundraising Committee shall consist of a Chairperson selected from among the General Membership by the Board of Directors and as many members as may be appointed cooperatively by the Board and the Chairperson. The function of the committee is to explore and implement ways to raise money for MassRID.

# ARTICLE VII – DISSOLUTION PROCEDURE

### Section 1:

1. In the event of dissolution of this organization, all remaining assets, real or personal property of whatever nature, shall be transferred to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

# ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

### Section 1:

1. The Board of Directors shall choose the agenda items for each General Meeting or Board Meeting according to the importance of the issues being discussed. All final decisions on issues rest upon majority rule of the General/Voting Members, except when ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS Section 1 applies.

# ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

### Section 1:

1. This constitution may be altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting provided a quorum is present. Notice of the meetings and copies of proposed amendments must be sent by the Secretary to all voting members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting in either written or electronic form.