

CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF
Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society
(As Proposed July 22, 2018)

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. The name of this Society shall be the Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society. Hereafter it shall be referred to in this document as LGPS. It shall be an affiliate association of the American Group Psychotherapy Association and/or the International Group Psychotherapy Association. The approval and adoption of the By-Laws of this Society shall constitute adoption of the By-Laws of the American Group Psychotherapy Association.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES

- Section 1. LGPS is organized and shall be operated exclusively to support and promote charitable, scientific, professional and educational purposes:
- a. To provide a forum for exchange of information and experience in group psychotherapy.
 - b. To create opportunities for intensive discussion for small groups.
 - c. To make group psychotherapy known in LGPS' respective communities.
 - d. Encouraging individuals who are qualified for full or associate membership in the American Group Psychotherapy Association to share their experiences via teaching, demonstrations, etc.
 - e. Educating the membership in group psychotherapy principles.
 - f. Fostering research contributions in this field whether it be enhancing existing concepts, techniques, or further practical applications of this method.
 - g. Encouraging presentations/workshops at professional meetings.
- Section 2.
 - a. To promote the study of the relationship between social conduct and intrapsychic mechanisms.
 - b. To promote interdisciplinary teamwork and the understanding of group behavior through the integration of professional/staff members in the mental health disciplines.
- Section 3. To accept contributions and gifts in the furtherance of these purposes.
- Section 4. No part of the net earnings of LGPS shall be for the benefit of, or be distributable to, its officers, representatives, other private individuals, or organizations organized and operating for profit (except that LGPS shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred).
- Section 5. No substantial part of the activities of LGPS shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. LGPS shall not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.
- Section 6. To engage and promote diversity in its membership and programs.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Classes - There shall be four classes of membership: Full, Fellow, Honorary, and Student Members.
- Section 2. Full Membership
- a. By transfer. All persons who are members of the American Group Psychotherapy Association, hereafter referred to as AGPA, are automatically eligible for LGPS membership.
 - b. Qualifications. Clinical professionals (defined as psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and/or other mental health professionals) who are Associate Members in good standing of AGPA. Or, clinical professionals who are degreed in their respective fields, but not yet licensed/ certified, and/ or are not members of AGPA.
 - c. Rights and Privileges. Members in good standing may participate fully in the affairs of LGPS including such activities as voting, serving on committees, and holding office.
- Section 3. Fellows
- a. Qualifications. Clinical Professionals who are Fellows in good standing of AGPA are automatically Fellows of LGPS.
 - b. Rights and Privileges. Fellows in good standing may participate fully in the affairs of LGPS including such activities as voting, serving on committees, and holding office.
- Section 4. Honorary Members
- a. Qualifications. Persons who have given distinguished service in the field of mental health or who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of group psychotherapy may be named Honorary members of LGPS. This status may be conferred by the Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the Membership Committee.
 - b. Rights and Privileges. Honorary Members may participate in the affairs of LGPS, including such activities as serving on Committees, but may not vote or hold office.
- Section 5. Student Members
- a. Qualifications. Student Members must be enrolled in a graduate training program in their respective mental health discipline and/or internship and/or residency.
 - b. Rights and Privileges. Student Members in good standing may participate in the affairs of LGPS including such activities as serving on Committees and voting but not hold officer positions on the executive committee.
- Section 6. Methods of Election.
- a. Full Members, Fellows, Honorary Members, and Student Members. Applications for these categories shall be evaluated and decided by the Membership Committee. Applications for transfer from one category to another may be made as the specified qualifications are reached and such applications will be processed in the same way as that listed above.
- Section 7. Members Subject to Bylaws: All Members, by accepting such status, shall for all purposes be conclusively deemed to have accepted and to have agreed to be bound by the Bylaws of LGPS as they exist or as they may, from time to time, be altered or amended.
- Section 8. Dues: Membership dues for the different categories shall be established by the elected members of the Executive Committee with a two-thirds approval of those Committee Members present. A two-thirds approval by the executive committee is required in order to revise membership dues. The dues are payable in advance for the calendar year, unless the time of payment is changed by the Treasurer. Unless dues are paid within three months after due date, membership shall be terminated, but may be reinstated upon reapplication or upon receipt of all dues which are in arrears.
- Section 9. Termination and Resignation of Membership: Termination of a membership may be by written request of the member or when dues are in arrears for three months.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

- Section 1. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the Executive Committee, but shall be during the Spring part of each year, preferably in accordance with the Spring LGPS Institute. LGPS will not hold publicly announced meetings two weeks before, during and two weeks after an Annual Meeting of AGPA.
- Section 2. Special Meetings: Special meetings of LGPS may be called for a time and place to be fixed by the Executive Committee (e.g. The Fall Workshop, Summer Workshops, etc.).
- Section 3. Executive Committee Meetings: Executive Committee meetings shall take place a minimum of four times a year. Meetings shall require a 10 day notice (Written, phone or email). Proxies may be sent to allow the proper conduction of LGPS business. Additional meetings may take place by conference call.
- Section 4. Expenses: With a majority vote of the Executive Committee, appropriate expenses (i.e. lunch, conference calls, secretarial assistance, etc.) may be charged to LGPS.
- Section 5. Notice: Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting, and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten nor more than sixty days before the date of the meeting, either personally, by phone, or email.
- Section 6. Quorum: At any annual or special meeting of LGPS, one third of the voting membership, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum, and shall be sufficient for taking any action.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

- Section 1. Officers: The President, Past-President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chair will make up voting members of the Executive Committee. LGPS shall have other officers and assistant officers as the Executive Committee may deem necessary from time to time. Such individuals may include, but not be limited to, Former Presidents and current AGPA officers and/ or Representatives. The tasks of the Executive Committee are (1) to review and assess the affairs of LGPS; (2) to guide, oversee, and coordinate the activities of LGPS; (3) to propose issues and items for the agenda of the meetings; (4) to assist and advise the Treasurer on managing the expenditure and income of LGPS; (5) to plan and carry out programs and/or other procedures and (6) to raise money for the conduction of LGPS's business.
- Section 2. Elections: Election of Officers shall take place annually at the Spring meeting. The Past President shall present a proposed slate of officers at the annual meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.
- Section 3. Term of Office: The Officers of LGPS shall be installed at the annual Spring meeting immediately following their election. The Officers shall hold office as follows: President, President- Elect, Past President (1 year term), Treasurer and Secretary (2 year terms, with alternating elections), and Membership Chair (3 year term).
- Section 4. Resignation: Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President of LGPS. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or, if no time is specified, at the time of acceptance thereof as determined by the President.
- Section 5. Removal: Any officer may be removed by the President, with a majority vote of the Executive Committee, at any regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee, whenever in its judgment the best interests of LGPS would be served thereby. Removal is automatic if any elected office misses three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings for which a proper 10 day notice, (by letter, email, or phone) was given.

Section 6. Vacancies: A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, shall be filled by the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, for the unexpired term.

Section 7. Duties:

- a. President: The President shall preside at meetings of LGPS and, subject to the overall guidance and supervision of the Executive Committee, provide active direction and control of the business and affairs of LGPS. He or she may sign, with the Treasurer or any other elected officer of LGPS, any contracts or other instruments which the Executive Committee has authorized to be executed. He or she shall perform all duties incident of the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee from time to time. The President must be a Clinical Member in good standing of AGPA and LGPS.
- b. Past President: The Past President shall advise and guide the president of LGPS, serve as historian, serve as custodian of LGPS records, and periodically assess the adequacy of the bylaws and, when appropriate, propose revisions for the Executive Committee's consideration.
- c. President Elect: The President Elect shall assume the office of President automatically at the expiration of the term of the office of President or upon the President's resignation. The President-Elect shall be responsible for the planning and execution of the Fall and Spring Workshops. In this regard, he or she shall secure, with the approval of the Executive Committee, the speaker or presenter, make appropriate physical and financial arrangements, and/or execute contracts. The President-Elect may appoint a Committee to assist him or her in this regard. However, all contracts shall be executed by the President Elect and either the Treasurer or one other elected officer.
- d. Secretary: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee; see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws; shall conduct the local correspondence of LGPS; and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall be elected for a two year term in even numbered years.
- e. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and/or securities of LGPS; receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to LGPS from any source whatsoever, including sending out yearly dues, notices, and deposit all such moneys in the name of LGPS. The Treasurer is responsible for the oversight of, or shall keep records of finances, make financial reports to the membership and is the fiscal officer of the Society. The Treasurer shall in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the President or by the Executive Committee. The treasurer shall be elected for a two year term in odd numbered years.
- f. Membership Chair: The Membership Chair shall be elected for a three year period. The Membership Chair shall form a committee of a minimum of five persons from different geographical parts of the State. The purposes of the committee will be to 1) promote membership, 2) process membership applications, 3) keep a record of all members, and 4) encourage regional meetings. For the purpose of processing applications in a timely manner, membership meetings may be in person or by conference call, with the cost of the conference call to be billed to LGPS. The Membership Committee must hold at least 1 meeting a year, either prior to or during the Fall Workshop and Spring Institute.

ARTICLE VI

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Past-President shall be responsible for presenting all constitution and By-law revisions. The membership will be notified at last thirty days before voting at an institute, provided a quorum is present.

Section 2. Rephrasing, rewording, etc., may take place at the Annual meeting as long as such changes do not represent substantive changes in the intent or spirit of the proposed By-laws.

Section 3. The Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the members voting, providing a quorum is present.

Section 4. Amendments of the Bylaws in a business meeting shall require that notice of proposed amendment be provided to the Board Members at least thirty (30) days but not more than sixty (60) days prior to the final amendment(s).

ARTICLE VII

INTERNAL REVENUE CODE

- Section 1. The Executive Committee and specifically the Treasurer shall adhere to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code 1986, as amended, as those provisions are now enacted or to corresponding enacted or to corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.
- Section 2. When needed, the Treasurer may obtain appropriate consultation from a Certified Public Accountant of his or her choice.

ARTICLE VII

DISSOLUTION

- Section 1. On dissolution or final liquidation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the lawful debts and liabilities of the Society, distribute all the assets of the Society to the American Group Psychotherapy Association Inc., which is a Section 501 (c) (3) organization.

RULES OF ORDER

1. Notification of the Annual meeting and of any special meetings shall be sent to each member of LGPS at least two weeks before the date of such a meeting.
2. Any member of LGPS may submit, in writing, Agenda Items for the Annual Meeting to either the President or Secretary two weeks before the date of the meeting.
3. Deliberations of special meetings of LGPS shall be confined to such matters as are mentioned in the call for the meeting.
4. Regional groups organized by members who are in good standing of LGPS may be formed. In as much as the circumstances of these regional meetings and of LGPS and AGPA, as well as the public and professional attitude to group psychotherapy may change from time to time, the relationship between the regional groups and LGPS as well as AGPA may change similarly. For this reason, as occasion arises, the LGPS Executive Committee shall have the authority to adopt regulations effecting the relationship between regional groups to LGPS and to AGPA.
5. Rules of Order may be amended at any regular meeting of LGPS by a majority vote of the regular members in attendance.