

# NPCA

## National Philosophical Counseling Association

### NPCA Constitution

**ARTICLE I. PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Association is to foster the study and advancement of the theory and practice of philosophical counseling. The means to this end shall include (1) holding learned meetings and conferences to promote the scholarly exchange of views; (2) arranging for the exchange of ideas between philosophers and mental health specialists, especially as these ideas bear on the relationship between philosophical and psychological methods, theories, and modalities of practice; (3) providing a public forum, such as a journal, for the publication of learned articles pertaining to the theory and/or practice of philosophical counseling; (4) affiliating with, promoting, organizing, and/or endorsing training programs in philosophical counseling; (5) maintaining an updated list of philosophical counselors certified by said programs; (6) creating, maintaining, and updating of ethical standards of practice and certification standards; and maintaining a website to promote the said purpose.

**ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP:** Any person may be admitted to membership subject to such stipulations as the Association may enact, provided that no stipulations shall reflect ethnic, religious, political, sexual or philosophically sectarian considerations. Membership shall carry certain voting and petitioning rights hereinafter indicated, the right to be informed in advance of all learned meetings, and the duty to pay dues.

#### **ARTICLE III. OFFICERS:**

**Section A.** The Executive Officers shall be an Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, and at least six Board of Directors.

**Section B.** The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by Association members in attendance at the annual Association business meeting or, between meetings, by majority decision of the Board. Terms of the Board of Directors shall be five years.

**Section C.** No person for whom an actual or apparent conflict of interest exists shall serve on the Board of Directors or hold any other NPCA office. Such possible conflicts of interest include (but are not restricted to) being or having been an officer or member of, or otherwise involved in the administration or governance of a competing philosophical counseling or practice association.

**Section D.** The Acting Executive Director of the National Philosophical Counseling Association shall assume the office of The Executive Director of the National Philosophical Counseling Association, and the Acting Associate Executive Director of the National Philosophical

Counseling Association shall assume the office of the Associate Executive Director of the National Philosophical Counseling Association.

**Section E.** The Executive Director shall have general charge of affairs of the Association and may act with power on all matters not otherwise specified in the Constitution or legislation of the Association. The Executive Director shall normally preside at meetings of the Board and at business sessions of the Association. The Associate Executive Director shall be the Executive Director's deputy, and shall normally preside at Board and business meetings in the Executive Director's absence. The Associate Executive Director shall be in charge of all Association information, including the roster of members, the records of meetings, the files of significant documents, and the publication of a membership list; he/she shall conduct, or be kept informed about, Association correspondence and shall receive the Association's funds and disburse them as authorized by the Executive Director or Board, recording all financial transactions and reporting them annually to the Board and Executive Director and periodically to the Association. The Board of Directors in concert with the Executive Director shall determine the composition of committees for programs, for nominations, for publications and for research, except that it may delegate any such power to a subset of itself. The Board shall propose the amount of the annual dues fee and the due-date but must then secure the approval at a business meeting or, if requested, of the membership. The Board shall be kept informed concerning the work of all committees.,. It shall resolve tied elections. The Board may decide to submit a matter of business which is not otherwise covered in this Constitution to a poll of the membership in the interval between learned meetings. The Board shall keep the Executive Director and Associate Executive Director informed about all matters before it, as well as any prospective matters, and shall not form any committees, subcommittees, or otherwise engage in any NPCA business without the full knowledge of and disclosure to each and every current member of the Board, the Executive Director, and the Associate Executive Director.

**Section F.** If the office of the Executive Director becomes vacant, the Associate Executive Director shall automatically become Executive Director. If the office of the Associate Executive Director becomes vacant, the Executive Director shall appoint an interim Associate Executive Director. Upon approval by the majority of the Board of Directors, the interim Associate Executive Director will become the new Associate Executive Director. If the Executive Director is unable or unavailable to appoint an interim Associate Executive Director, the authority to choose a new Associate Executive Director shall reside in the majority of the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE IV. THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:**

**Section A.** At least annually, the learned meeting of the Association shall include a business session at which Association members shall decide by majority vote matters presented by the Board and from the floor, except such matters as are reserved to the officers (III,D ; III,E).

**Section B.** Election to the board shall be by ballot prepared by the Associate Executive Director and approved by the current Board and will take place at a business meeting at least once every five years. A majority of votes of those members of the Association attending the meeting shall

be conclusive; tie votes shall be resolved by the Board. Write-in votes shall be valid. Nominations to the Board from members normally shall be accepted at any time in advance of each business meetings.

Basic policy issues, including conditions of membership and Constitutional amendments, shall be referred by the Board to the entire membership at the next business meeting. A majority of votes of those members of the Association attending the meeting shall be conclusive; tie votes shall be resolved by the Board.

**Section C.** The Board of Directors shall meet at the time and place of learned meetings and additionally either by its own decision or upon invitation by the Executive Director. It may substitute another form of communication for any meeting. At Board meetings a majority of members shall be a quorum; in other cases the quorum shall be responses from a majority of members, received within an announced period of time designated by the Executive Director. The Board's decisions shall be by majority vote of the quorum.

**Section D.** Any ten percent (10%) of the members of the Association may direct the Board to consider any matter demonstrable within the purview of the Association and to report its conclusions to a business session. Any fifty members may direct the Board to consider such a matter and to report promptly to the entire membership by mail.

**Section E.** This Constitution goes into effect upon adoption on December 29, 2011 and replaces the original Constitution of the American Society for Philosophy, Counseling and Psychotherapy, adopted December 29, 1992 and amended December 29, 1994.

## **BY-LAWS**

1. The annual dues shall be Thirty-five Dollars, U .S. (\$35.00) or the equivalent thereof, if it is possible to convert the payer's money into dollars. If it is not possible, membership is free. Other exceptions may be made by the Associate Executive Director for students, beginning teachers, and emeriti. The imposition of these dues will begin December 29, 2011. In addition, all dues will become payable on February 1st of each year.

2. The NPCA shall make the *International Journal of Philosophical Practice (IJPP)* available free of charge in order to provide the widest circulation of the contributions of *IJPP* to philosophical practice. Visitors can still freely access all back issues of journal articles simply by clicking on the Journal link and then selecting the volume/issue they wish to view. Copies of the articles may be downloaded, distributed and used for scholarly and professional purposes but may not be sold without express permission of the Editors.

3. NPCA shall affiliate with the Institute of Critical Thinking to offer Primary Certificates in Logic-Based Therapy (LBT) to qualified individuals through its new training program.

Submitted by Elliot D. Cohen Acting Executive Director of the National Philosophical Counseling Association and Samuel L. Zinaich, Acting Associate Executive Director of the National Philosophical Counseling Association.

This Constitution was ratified at the meeting of the National Philosophical Counseling Association held at the American Philosophical Association Meeting, Eastern Division, Washington, D.C ., on December 29, 2011.