

The Mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing inclusive information, essential education, sensible support, and active advocacy.



**HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER
BYLAWS**

**Adopted November 3, 2010
Revision Adopted October 7, 2020**

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

The name of this organization is the Hearing Loss Association of America of Sun City Center; also, known as “HLAA-SCC.” We are a local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA).

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

The purpose of the Hearing Loss Association of America Sun City Center Chapter is to:

- A. Enable people with hearing loss and their families to meet the challenge of hearing loss and to participate in the mainstream of an enlightened society through information, education, advocacy, and support.
- B. To receive and maintain funds of real or personal property, or both, and subject to the restrictions and limitations herein set forth, to use and apply the whole or part of the income there from and the principal thereof exclusively for the purposes set forth above in paragraph (A) of the Article II.
- C. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of any officer or trustee of the chapter, except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to the chapter in carrying out its purposes. No officer or trustee or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any chapter assets upon dissolution of the organization. The chapter shall not engage in lobbying for legislation, make contributions to political campaigns or take other actions that jeopardize its or the parent organizations tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE III – FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Hearing Loss Association of America Sun City Center Chapter shall be to:

- A. Establish and promote an organization having a shared goal of supporting people with hearing loss to enhance their ability to function independently.

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- B. Provide information that will enable people with hearing loss, their families, friends, and associates to understand and manage effectively the difficulties manifested in such condition.
- C. Represent the interests of all people with hearing loss before public and private entities on matters pertaining to hearing health care and remediation of hearing loss.
- D. Works in sync with leadership and education at local and state levels to impact the communities where individuals with hearing loss reside.
- E. Promote public and private programs that provide accommodations allowing people with hearing loss to participate effectively in the mainstream of society.
- F. Support all people with hearing loss.
- G. Establish working relationships with those who are professional and with professional organizations in the hearing health care field, encourage research into all aspects of hearing loss and remedial aids.
- H. Promote regular diagnosis of hearing loss through audiogram testing among all ages in the general population.
- I. Advocate the use of cochlear implants when deemed appropriate for all who qualify for them.
- J. Collaborate with other individuals, organizations, and institutions on matters of mutual concern as set forth in this Article III.
- K. Provide such other services and projects that will further the purpose of the organization.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Provisions for membership:

- A. Membership is open to any person who supports or endorses the purposes and functions of the Hearing Loss Association of America Sun City Center Chapter (HLAA SCC) and who completes an application to become a voting, participating member of this Chapter. Other categories of persons include “Guests.”
- B. Rights of members:
 - 1. To hold any office in the local/state/national organization when duly elected or appointed.
 - 2. To vote on matters submitted for a vote of the members.
 - 3. To serve on committees.
 - 4. To serve as a delegate to national conventions.
 - 5. To participate in all discussions concerning the Chapter.
 - 6. To receive all member benefits. Spouses, relatives living in the same household, or significant others of members may enjoy the same benefits.
 - 7. To present grievances.

ARTICLE V – GOVERNANCE

Rules of Conduct:

- A. The Hearing Loss Association of America Sun City Center Chapter shall be governed by these Bylaws and those of the National Office of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA).
- B. General meeting shall be held once a month as scheduled from September through May, decided by the membership or Steering Committee. Rap Session – Round-table Discussions shall be held once a month during the summer months as decided by the Steering Committee.
- C. The Chapter’s Steering Committee shall meet monthly unless otherwise decided by the Steering Committee members.
- D. There shall be a quorum consisting of a simple majority of chapter members present at these meetings.

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ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Titles and Duties:

A. Chapter Officers of the Hearing Loss Association of America Sun City Center Chapter shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These Officers shall be elected by simple majority vote of the membership for terms of two years, but not more than two consecutive terms. An Officer wishing to serve the same office for more than two terms must wait at least one term after stepping down before he/she may become a candidate for the office again. The Immediate Past President shall automatically serve as a member of the Steering Committee for a term of not more than one year. Elections are to be held at the December meeting of each year. All Officers shall be members of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). The term of an office shall commence on January 1st, following the election of officers.

B. Duties:

President:

1. Shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Steering Committee.
2. Shall appoint Chairpersons of all standing committees determined by the Steering Committee and all committees formed by a vote of the membership.

Vice-President:

1. Shall assist the President in all of his/her duties.
2. Shall temporarily perform the duties of the President when he/she is absent or has become unable to serve.
3. Shall be the President-Elect.

Secretary:

1. Shall keep minutes of all General Chapter Meetings.
2. Shall handle all correspondence with aid of Steering Committee Corresponding Secretary.

Treasurer:

1. Shall maintain records of all receipts and disbursements.
2. Shall make reports of the financial condition at General Chapter Meetings and an Annual Report at the Chapter Meeting at the Close of the fiscal year.

Immediate Past President:

1. Shall serve as a member of the Steering Committee.
2. Shall serve in activities delegated by the President.

ARTICLE VII – STEERING COMMITTEE

Composition and Duties:

- A. The Steering Committee shall be comprised of HLAA member volunteering to be officers, the Immediate Past President, and members who volunteer to serve on the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall be limited to twenty (20) people.
- B. Unless voted on otherwise, the Steering Committee shall meet once a month before a monthly chapter meeting has taken place.
- C. The Steering Committee quorum shall be a simple majority.
- D. The business and affairs of the Chapter shall be managed by the Steering Committee as outlined in this document.

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ARTICLE VIII – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Procedures:

- A. A Standing Committee for nominations shall be appointed by the President/Leader to present a slate of nominees for each elected office at a Steering Committee prior to the Elections if a Board of Directors controls the Chapter.
- B. Any member in good standing may be nominated from the floor.
- C. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of members present at the December chapter meeting.
- D. Each member present shall be entitled to one vote. Elections to office shall be simple majority of votes cast. If there is more than one candidate for an office, elections shall be by ballot.

ARTICLE IX – RULES OF ORDER

Requirements:

- A. Robert’s Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the conduct of all meetings of the membership and the Governing Board and/or Committee when they are not in conflict with the local and National Bylaws.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Procedure:

- A. A member of the HLAA – SCC Chapter Steering Committee may make a motion to amend the Bylaws made at and during a Steering Committee Meeting. After the proposed Amendment has been moved and seconded, it will be voted on by the Steering Committee and may then be passed by a simple majority vote of the Steering Committee. The proposed Amendment shall be submitted in writing to the general membership of the Chapter at the regular chapter meeting for vote by a simple majority of the chapter members present at the meeting.
- B. A member of the HLAA-SCC Chapter may make a motion to change the Bylaws at a regular chapter meeting. If the motion is seconded, the proposed change is to be submitted in writing and given to a member of the Steering Committee. The proposed Amendment will be evaluated by the Steering Committee for an approval or disapproval recommendation. At the next chapter meeting following the Steering Committee meeting, a member of the Steering Committee will announce to the general Chapter membership the results and rationale of the Steering Committee recommendation for either approval or disapproval of the proposed change. The approved Bylaws change will then be submitted to the general membership of the Chapter. A quorum shall consist of 20 percent of HLAA- SCC Chapter members in good standing for conducting business at Chapter meetings.
- C. When general HLAA-SCC Chapter Meetings can not be held due to local/state/national or international restrictions, such as a pandemic, providing an alternative platform or format for submitting motions during regular Chapter meetings shall be pursued.

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ARTICLE XI – FINANCIAL

Requirements:

- A. The fiscal year of the Chapter shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.
- B. The annual financial report shall be audited as directed by the Steering Committee.
- C. In the event that the Chapter dissolves or ceases to function, all remaining funds and assets shall be transferred to the Hearing Loss Association of America National Office.
- D. Unless otherwise specified in writing by the donor, all donations received by this organization shall be considered general revenue and can be used for ordinary Chapter expenses.

ARTICLE XII – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Conditions:

- A. Individual members or a group of members shall have the right to present signed grievances for action and decision by the membership. Written grievances shall be presented to the President or a member of the Grievance Committee, if said Committee has been established.
- B. Grievances shall be included on the agenda for the next membership meeting. If it is agreed that they should be pursued, it shall be turned over to the Grievance Committee, and at the absence of a Grievance Committee, the President shall appoint a Committee of three (3) people to make investigation and report in writing at the next Steering Committee meeting, or at a special meeting, as the membership determines.
- C. Chapter Officers or Steering Committee members shall not serve on a Grievance Committee.
- D. Approval of the Grievance Committee recommendation shall be binding on the Chapter Officers or Steering Committee Members, except that the action may be appealed to the Executive Committee of the HLAA National Office within sixty (60) days.

ARTICLE XIII – CHAPTER MEETINGS

- A. Untoward Circumstances for Chapter Continuance such as:
 1. Death, illness, or sudden loss of more than two or more Chapter Officers
 2. Diminished participation and interest from membership & community
 3. Monetary funds and donations are lacking or severely limited
 4. Epidemic and or Pandemic cause disruption of entire HLAA process in area: the HLAA SCC Chapter may consider operating with a Steering Committee in place of the Chapter Officers as outlined in the *National HLAA State Organization and Chapter Leaders/Officers Position Description*. A Chapter Leader/Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary will facilitate effective administration of the Chapter. Additional members for the Committee would help handle the affairs that do not need to be voted on by the membership. All members of the Steering Committee must be current HLAA members.
 5. Inability to hold face-to-face General Meetings due to health limitations, the HLAA SCC Chapter will develop new communication formats to offer information, education, advocacy and support for their members, community, and guests.
- B. Direction and guidance from Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) *hearingloss.org* if chapter unable to continue or close.

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Adoption of Bylaws

We, the undersigned, are the current Directors/Committee Members of this Organization, and we consent to, and hereby do, adopt the foregoing Bylaws, consisting of the five (5) preceding pages as the Bylaws of this organization.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board/Committee on this ____7__ day of __October__ 2020__

Eloise Schwarz, Leader, Steering Committee

Raymond Jobin, Treasurer

Dana Schroeder, Member-At-Large

Richard Herring, Past President, Chapter