

Revised By-Laws – February 2003

American Psychological Association

Division of Media Psychology

ARTICLE I
NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1.01 - Name

The name of this Division shall be THE DIVISION OF MEDIA PSYCHOLOGY, henceforth referred to in this document as “the Division”.

Section 1.02- Purpose

The purposes and objectives of this Division are:

1. To assist psychologists in more effectively using the media for the transmission of information to the public about the science and profession of psychology.
2. To develop a set of theoretical frameworks for the study and practice of media psychology.
3. To undertake and support research on the effects of media on the public, and the effectiveness of media in transmitting psychological information to the public.
4. To encourage adherence to the ethical standards and guidelines of the APA in the use of media for transmission of psychological information to the public.
5. To assist in mass media efforts designed to pragmatically and systematically effect behavior change for those individuals seeking to improve their quality of life physically, emotionally, and environmentally.
6. To engage in training activities to prepare psychologists to participate in media activities effectively and ethically by presenting lectures and workshops at APA meetings, at state and other psychological association meetings, and serving in a consultative capacity, as invited, to various Divisions.
7. To assist psychologists in disseminating information about their activities to the public and to other health care professionals, companies, and institutions.
8. To collaborate with the APA Public Affairs Office and Public Information Committee (PIC) in projects and programs of mutual interest.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.01 - Classes of Membership

Members of the Division shall consist of five classes, viz., Fellows, Members, Associate members, Life members, and Student members.

(Wherever “Member” appears in these By-Laws, it is intended to include Fellows unless otherwise specified.)

Section 2.02- Qualifications for Fellow Status

To be eligible for nomination by the Division to APA Fellow status a person must:

1. Meet the minimum standards for Fellow status established under the APA By-Laws;
2. Have been a Member of the Division for at least two years;
3. Have made an outstanding contribution to the research, theory, or practice of Media Psychology;
4. Be actively engaged in advancing the goals of the Division; and
5. Be endorsed by three APA Fellows, including two Fellows of the Division

Section 2.03 - Definition and Qualifications for Members

To be eligible for membership, one must be a regular, associate, or student member of the American Psychological Association (henceforth referred to as APA), or be non-APA members who have a substantial professional interest in psychology, communications, and the media. Only elected representatives of the Division on the Council of Representatives of the APA shall be Members of APA and shall be chosen by and only by the members of the Division who are also Members of APA.

1. Members affiliated with the APA shall be designated in accordance with the By-Laws of the APA as follows:

(1a) Members shall be those who are also Members or Fellows of APA and who are elected as Division Members in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of Article 11 of the By-Laws for the APA.

(1b) Associate members shall be those who are also Associate members of the APA and who are elected as Associate members in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of Article II of the APA By-Laws.

2. Affiliate members shall be members who, by reason of their competence in media and/or media psychology wish to aid the Division in the attainment of its objectives, but who do not hold membership in APA.

This category will be comprised of members of the mental health sciences or professions or departments of communications whose work and/or interests lie in the utilization of the various media in the service of those sciences and professions. Affiliate members must meet those

qualifications established by the professions or institutions with which they are associated, and where applicable, must be licensed in their respective professions.

Ordinarily, eligibility for affiliate membership shall require a post-graduate degree from a recognized institution in a field related to the interests of the Division.

Section 2.05 - Life Members

Life member are members who are age 65 or over, have maintained themselves in good standing in APA or the Division for twenty-five years, and whose Division dues will therefore be waived. They shall have all the rights and privileges of membership.

Section 2.06 - Student Members

Student Members shall submit proof of full-time study in an APA approved graduate program. Student members have all the privileges of regular membership with the exception of office holding and voting.

Section 2.07 - Applicants

1. Charter members are those APA members who signed the petition for the establishment of the Division and paid Division dues for the calendar year in which the Division was formally established. They have no special privileges.

2. Applicants for membership may apply to APA directly or to the Division Membership Committee. They must be In good standing in APA or in their respective major field of endeavor

Section 2.06 - Regional Affiliates

Groups formerly called Regional Affiliates will no longer have formal status with the Division, but may request a liaison linkage. They are encouraged to pursue section status with state psychological associations.

ARTICLE III
MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 3.01 - Place and Time of Annual Membership Meeting

There shall be at least one meeting per year, designated as the Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held at the annual convention of the APA. In addition, there shall be two meetings of the elected Board of Directors, plus chairpersons - one in February or March and one at APA.

Section 3.02 -Special Meetings

1. Special meetings of members may be called at any time by any of the following: The Board of Directors, the President, or ten percent (10%) or more of the members.
2. If the special meeting is called by members other than the President or the Board of Directors of the Division, the request shall be submitted in writing by such members, specifying the general nature of the business proposed to be transacted, and shall be delivered personally or sent by registered mail to the President, President-Elect, or the Secretary of the Division. The officer receiving such a request shall cause notice to be promptly given to the members entitled to vote in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws. If a majority of members of the Division approve of such a special meeting, the date of such a meeting will be announced to the full membership within 20 days of approval.
3. Special meetings shall require 30% of voting members be present to constitute a quorum and transact business.
4. Special Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors meetings may be convened if needed by the President. These may consist of telephone conference calls.

Section 3.03 - Conduct of Meetings

Keesey's Rules of Order will be followed in the conduct of meetings, where not covered by these By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV
VOTING

Section 4.01 - Eligibility to Vote

1. Persons entitled to vote at any meeting of members shall be Members, Fellows and Life members.

2. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members represented at a Board or Membership meeting, entitled to vote, and voting on any matter, shall constitute the act of the members.

3. Resolution of the tie vote: On any matter properly put before the membership for a vote, including the election of officers, the President may exercise a single, tie-breaking vote where the matter would otherwise go unresolved due to the same number of votes having been cause for competing alternatives.

ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 5.01 - Powers of the Board of Directors

All business and affairs of the Division of Media Psychology shall be conducted by the Board of Directors with as much input as possible sought from chairpersons and other members.

Section 5.02 – Number, Qualification, and Election of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of no less than eight (8) and no more than twenty (20) Officers and Directors as follows:

The officers shall consist of a President, a President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer), six members-at-large, and the representative(s) to the APA Council of Representatives. All Directors shall assume office on the first day of the calendar year following their election by a majority of the voting members of the association by written ballot. The annual election shall be held in May or June of each year, in conjunction with all APA elections. The term of the offices of President, President-Elect, and Past President shall be for one year, the term of Members-at-large, the Secretary and Treasurer shall be for three years. The APA Council Representative(s) shall be elected in accordance with APA requirements.

Section 5.03 - Duties of the Officers and Representatives

1. President. The President shall exercise general supervision over the affairs of the Division. He or she shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Board of Directors and shall serve ex-officio on all standing committees.

2. President-Elect. The President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the latter, and shall have such additional duties as may be designated by the Board of Directors, including serving as Chairperson of the Nominations Committee.

3. Past President. The immediate Past President shall serve as Chair of the Awards Committee and shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President and President-Elect.

4. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings and maintain all corporate records. He or she shall serve as archivist and see that copies of all records are available as need be. The Secretary will send minutes to Board members and handle other correspondence as necessary and work with any central office staff and the President.

5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all corporate funds. After audit/financial review and approval by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall annually present to the members a summary statement of the financial standing of the corporation, as well as semi-annual budgets, including anticipated and actual income and expenditures.

6. Division Representative(s). Division Representative(s) to the APA Council of Representatives shall be member(s) of the board of Directors and shall be expected to attend all official meetings of the Board.

7. Members-at-Large. There shall be two (2) Members-at-large elected annually for a three-year term - so that there will be six (6) members-at-large. Each will be expected to chair a major committee.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

6.01 - Committee Chairs and Functions

Committee Chairs shall be appointed annually by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Division. Such Committees shall, if possible, be composed of members designated by the Committee Chair representing varied geographical areas. The following standing committees shall be appointed and have as their duties:

1. Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall receive all applications for membership and shall take action thereon. It is charged with furthering the number of members in the Division of Media Psychology.

2. Nominations and Elections Committee. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall deal with elections. The Committee shall consist of the President-Elect as Chair, the President, and the Secretary or Treasurer, whoever is the most recently elected. Candidates for an office should disqualify themselves from the Committee for a year. Each year the call for nominations will go into the Amplifier early enough that the membership has a chance to participate in the process. Names of nominees will be

forwarded to APA by the Committee Chair and apprised of election results in a timely fashion.

3. Awards Committee. The Awards Committee shall deal with awards. The Chair of the Awards Committee shall be the Past President. If he or she is not available, another Past president can be asked to serve. Candidates for an award should disqualify themselves from the Committee for a year. Each year the call for awards will go into the Amplifier early enough so that the membership has a chance to participate in the process.

4. Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee shall promulgate and enforce ethics guidelines (see Addendum), and receive complaints from the public, from other members, and from the media. The Committee will develop Rules and Regulations to facilitate the handling of complaints, and submit these to the Board of Directors for approval. It will consider all complaints, then present them with recommendations to the Board at Directors for action, and work in conjunction with the APA Ethics Office and Committee.

5. Program Committee. The Program Committee will have the responsibility of planning the program for the Annual Meeting and any other meetings of the Division. It shall work in conjunction with the APA Board of Convention Affairs (BCA) staff.

6. By-Laws Committee. The By-Laws Committee will work toward improvement of the By-Laws and will suggest needed changes to the Board of Directors of the Division. It will receive suggestions from the membership about such changes. Revisions may occur every two years, if needed.

ARTICLE VII RECORDS AND REPORTS

Section 7.01 - Maintenance and Inspection of Records

1. Records. The Division shall keep adequate and correct books and records of accounts; minutes of all meetings of the Board, membership and committees; and a record of its members containing their classes of membership, names and addresses.

2. Place of Maintenance. The accounting books, records, and minutes of proceedings of the members, the Board and any committees shall be kept at such place or places designated by the Board of Directors.

3. Inspection. The minutes, accounting books, Articles and By-Laws as amended, and records shall be open to inspection on the written demand of any member, at any reasonable time during usual business hours, for the purpose reasonably related to the member's interests as a member. The Inspection may be made in person or by an agent or attorney, and shall include the right to copy and make extracts.

4. Inspection by Directors. Every Director shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records, and documents of every kind and the physical properties of the corporation.

ARTICLE VIII DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 8.01 - Payment of Dues: Time

Dues shall be paid in accordance with APA procedures. The annual dues shall be payable on or before January 1st of each year and shall cover the period from January 1st through December 31st. Members joining during the year will pay full dues through August, and two-third dues from September 1st to December 31st.

Section 8.02 - Review and Amount of Dues

Dues will be reviewed and recommended annually to the Board of Directors by a committee consisting of the Division President, President-Elect, Treasurer, and Program Committee Chair. Members, Fellows, Associate members and members-at-large will pay one hundred percent (100%) of the annually determined dues. Student members will pay fifty percent (50%), and Life members will be dues-exempt. All decisions regarding the setting of dues, initiation and reinstatement fees and assessments are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, following review and recommendations by the Finance Committee.

Section 8.03 - Non-Payment of Dues

Members in any category who have not paid their dues and late payment fee prior to the date required by APA for payment of dues will be considered as having resigned and will be dropped from membership. Members in any category who have resigned from participation through non-payment of dues may be reinstated only upon payment of the current years dues, plus a reinstatement fee to be determined by the Finance Committee.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

Section 9.01 -Required Votes

By-Laws may be amended and when ratified, as stated below, the amendment shall have the force of By-Laws. Written approval of a two-thirds majority of the members voting is required for amendment or repeal of a By-Law.

Section 9.02 - Ratification

Proposed substantive amendments to the By-Laws shall be presented to the voting members of the Division by a majority vote of the Board of Directors or upon receiving a petition signed by not less than 5% of the voting members of the Division. All substantive changes in the By-Laws will be made by mail ballot to the voting members in writing, together with a summary of arguments for and against the amendment.

NOTE: A non-substantive By-Law change is any proposed change which is passed by a vote of the Board of Directors with no more than three (3) dissenting votes. (Abstention is not considered a vote).

ARTICLE X
PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Section 10.01 - Type and Scope of Activities

The Division or Media Psychology may undertake such programs of research, sponsorship of publication, and other appropriate activities as may be approved by the members of the Division or by its Board of Directors.

Section 10.02 - Authorization

1. The Board of Directors of the Division shall appoint special committees as necessary to oversee or carry out such projects.
2. Any member of the Division may submit a proposal for research, publications, or other activities to the Board of Directors of the Division. The Board shall also have the authority to initiate suggestions. Publications requiring APA approval shall be submitted to the appropriate body by the Division's Board of Directors.
3. The Board may recommend to the Association for approval at the annual meeting or by mail ballot such proposals as it deems appropriate for sponsorship, along with the supporting budgetary allocations.

ARTICLE XI
USE OF THE NAME OF THE DIVISION

Section 11.01 - Limitations

1. No member, committee, or subgroup of members of the Division of Media Psychology may take any action or issue any statement in the name of the Division except through authorization of the Board of Directors of the Division, or on the basis of an authorized referendum of the total membership.

2. Participation of membership in the Division is not necessarily to be construed as evidence of qualification or competence to practice Psychology or to provide services to the media.

Approved December 7, 1986 - Los Angeles, California

Amended February 1990 - Board of Directors

Amended February 1991 - Board of Directors

Streamlined and Amended August 1993- Board of Directors

Amended February 2003 – Approved by membership