



**Charter & Bylaws of
Mid-South Lions
Sight And Hearing Service, Inc**

**As amended on
June 5, 2021**



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NOW
Through the
Mid-South Lions
Office**

**ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT
TO THE CHARTER
(nonprofit)**

3. D. Other changes.

THIS AMENDED AND RESTATED CHARTER (the "2009 Charter") is approved as of the 6th day of June 2009 at a duly noticed meeting of the membership of the Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing Service, Inc. ("MSLSHS" or "the corporation")

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the original charter was effective as of 12/11/1942; and

WHEREAS, it has been amended and restated in 1951, 1973, 1983, 1986, 1990, and 2000, and

WHEREAS, the structure of the Charter has developed into a combination of Charter and Bylaws, and

WHEREAS, the membership desires that the charter should be amended to reflect those items set out in T.C.A. §48-52-102 with the remaining provisions to be incorporated in duly adopted bylaws as set out in T.C.A. §48-52-106, and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are acknowledged, the parties hereby adopts the following as it a restated and amended charter agree as follows:

(1) The Corporate name for the corporation is the Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing Service, Inc.

(2) This corporation is a public benefit corporation.

(3) The street address and zip code of the corporation's initial registered office, the county in which the office is located, and the name of its initial registered agent at that office as initially filed.

(4) The incorporators are as set forth in the Original articles.

(5) The corporation is not-for-profit.

The street address and zip code of the principal office of the corporation:
930 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, Shelby County, TN 38103

(6) Membership in the Corporation shall consist of the following classifications:

6.1 All Lions in Lions Clubs in Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, duly chartered or certified by the International Association of Lions Clubs (hereinafter called Lions Clubs International) and in good standing with Lions Clubs International and their respective Multiple District.

6.2 The Board of Directors may elect to membership in the Corporation persons of integrity and good judgment who have demonstrated interest and commitment to the accomplishment of the goals and objective of the Corporation.

(7) The Board of Directors shall be elected by the members of the corporation as specified in the By-Laws. The majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall be individuals that are also members of the International Association of Lions Clubs, save and except for up to six (6) members of the board who can be independent directors at-large and are not required to be a member of a Lions Club.

(8) BYLAWS.

8.1 This corporation may adopt bylaws.

8.2 No bylaw may conflict with this charter.

(9) INDEMNIFICATION Consistent with the provisions of the laws under which this corporation is incorporated, this corporation may adopt provisions providing indemnification for each person who, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Board of Directors member, officer, employee, agent, or other member of any committee of this corporation, was or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding.

(10) CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS.

10.1 The corporation in a legally called meeting or the Board of Directors may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the charter or bylaws of this corporation.

10.2 Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a majority vote of a meeting of the corporation or a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Board of Directors.

(11) Dissolution – Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

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MID-SOUTH LIONS SIGHT AND HEARING SERVICE, INC.

BYLAWS

As amended June 5, 2021

Article I
NAME

The name of this corporation shall be the MID-SOUTH LIONS SIGHT AND HEARING SERVICE, INC.

Article II
OBJECT

The object of this corporation shall be to enhance the lives of the indigent sight or hearing impaired by providing light, sound, and hope through partnerships with Lions Clubs, medical professionals, and facilities throughout Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

Article III
MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this corporation shall be as stated in paragraph (6) subsection 6.1 of the Charter. Membership in the corporation may be extended to persons of integrity and good judgment who have demonstrated interest and commitment to the accomplishments of the goals and objectives of the corporation.

Article IV
OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of this corporation shall be:

- a. President
- b. First Vice President
- c. Second Vice President
- d. Third Vice President
- e. Fourth Vice President
- f. Secretary
- g. Treasurer
- h. Immediate Past President

Section 2: The election of the officers of this corporation shall be as specified in Article X of these bylaws.

Section 3: The vice presidents shall serve as ex-officio, without vote, members of the committees as specified in Article VIII.

Article V
DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1: The duties of the officers of this corporation shall be as follows:

a. President: The president shall preside at all meetings of the membership of the corporation and/or the board of directors. Except for the nominating committee and past presidents committee, the president shall be an ex-officio member, with no vote, of all committees. The president shall in concert with all the vice presidents appoint all members of standing committees except the nominating committee and past presidents committee. The president shall have the authority to create and appoint Ad Hoc committees. The president shall be a member of the board of directors.

b. Vice Presidents: If the president is unable to perform the duties of president, the vice president next available in the order of ascendancy shall perform the duties of the office of president with full title, authority and responsibility. All vice presidents shall perform other duties as assigned. The vice presidents shall be members of the board of directors.

c. Secretary: The secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the membership and board of directors. The secretary shall give notice of all meetings, maintain record of attendance and membership, and perform such other duties as may pertain to this office. The secretary shall be a member of the board of directors.

d. Treasurer: The treasurer shall, on a monthly basis, review financial records of the corporation to ensure proper procedures and reconciliation of accounts. The treasurer shall, in cooperation with staff, review the current budgetary status and make reports as necessary to the board of directors. The treasurer shall be a member of the board of directors.

e. Immediate Past President: The immediate past president shall be the chair of the nominating committee and secretary of the past presidents committee. The immediate past president shall be a member of the board of directors.

Section 2: The term of office for all officers except for secretary and treasurer shall be one year. The term of office for secretary and treasurer shall be two years, and no one shall serve more than two consecutive terms as secretary or treasurer. Due to extenuating circumstances, this can be extended at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The secretary and treasurer's terms shall be staggered.

Article VI DIRECTORS

Section 1: The board of directors, the majority of whom must be lions in good standing, shall consist of the eight (8) officers of the corporation as set out in Article IV; seven (7) at-large positions; and eight (8) lions, two (2) each from Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. All directors shall serve without compensation.

Section 2: The board of directors shall meet a minimum of three (3) times per year, and at other times upon the call of the president or a majority of members of the board of directors. Notice shall be sent via standard mail or electronically in a timely manner. Only items in the call for a special meeting may be discussed.

Section 3: The board of directors shall have authority and responsibility to carry out the business of the corporation.

Section 4: A simple majority of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof.

Section 5: The board of directors shall be authorized to declare vacant any elected position, when, in the opinion of the board, the duties of that office are not being adequately discharged. A seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the board of directors is required to remove any individual from an elected position. Any vacancy in an elected position shall be filled as described in Article X, Section 7.

Section 6: Directors will be elected to serve two-year terms and shall be eligible to serve additional terms.

Section 7: Continuing resolutions that do not conflict with or change the intent of the bylaws or the charter of the corporation may be passed by majority vote of the board of directors.

Article VII
TRUSTEES

Section 1: Trustees of the Mid-South Lions Sight And Hearing Service, Inc. Endowment Fund shall be Lions elected, one each from Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee, to four-year terms on a rotating basis. Names shall be received by the nominating committee and reported to the delegates at the annual meeting. Election of trustees shall be as outlined in Article X of the bylaws. The trustees shall, at the first meeting following their election, select a chair. Trustees shall be eligible to serve additional terms.

Section 2: The sole duty of the trustees is to manage any endowment funds received by the Corporation.

Section 3: In the event a trustee cannot complete his or her elected term, the position shall be filled as described in Article X, Section 7.

Article VIII
COMMITTEES

Section 1: Executive Committee:

a) The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the corporation as described in Article IV. The executive committee shall conduct the business of the corporation between regularly scheduled board of directors' meetings. Any and all decisions of the executive committee must be reported to the board of directors in a timely manner, not later than the next meeting of the board of directors. A quorum for any in-person or electronic meeting of the executive committee shall consist of at least five (5) officers.

b) This committee shall not determine policy but shall merely exercise administrative functions to carry out the purposes and objectives of the corporation within the policy and directives as formulated by the board of directors.

Section 2: Standing committees: The standing committees shall be as follows:

- a) Case Service
- b) Finance
- c) Fundraising
- d) Governance
- e) Meetings
- f) Nominating
- g) Past Presidents

Nothing will prevent the board of directors from forming ad hoc or other committees as needed.

Section 3: Committee chairs not bound by position (past presidents, finance, and nominating are bound positions) will be filled by the vice presidents as specified in Section 5 below.

Section 4: Standing committees, with exception of the fundraising committee, nominating committee and past presidents committee, shall consist of the chair plus four members, one from each state that will be appointed by the president, subject to approval by the board of directors.

Section 4.5: When a committee member cannot be present at a committee meeting, the vice-president or president from the state of that member is responsible for appointing a substitute member for that meeting only and communicating that proxy to the chair of the committee before the meeting. If the vice-president or president does not do that, the committee chair may appoint a proxy from the state represented by the absent member. The minutes of the meeting must reflect that proxy.

Section 5: Duties

a) Case Service - The case service committee shall make recommendations to the board of directors regarding changes in procedures that may affect the delivery of patient care by the corporation. The third vice president shall serve as chairperson of this committee.

b) Finance - The finance committee shall review any and all aspects of the assets, liabilities and investments of the corporation. The committee shall consider budgetary recommendations as presented by the staff for review, amending, and/or approval. They shall then forward them to the executive committee and the board of directors. The treasurer shall serve as chair of this committee. The fourth vice president shall serve as an ex-officio member of this committee.

c) Fundraising - Fundraising is the responsibility of every member of the corporation. The fundraising committee shall consist of a chair (appointed by the CEO with the approval of the Executive Committee annually) plus at least four members from the Memphis metro area and others as needed. The fundraising committee shall supervise the organization and management of all major fundraising activities of the corporation.

d) Governance - The governance committee shall draft desirable and required changes in the articles of incorporation and bylaws to serve the corporation's purposes more effectively. The chair of this committee shall also serve as parliamentarian. The second vice president shall serve as chairperson of this committee.

e) Meetings - The meetings committee shall supervise the organization and management of all regularly scheduled and special meetings of the corporation. The first vice president shall serve as chairperson of this committee.

f) Nominating - The nominating committee shall consist of the immediate past president as chair plus four members, one from each state. The committee shall solicit and develop qualified applicants for the nominating committee, board positions, officers and trustees. The committee shall present a slate of candidates for open positions for consideration at the third quarterly meeting of the board of directors. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that meeting. These nominations will be provided to all members no later than 30 days prior to the annual membership meeting. Voting will be conducted at the annual membership meeting.

g) Past Presidents - The past presidents committee shall assist in fundraising and public relations and serve in any other capacity as requested by the president. The immediate past president once removed shall serve as chair, and the committee shall consist of all past presidents of the corporation.

ARTICLE IX MEETINGS

Section 1: Quarterly meetings of the board of directors shall be held at a time and place approved by a majority of the board of directors. Notice shall be sent to board members via standard mail or electronically a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Section 2: Special meetings of the membership may be called by the president or a majority of the board of directors. Notice shall be sent via standard mail or electronically in a timely manner. Only items in the call for the special meeting may be discussed.

Section 3: The annual membership meeting of the corporation shall be held in conjunction with the fourth quarterly board of directors meeting in the month of June. Notice shall be sent to all to members of the corporation through Lions Clubs, and board members via standard mail or electronically no later than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date.

Section 4: Any time a vote is taken by the board or in the annual membership meeting, a majority of the members registered for the meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5: Electronic meetings may be utilized by the board, trustees, and committees when deemed necessary or preferable by the respective chair. The Annual Membership Meeting may be conducted by electronic means when deemed necessary by action of the Executive Committee. All members participating shall have the right to vote as in a face-to-face meeting.

ARTICLE X ELECTIONS

Section 1: The election of officers, trustees, board members and the nominating committee and the adoption of a budget by the members shall be held at the annual membership meeting.

Section 2: Individuals seeking elected positions shall submit a list of their qualifications to the chair of the nominating committee prior to March 1.

Section 3: In the event that any elected position does not have a nominee at the time of the election, nominations for that position only may be made from the floor of the annual meeting provided the nominee consents. If any positions remain vacant at the end of the annual membership meeting, those positions shall be filled as described in Article X, Section 7.

Section 4: Voting will be by secret ballot. If there are no contested positions, an alternate method of voting may be approved by a majority of the membership.

Section 5: Vice presidents shall be elected one each from Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee, with each vice president being automatically nominated for the next progressive office including president. The fourth vice president shall be from the same state as the president.

Section 6: If the office of president or vice president becomes vacant, that office will be filled by a qualified individual from the same state. The Nominating Committee shall provide a qualified candidate to the Board of Directors for approval. The selected candidate will serve out the full uncompleted term(s) of the vacant position.

Section 7: Any vacancy in an elected position (other than VP) shall be filled by recommendations from the nominating committee and majority vote of the board of directors for the balance of that Lion year.

ARTICLE XI FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year for the corporation shall be July 1 through June 30.

ARTICLE XII REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS

Prior to the annual membership meeting, the board of directors on recommendation of the executive committee shall select and employ a certified public accountant to conduct a minimum of a compilation of financials of the corporation.

ARTICLE XIII
PARLIAMENTARY RULES

The proceedings of all meetings shall be governed and conducted in accordance with the current version of Robert's Rules of Order newly revised.

ARTICLE XIV
AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Upon adoption by the membership of the corporation, these bylaws shall become effective at the adjournment of the meeting at which they are adopted.

Section 2: These bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual membership meeting.

Section 3: Notice of any proposed change(s), with copies of the proposed change(s), to the bylaws shall be sent to all members of the corporation through Lions Clubs and to board members via mail or electronically no later than 30 days prior to the meeting at which the change(s) will be considered.

ARTICLE XV
RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Nominating Committee, in conjunction with the Executive Committee, will determine the mechanics of a process so that the terms of the Secretary, Treasurer and any other applicable officer will be staggered in order to fully implement Article V, Section 2.

NOTE: Previous versions were approved by the Board of Directors on March 13, 2010 and by the General membership on June 12, 2010; with additional amendments adopted on June 11, 2011 and on June 15, 2013, and on June 2, 2018.

MID-SOUTH LIONS PRESIDENTS
1942 - 2021

1942-44 Edwin Dalstrom*+	1989-90 Herb Marshall II*
1945-47 Arvie P. Mills*	1990-91 B.G. Tatum +
1948-50 Clyde E. Wellman*	1991-92 Carter Johnson*
1951-52 George Bowden*	1992-93 Bill Holbrook*
1953-54 Robert E. Horrell*	1993-94 Bob Kitsmiller
1955-56* Thomas Graves*	1994-95 Larry Martin*+
1956-57* Jess Odom*	1995-96 Freddie Joyce*+
1957-58* John Holliday*	1996-97 B.J. Gallamore
1958-59 W.T. Franks*	1997-98 Chris Clinton +
1959-60 Stells Minyard*	1998-99 Henry Lamb* +
1960-62 Boyce Bryson*	1999-2000 Joe Lindley
1963-64 Ralph T. Hand*	2000-01 Chris Holbrook*+
1965-66 George Ingram *	2001-02-Roy Edwards*
1966-68 George P. Walker*	2002-03 John Wagener*
1968-70 William C. Moxley*	2003-04 Mark Poe
1970-72 H. Guy Palmer*	2004-05 Ron Foster
1972-73 Burk Dabney*	2005-06 Bud Dean +
1973-74 Lamar Newport*	2006-07 Greg Crapo
1974-75 Dr. Pete Walker*	2007-08 Bill Freeman +
1975-76 Herman West*	2008-09 Floyd Schriber*+
1976-77 Brown Langford*	2009-10 Terry Boettcher
1977-78 Fred Feldman*	2010-11 Howard Jenkins
1978-79 Nyle Oswalt*	2011-12 Thomas Epperson*
1979-80 Barthel Gray*	2012-13 Carolyn Schriber
1980-81 Bob Ganss*	2013-14 Gina Boettcher
1981-82 Carl Chambers*	2014-15 Bill Norris
1982-83 Pete Long*	2015-16 Matt Webber
1983-84 J.V. Sheffield*	2016-17 David Caldwell
1984-85 L.B. Baker*+	2017-18 Walter Hamer
1985-86 Lowell Crane*	2018-19 Bill Heywood
1986-87 Marion Erwin*	2019-20 Art Ritter
1987-88 "Chief" Sievers*+	2020-21 Scott Shelhamer
1988-89 David Martin*	2021-22 Lisa Alexander

*Deceased

+ L.B Baker Hall of Honor Members

NOTES



Mid-South Lions is a federally registered 501c3 non-profit organization. Tax ID #62-0632682. Most contributions to Mid-South Lions are 100% tax deductible. Check with your tax professional for verification.

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Thanks to you the MIRACLES of Mid-South continue...