

LOUISIANA PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - IDENTIFICATION

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association, a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association.

Section 2. The Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association shall remain incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana as a non-profit, scientific organization.

Section 3. Distribution of assets on dissolution. In the event of termination or dissolution of the association, its assets shall be distributed according to the order of the Executive Council in conformity with the laws of the State of Louisiana governing such procedures.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The objectives of the district branch shall be to foster the science and progress of psychiatry in cooperation with and as a constituent part of the American Psychiatric Association to serve as an influence toward the maintenance of high professional and administrative standards thereto related and to assist the American Psychiatric Association in promoting its aims and objectives. These are to: (a) improve the treatment, rehabilitation and care of the mentally ill, the mentally retarded and the emotionally disturbed: (b) promote research, professional education in psychiatry and allied fields and the prevention of psychiatric disabilities: (c) advance the standards of all psychiatric services and facilities: (d) foster the cooperation of all who are concerned with the medical, psychological, social and legal aspects of mental health and illness: (e) make psychiatric knowledge available to other practitioners of medicine, to scientists in other fields of knowledge and to the public in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the APA and LPMA: (f) promote the best interests of patients and those actually or potentially making use of mental health services.

No substantial part of the activities of this association shall be devoted to influencing legislation excepting as it may pertain to the promotion of mental health. This district branch will adhere to the APA charter but will not be bound by the decisions of the APA on legislative issues.

The association shall not intervene or participate in political campaigns of candidates for public office.

None of the above aims or objectives are to be expanded or misconstrued to serve as the basis for intervention by the association in civil, social, or political issues which are not directly related to

psychiatric research, education or practice. Support of certain issues by a majority of the constituent members on grounds other than psychiatric does not suffice to bring such issues to the floor of the association for deliberation or action.

ARTICLE III - TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

For the objectives above stated the territorial jurisdiction of this district branch of the American Psychiatric Association shall be delimited by the geographical boundaries of the State of Louisiana.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Requirements for membership in the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association shall be the same as those for the American Psychiatric Association at the time of application.

Section 1. Any physician who is or who is eligible to be a Member-in-training, General Member or Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and who resides or practices within the territorial jurisdiction of this district branch shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. There shall be the following categories of members: Members-in-training, General Members, Fellows, Distinguished Fellows, Life Members, Life Fellows, Distinguished Life Fellows, Honorary Fellows, Inactive Members, Inactive Fellows, Inactive Distinguished Fellows and Affiliates as defined in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

The officers of this association shall be President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Representatives. They shall be elected by mail ballot in accordance with the provisions of Chapter V of the Bylaws. Other officers shall be the Vice-Presidents who will be the Chapter Presidents.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

This Council shall consist of the officers, the immediate past-president, the four executive advisers, the editor of the association newsletter, the historian, the parliamentarian, and a member-in-training. Three members-in-training will be non-voting members of the Council. In addition, each chairperson of a standing committee or ad hoc committee shall serve as a voting member of the Council. The president will present nominations for executive advisers, historian and parliamentarian at the first Council meeting after installation. If approved by a majority of the Council members present, they will serve until a new president is installed.

ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee (of the Executive Council) is composed of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Executive Committee functions in the interest of the LPMA when directed by Council or when needed for advice or assistance by the President. The activities of the Committee must be approved by the Council, but it is empowered to act in emergencies or when there is insufficient time in which to convene the Council. Decisions by the Committee must be unanimous.

ARTICLE VIII - QUORUM

A quorum of this association shall consist of 15% of the active membership, except at the business session of a General Membership meeting, where a quorum shall be 10%. A quorum of the Executive Council shall be 5.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

Proposals to amend the constitution can be initiated: (1) by a majority vote of the membership present at a business meeting, a quorum being present, or (2) by submission to the Executive Council of the proposal endorsed by at least six members in good standing. All amendments must be discussed at a General Membership meeting before they are submitted in a mail ballot. The proposed amendment(s) along with the Council's recommendation shall be submitted in writing to the membership. This shall be done at least thirty days before the next general or specially called meeting. A ballot shall be submitted to the members and returned within 60 days after the meeting, at which time results will be announced to the members. Approval of two-thirds of those voting in a mail ballot shall be required for adoption of the amendment(s). If adopted, the amendments(s) shall become immediately effective.

ARTICLE X - COMMITTEES

There shall be the following constitutional committees: Ethics, Membership, Nominating, Governmental Affairs, Constitution and Bylaws, and Continuing Education with functions and procedures as defined in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI - ANNUAL MEETING

An annual business meeting shall be held in the spring as late as practical but before the annual meeting of the APA.

ARTICLE XII - ADOPTION DATE

The Constitution, as adopted on September 17, 1976, will go into effect at noon on the last day of the APA meeting in 1977.