ACA Mission Statement

The mission of the American Counseling Association is to enhance the quality of life in society by promoting the development of professional counselors, advancing the counseling profession, and using the profession and practice of counseling to promote respect for human dignity and diversity.

ACA Vision Statement

The American Counseling Association is the publicly recognized organization to which all professional counselors belong.

ACA Strategic Priorities

1. Re-engineering Governance
2. Improving member services and benefits to address 21st century needs
3. Balancing practice with academia
4. Advocating for the profession
5. Strengthening the organization
The governing documents of the association include the following:

(1) Articles of Incorporation;
(2) Bylaws;
(3) Policies and Procedures; and
(4) Operating Handbooks.

The Articles of Incorporation are superior to all other governing documents. The Bylaws are superior to the Manual which includes policies, selected procedures, and selected administrative rules and regulations. The Manual is superior to the Operating Handbooks. In the event a provision of a document is in conflict with the provision of another document, the provision in the superior document will prevail.
GUIDE FOR USE OF MANUAL

SECTIONS:

This Policies and Procedure Manual is divided into four sections. Each section contains all of the policies which pertain to the particular Section.

SECTION I  DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY
SECTION II  GOVERNANCE
SECTION III  FINANCE
SECTION IV  OPERATIONS

SERIES:

Policies are grouped in “Series” which are numbered by 100’s. The use of this type of codification allows for an almost unlimited number of policies in a series (Ex. Series 100 allows policies 101.1 to 101.99, then 102.1 to 102.99, etc.)

FINDING POLICIES:

A general TABLE OF CONTENTS in the front of the manual lists each series number and title as a quick reference. At the beginning of each specific series, there is a TABLE OF CONTENTS which lists policy numbers, titles, subtitles, implementing procedures and/or administrative rules and regulations.

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# SERIES 100
## CREATIONS, REVISIONS AND DELETIONS

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Policy 101.1  
ALL POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES CONTAINED IN THIS MANUAL

All policies and selected procedures of the American Counseling Association are contained in this manual. The Policy and Procedures Manual may not violate any provision of the ACA Articles of Incorporation, and ACA Bylaws. Procedure statements, Administrative Rules and Regulations, may not violate any provision of the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Adopted: 1992; Revised: 06/11/99

Policy 101.2  
CREATION, REVISION, OR DELETION

Policies are created, revised, or deleted by motions passed by a majority vote of the ACA Governing Council who are present at a meeting where there is a quorum or the ACA Executive Committee. The dates policies are created, revised, or deleted will be indicated.

Implementing Procedures:

1. **Motion Creation and Revision:** Motions that create or revise policies, procedures or administrative rules and regulations shall indicate in the motion the exact language of the new or revised policy, procedure or administrative rules and regulations.

2. **Policy Deletion:** A permanent file will be kept by the Director, Leadership Services when policies and implementing procedures or administrative rules and regulations in this manual are deleted.

3. **Dates of Policies:** The date of the edition of the Manual of Policies and Procedures will appear on the cover page of the publication. The date of the policy approval, revision, or deletion will be indicated on the specific policy page(s).

Adopted: 1992; Revised: 06/11/99; 10/07

Policy 101.3  
PUBLICATION OF MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Each year the latest version of ACA Manual of Policies and Procedures along with any revisions shall be posted on the ACA web site and made available to each officer of the Association, Division Presidents, and Region Chairs, as well as any new member of the Governing Council.

The Manual of Policies and Procedures will be updated annually and formally evaluated at least once every five years at the direction of the President and his/her designee.

Adopted: 9/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99
SECTION II

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ARTICLE II  Membership; Section 1. Types of Membership, (a-g); Section 2. Dues, (a-c); Section 3. Severance of Membership (a-b)

ARTICLE III  Meetings of the Membership; Section 1. Meetings.

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Policy 201.1  REDUCED DUES OR DUES WAIVERS FOR SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF MEMBERS

Special Categories of members, requirements for dues adjustments and the amount of dues reduction are established by action of the Governing Council.

Approved: 6/30/92; Revised: 01/14/96, 06/11/99, 03/16/01, 04/05, 10/07

Eligibility for Special Categories:

Life Membership:

Life membership, with dues reduction, may be obtained by paying a lump sum when this special category is open for enrollment.

Life membership, with dues waiver, is granted to a member who has served as ACA President.

Retired Membership:

Retired membership, with dues reduction, may be obtained by a person who has been a member for 5 years prior to retirement.

If the retired member returns to work, their prior member status will be reinstated upon payment of full dues.

Retired membership must be applied for on a yearly basis.

Student Membership:

Student membership, with dues reduction, may be obtained by a person who is enrolled half-time or more in a counseling program or a closely related field during the current academic year.

Student membership must be applied for on a yearly basis.

New Professional Membership:

Individuals who have graduated with a master’s or doctorate within the past 12 months. Status is good for one year.

Extenuating Circumstances:

A Professional or Regular member, who has been a member for at least one year, may apply for a dues reduction or waiver when extenuating circumstances produce financial hardship. These circumstances may include, but not be limited to, unemployment, temporary disability, personal or family care responsibilities, and permanent disability/fixed income.

The dues reduction or waiver must be applied for on a yearly basis.

All dues reductions or waivers for Extenuating Circumstances will be kept confidential and shall not appear on any member’s documents.
Emeritus Membership:

Association members, who were 65 years of age and had belonged to the Association for 20 years, were granted a dues waiver.

Emeritus membership was deleted from the Bylaws in 1981 and is no longer available to current members.

Requests for Dues Reduction/Dues Waiver:

All requests for dues reduction or dues waivers shall be sent to the ACA Member Services at Headquarters.

Appeal of Negative Decision:

If the request for reduced dues or dues waiver is rejected, the member may appeal in writing to the ACA’s Executive Director. If the rejection is upheld, the member may appeal in writing to the President of ACA who may seek guidance from the Executive Committee.

Policy 201.2 DUES

A. Dues Increase: A recommendation for Dues increases for all member categories will be made by the Financial Affairs Committee to the ACA Governing Council for approval. This recommendation will consider market forces.

B. Dues Reduction: The Financial Affairs Committee shall make an annual recommendation about dues increases for students, new professionals, and retired members.

Approved: 09/13/93; Revised: 04/97, 06/11/99; 03/27/08

Policy 201.3 APPOINTED POSITIONS

Appointed positions within the association (such as Committee Chair or Member, Organizational Affiliate Representative, Treasurer, etc.) must be held by Professional members as defined in Article II-1-c of the Bylaws.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; 10/07

Policy 201.4 OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

A. Publicized Membership Figures: The publicized official membership figures for ACA, its Divisions which require dual membership, and Regions shall be determined at the end of each fiscal year (June 30). These official yearly membership figures will be computed by using Arithmetic Averages for a twelve month period. This will be completed under the direction of the ACA Membership Department.

B. Determination of Representatives: Official membership figures shall be used to determine representational status on the Governing Council.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99
Policy 201.5  PUBLISHED MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

A table of specific membership figures for ACA’s Divisions, Organizational Affiliates, and Regions will only show the ACA members in each entity and may not reflect the total membership of a Division or Organizational Affiliate which does not require membership in ACA. The table will show ACA membership in Divisions, Organizational Affiliates, and Regions by month for the previous fiscal year, and the mean, numerical and percent change in total ACA membership for each entity.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 09/09/99

Policy 201.6  DIVISION MEMBERSHIP

A. Divisions with Dual Membership: Divisions which require their members to be members of the American Counseling Association may designate membership within their bylaws such that membership is uniform in designation, similar to ACA or with greater differentiation, e.g., “professional” denoting specialized preparation, experience, credentials, etc. Divisions may choose to make no distinction in the rights and privileges of membership within their organization or they may differentiate on some basis similar to ACA. If greater differentiation is required, the requesting organization will be responsible for any related adaptation costs.

B. Associated Divisions’ Representational Status: Divisions which do not require membership in ACA but which wish to retain representational status on the ACA Governing Council will have their status determined by the number of their members who are on the official ACA Membership List. Any associated Division representative to the ACA Governing Council must be a member of ACA.

C. Liaison Status: If ACA membership in Divisions cannot be verified sufficiently enough to determine representational status, policies in Series 1300 Relationship with Other Organizations shall be employed. In essence, a liaison from ACA may be appointed to their Association and their Association may appoint a liaison to the ACA Governing Council. The liaisons will not have voting rights.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 11/09/95, 6/11/99, 03/21/00, 10/07

Implementing Procedures:

1. Verifying Dual Membership: ACA’s Membership Department will use the official Membership List for verification of representational status to the Governing Council.

2. Verifying Dual Membership/Non-Collection of Dues: The President of Divisions which require dual membership but collect their own dues and the President of ACA or their designees will determine the most efficient method to share membership lists in order to establish verification of status. The method should be approved by the Executive Committee.

3. Verifying Associated Divisions’ ACA Members: The verification of ACA members for the purposes of representation on the ACA Governing Council will be handled by the ACA staff. If this procedure is not acceptable to the respective Divisions, then the Division will bear the cost of the verification process.
Policy 201.7  CONFIRMING MEMBERSHIP IN ACA

ACA considers membership status to be public information. As such, ACA staff designated by the Executive Director will respond to requests for the confirmation of ACA membership by providing the status of a member and dates of membership. In doing so, no personal or contact information may be released. The only information that should be provided is whether the individual is a member of ACA, the type of membership they have (e.g. student, regular, professional, retired) and the start and end date (if any) of membership.

Approved: 10/18/08

Policy 201.8  MEMBERSHIP LIST AVAILABILITY FOR RESEARCHERS

At the discretion of the Executive Director or designated staff, ACA may provide member contact information to researchers. Researchers may be charged for this service and the Executive Director or designated staff will determine these charges. The following guidelines apply:

- The purpose of the research should be in keeping with the ACA mission statement.
- Professional counselors or graduate counseling students requesting member contact information for research purposes should be members of ACA.
- Members who have requested that they not be solicited will have their privacy respected and not have any contact information provided to researchers.
- Before approval is granted, researchers should submit for review all materials that will be used in the research including – but not limited to - the informed consent document and any survey or instruments utilized.
- Researchers must have IRB approval and submit a copy of the approved IRB form.
- Due to the volume that would occur, ACA will not allow researchers to post requests for research participation on ACA listservs.

Approved: 10/18/08
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ACA GOVERNING COUNCIL

Role: The role of the Governing Council of the American Counseling Association is to establish policies that govern the affairs of the Association and to oversee the Association.

Functions: The functions of the Governing Council include:

1. To further the mission of ACA by enhancing the quality of life in society; by promoting the development of professional counselors, advancing the counseling profession, and by using the profession and practice of counseling to promote respect for human dignity and diversity;
2. Support and enforce the Bylaws and Ethical Standards of the Association;
3. To establish broad, long-term professional directions for the Association;
4. To establish policies to govern the affairs of the Association;
5. To meet at least twice a year (one meeting is to be immediately prior to or following the annual conference);
6. To formulate operational policies appropriate for executive action and direct the execution thereof;
7. To approve the annual budget;
8. To employ an Executive Director;
9. To grant and revoke Division, Branch, Corporate Affiliate, and Organizational Affiliate charters;
10. To act on the reports of the Divisions, Regions, Branches, Standing Committees, Task Forces, and such Special Committees that are responsible to the Governing Council;
11. To adopt and amend the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws;
12. To establish the Strategic Plan of the Association;
13. To act on appointments as presented to fulfill the tasks and functions of the Association;
14. To approve the site for the ACA Annual Conference
15. To review and approve Bylaws submitted by Divisions, Branches and Organizational Affiliates;
16. To exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary or desirable in the best interest of the Association, but not in conflict with the Bylaws.

Bylaws References: Article X; Section 3. Meetings of Governing Council (a-d)
Approved: 09/17/95; Revised: 06/11/99; 10/07

ACA GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBER

Role: The role of the Governing Council Member is to participate in the functioning of the Governing Council of the American Counseling Association.

Functions: The functions of the Governing Council Member include:

1. Support and enforce the Bylaws and Ethical Standards of the Association
2. To attend all scheduled meetings of the Governing Council and its committees as assigned, keep informed of the activities of the Association, and be informed concerning the issues to be considered at meetings of the Governing Council;
3. Participate fully in discussion and make sound policy decisions which are based on independent judgment, good faith toward ACA, and available information and facts;
4. Register dissent and objection in an appropriate fashion before the group when in disagreement with Governing Council action and take no independent action that may unduly compromise the decisions of the majority of Governing Council members.
5. Work positively and constructively with other Governing Council members for the good of the American Counseling Association.
6. To maintain fiduciary responsibility to the American Counseling Association;
7. To review Bylaws and to be knowledgeable about existing policies and procedures and any other governance documents that function in the Association;
8. To serve on the Governing Council committees and as liaisons to ACA Committees and Task Forces as appointed;
9. To write and present motions arising out of ACA Committee and Task Force liaison responsibilities;
10. To forward issues from constituencies;
11. To maintain confidentiality on those matters considered confidential by the Governing Council;
12. To report activities of Governing Council to constituencies;
13. To participate in the annual review of Governing Council performance and take steps to improve its effectiveness;
14. To remain representative of their constituencies but not to be representative for their constituencies.

Bylaws References: Article X – Governing Council; Section 1. (g-d); Section 2 (a-h), Section 4 (a-e) and Series 300 Appendix, The Role of Governing Council Members in Confidential Matters.
Approved: 09/17/95; Revised: 06/11/99; 10/07

ACA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Role: The role of the Executive Committee of the American Counseling Association is to conduct the necessary business of the Association between meetings of the ACA Governing Council.

Functions: The functions of the Executive Committee include:

1. To act for the Governing Council within policies as may be established by the Governing Council;
2. To act primarily to address those issues which are necessary for the efficient operations of ACA when time requirements necessitate immediate action;
3. To communicate all actions and activities to Governing Council through minutes mailed within ten working days of the Executive Committee meeting;
4. To submit all actions for ratification by Governing Council at the next Governing Council meeting;
5. To meet at least twice a year in addition to Governing Council meetings;
6. To conduct the evaluation of the Executive Director on an annual basis, negotiate renewal of his or her contract, and determine recommended salary;
7. To review items submitted for Governing Council action and propose an agenda for the Governing Council meetings.
8. The Executive Committee cannot overturn and/or modify a motion that has been considered and voted upon by the Governing Council.

Bylaws References: Article X Section 4. (a-e)
Approved: 09/17/95; Revised: 06/11/99; 11/7/09

Policy 301.1 PERMANENT REPLACEMENTS AND SEATED OBSERVERS

Proxy votes by directors are not permitted by District of Columbia Corporate Law, therefore, permanent replacements (voting members) and seated observers (discussion rights) to the Governing Council shall be permitted in accordance with the following conditions:

A. Permanent Replacement: Following formal notice from the duly elected ACA Region or Division representative of his/her permanent relinquishment of the position prior to completion of the term and the tender of her/his resignation to take effect immediately, said Division or ACA Region shall elect a new representative to the Governing Council as set forth in the ACA Bylaws – Article X, Section 1. A) 2; Article X, Section 1. B) 2 & 3; and Policy Series 200 – Membership: 201.1 – Appointed Positions, 201.6 - Division Membership and Series 300 – Governing Council Members: 301.4 Term of Members.
Implementing Procedures:

1. Notification of Permanent Relinquishment: Duly elected representatives shall notify the Division President or ACA Region Chair and the ACA President in writing of his/her inability to continue as Governing Council Representative for the remainder of the term.

2. Election of Replacement: A Division/Region shall conduct a general election to replace the relinquished position for the remainder of the term. The election balloting shall be concluded at least 90 days prior to the next Governing Council meeting at which the newly elected replacement representative will be seated.

3. Emergency Situations: If the length of term to be completed is six (6) months or less, the governing body of the Division or Region may choose to appoint an observer for the remainder of the term.

4. Notification of Replacement: Notification of the permanent replacement shall be forwarded to and received by the President of ACA from the Division President or ACA Region Chair as soon as the election is completed but no later than 72 hours prior to the start of the opening session of Governing Council at which said representative shall be seated.

5. Orientation and Agenda Packet: Providing orientation and appropriate agenda materials needed by the newly seated representative shall be the responsibility of the Division/Region unless notification has been given to the ACA President prior to the notification of the Fall orientation session for new representatives and/or the distribution of all related materials for the next Governing Council meeting.

B. Seated Observer in Absence of Representative: Following formal written notice to the ACA President and Division President or Region Chair from the duly elected representative of his/her inability to attend the next scheduled session of the Governing Council as the Division’s or ACA Region’s official representative, said Division or Region may choose to appoint an observer to be seated with the approval of the Governing Council at said session of the ACA Governing Council.

Implementing Procedures:

1. Notification of Appointment: Formal written notification of appointment of the observer shall be received by the President of ACA from the Division President or ACA Region Chair as soon as the appointment has been made but not later than 72 hours prior to the start of the opening session of the Governing Council as which said observer shall be seated.

2. Emergency Notification: In cases where an emergency occurs following the 72 hour deadline, the Division President or ACA Region Chair shall notify the ACA President via phone, fax or email that an appointment of an emergency seated observer was necessary for the ACA Governing Council meeting.

3. Orientation and Agenda Packet: Providing orientation and appropriate meeting materials for the observer shall be the responsibility of the duly elected representative to the Governing Council.

C. Rights and Limitations of Seated Observer: The seated observer shall have discussion rights only and shall not be permitted to participate in any formal business conducted during the Governing Council session. Formal business shall be defined as, but not limited to, constituting quorum; presenting or voting on motions; participating in executive sessions; or any other business as may be determined by the President.

Adopted: 09/13/92; Revised: 09/09/99
Policy 301.2  ACA COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE LIAISONS

A. **Appointment of Liaisons:** Governing Council members will be appointed as liaisons to ACA Committees and Task Forces by the President-Elect to serve during the President-Elect’s term as President.

B. **Liaison Responsibilities:** Governing Council members who serve as liaisons to ACA Committees and Task Forces are requested to contact the Committee Chair via telephone, mail, fax or e-mail at least twice during the year to verify that the Committee or Task Force is progressing toward the accomplishment of its plan of action. Liaisons must report any problems to the ACA President. Liaisons are requested to forward to the Committee or Task Force Chairs any pertinent information from minutes of Executive Committee and Governing Council meetings that could influence the actions of the Committee or Task Force.

Approved: 09/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 03/21/00

Policy 301.3  ROSTERS TO BE PUBLISHED IN COUNSELING TODAY

Names and e-mail addresses of Governing Council members and the Division or Regions they represent shall be published annually in Counseling Today.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 301.4  TERMS OF MEMBERS

A. **Regular Term:** The term of office for each member of the Governing Council shall be three years. A member of the Governing Council may have the option of running for re-election to a second three-year term immediately after the first.

B. **Consecutive Terms:** Representatives may not serve more than two consecutive terms representing the same Region or Division, except when the representative is completing the term of another representative.

Reference: Policy 301.6 Rotation of Governing Council Terms.
Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; 10/28/07

Policy 301.5  ROTATION OF GOVERNING COUNCIL TERMS

The terms of office of Governing Council members shall be on a three-year rotational basis. The grouping for Divisional and Regional rotations shall be in accordance with the following delineation:

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Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; 3/11
Policy 301.6  CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A. Possible Conflict: Governing Council members serve on the Governing Council to conduct the business of the American Counseling Association. Governing Council members are gathered to be a representative group of the ACA membership. On those occasions when the best interests of ACA would be different than the best interest of the entities the Governing Council members represent, the member must make decisions that give primary consideration to the welfare of the American Counseling Association.

B. Unable to Resolve Conflict: In cases where Governing Council members are unable to resolve the conflicts of interest between representing the Division or Region and representing ACA, notification should be given to the ACA President or his or her representative. After such notification, the members shall refrain from voting.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 301.7  POLICY AND ROLE ON NON-CONSENSUS SOCIAL ISSUES OF CONSCIENCE

Having respect for the individual’s values and integrity in no way restricts us as individuals from finding legitimate avenues to express and support our views to others, who decide and make policy around these issues. To this end, it will be ACA Governing Council policy to encourage its member to find and use every legitimate means to examine, discuss, and share their views on such matters within the Association. We also endorse the member’s right to support social, political, religious, and professional action groups whose values and positions on such issues are congruent with their own. Through such affiliations, every member has an opportunity to participate in the shaping of government policies which guide public action.

To truly celebrate our diversity, we must be united in our respect for the differences in our membership. To this end, the role of the Association in such matters is to support the rights of members to hold contrary points of views, to provide forums for developing understanding and consensus building, and to maintain equal status and respect for all members and groups within the organization.

Following this philosophy, the Governing Council considers it inappropriate for this body to officially take sides on issues which transcend professional identity and membership affiliation, and which substantially divide our membership, at least until such time that there can be a visible consensus produced among the membership.

Approved: 7/15/90

Policy 301.8  HUMAN RESOURCES OPERATING HANDBOOK REVIEW

Human Resources Operating Handbook will be available to members of Governing Council on the MemberClicks site.

Approved: 12/07/92, 10/07

Policy 301.9  TRAINING OF NEWLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

ACA will schedule a training program for newly elected Governing Council representatives and the President-Elect-Elect.

Approved: 03/27/98; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/07
Policy 301.10  FOLLOW-UP ON ACTIONS TAKEN

Each action item passed at Governing Council meetings should indicate which person or group is responsible for taking the action and when a follow-up report is to be submitted to Governing Council.

Approved: 09/13/92

Policy 301.11  APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA AND FORMAT

The Executive Committee is charged with the responsibility of developing the agenda and format of Governing Council meetings.

Approved: 04/25/95; Revised 03/21/00, 03/21/02, 10/07

Policy 301.12  DIVISIONAL AND REGIONAL REPORTS

Current Region Chairs and Division Presidents shall submit written annual reports and budgets to the Governing Council upon request by the ACA President and according to timelines established by ACA policy.

Approved: 1992; Revised: 06/11/99

Policy 301.13  MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETINGS

A. Minutes: Minutes will be kept of all Governing Council and Executive Committee meetings.

B. Taping of Minutes: All Governing Council meetings where official business is conducted shall be taped. Recordings shall be erased following approval by the Governing Council of the minutes of the appropriate meeting.

C. List of Motions: A list of motions shall be provided to Governing Council members separate from, as well as included, in the minutes.

D. Names Of Those Making Motions: The names of members who make and second Governing Council motions shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

E. Report on Implementation of Motions: After each meeting of the Governing Council, the President and the Executive Director assure that required follow-up action steps are expedited.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 10/97, 10/07

Policy 301.14  EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS TO GOVERNING COUNCIL

The agenda items and motions for Executive Committee meetings shall be sent to all Governing Council members at least one week before each scheduled meeting by the fastest, most economical means.

Approved: 04/18/96
Policy 301.15    REMOVAL OF GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Any elected Governing Council member may be removed from office, with or without cause, upon a vote of a majority of the Governing Council then in office to remove him or her from the positions, whenever in the Governing Councilors’ judgment the best interest of the Association would be served thereby, provided that all the Governing Council members have at least ten days’ notice of the proposed removal and the Governing Council Member at issue has an opportunity personal to address the Council prior to the removal vote. Governing Council members appointed by the President, if any, may be removed by the President.

Approved: 03/23/11
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Policy 401.1 PRESIDENT

ROLE: The role of the President of the American Counseling Association is to lead the Association toward fulfillment of the Strategic Plan and to further the mission of the Association.

Functions: The functions of the President include:

1. To implement the ACA Mission Statement;
2. To fulfill the obligations and duties set forth in the ACA Bylaws and the ACA Policies and Procedures, other duties customary to the office, and as directed by the ACA Governing Council;
3. To monitor the fiscal health of the Association;
4. To chair and preside at the meetings of the Governing Council and Executive Committee;
5. To delegate tasks to the Executive Director as directed by the Governing Council;
6. To serve as corporate officer of the Association;
7. To appoint members to vacancies on the ACA Committees and recommend their approval to Governing Council;
8. To appoint task force members and recommend their approval to Governing Council;
9. To serve for the Association;
10. To promote professional counseling to those outside of the Association;
11. To represent the Association and/or delegate representation on liaison groups, coalitions, and similar collaborative efforts;
12. To oversee the evaluation of the Executive Director based on the approved process;
13. To facilitate the implementation of the ACA Strategic Plan;
14. To serve as a member without a vote on all ACA Committees and the American Counseling Association Foundation;
15. To serve as a voting member of the Insurance Trust;
16. To foster collaborative efforts between and among Regions, Divisions, and Branches in achievement of the Strategic Plan;
17. To request annual written reports from all ACA entities and report to the Governing Council the salient developments;
18. To authorize and monitor all expenditures related to the governance portion of the ACA budget;
19. To communicate with the ACA leadership and staff to ensure an efficient and effective association;
20. To ensure the continuity of the ACA Presidency by mentoring the President-Elect and President-Elect-Elect;
21. To encourage and develop emerging leaders;
22. The President will write a monthly column for Counseling Today;
23. The President will request items for Governing Council action from members of the Governing Council and all other ACA entities, including but not limited to headquarters, Divisions, Regions, Committees, Branches, Corporate Affiliates, and Liaisons;
24. The President will review the minutes of the Governing Council and Executive Committee meetings and forward to members of Governing Council, Committee and Task Force Chairs, Division Presidents, Regional Chairs, ACA Past Presidents, Chairs of Corporate Affiliates, Branch Presidents, and candidates for ACA President-Elect for information and/or action;
25. The President will maintain weekly dialogue with the Executive Director and make him/her aware of challenges and changes that must be addressed to move ACA and the counseling profession forward;
26. The President will respond promptly to all inquiries directed to him/her;
27. The President may maintain an office at ACA Headquarters, if financially and physically feasible;
28. The President will make necessary adjustments in line items of the governance budget to assist in balancing the total budget;
29. The President will attend the four Regional meetings, hold meetings with the Branch presidents, foster new leaders and communications, and upon request deliver keynote addresses and workshops;
30. The President will organize the meetings of the Council of Presidents and Region Chairs;
31. The President will request information from headquarters through the Executive Director;
32. In the event the President will be unavailable, he/she shall leave the authority for the leadership of the Association to the President-Elect, then the Past President or designee, for a specific length of time.

Implementing Procedures:

1. The President shall receive a copy of the audit along with comments and observations about the report.
2. The President may authorize reimbursed travel for individuals other than officers, Governing Council members, Committee Chairs, members, and staff.
3. The President must receive in writing a request from a Division President or Regional Chair for the necessity of a seated observer to substitute for the Governing Council member prior to the opening session of the Governing Council meeting.
4. The President will receive reports of any problems from the Governing Council member as a liaison to an ACA Committee.
5. The President shall request annual written reports and budgets from Divisions and Regions.
6. The President will copy the President-Elect, Past President, President-Elect-Elect and Executive Director on official correspondence.
7. The President is to be notified by the Treasurer of any financial concerns from emerging trends observed due to external or internal forces that have an impact on the financial health of ACA.
8. The President is to receive written notice by registered mail if a Division wishes to begin the process of withdrawal from ACA.
9. The President is to receive budgets and plans of action for the next fiscal year from the Region Chairs-Elect.
10. The President may remove a Committee or Task Force member or chair if the individual is not meeting Committee responsibilities adequately. The steps to be followed are listed under Series 1200 – AR.5
11. Vacancies occurring on Committees shall be filled by the President and shall be confirmed by the Governing Council or Executive Committee.
12. The President will make all protocol decisions. A majority vote of the President, President-Elect, and Past President will grant or deny the requests for conference meetings of related but unofficial groups.
13. The President with consultation with the Executive Director may appoint official liaisons to other Organizations.

Approved: 09/17/95, 10/07

Policy 401.2 LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR PRESIDENT

Presidents of ACA shall be granted life membership in ACA.

Approved: 09/13/92

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Policy 401.3 PRESIDENTIAL OATH OF OFFICE

The oath of office for the ACA President is as follows:

I,________________, having been duly elected President of the American Counseling Association, accept the office and affirm that I will uphold the mission of the Association. I will perform the duties of the office of President in a manner that is consistent with the fundamental purposes, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice of the Association.

Approved: 04/18/96

Policy 401.4 PRESIDENT SPEAKS FOR THE ASSOCIATION

A. Official Spokesperson: The ACA President officially speaks for the association. The Executive Director, ACA members, or other staff may be an official spokesperson for ACA upon designation by the President.

B. Speaking on Behalf of the President: In the event that the President cannot be reached, officers will be contacted for direction in the following chain of command:
   1. President-Elect
   2. Past President, or
   3. President’s designee who has been previously approved by the Executive Committee.

C. Official Position Statements: When Official Position Statements exist they shall be used by the President or his/her designee.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 402.1 PRESIDENT-ELECT

Role: The role of the President-Elect of the American Counseling Association is to prepare for the role of President.

Functions: The functions of the President-Elect include:

1. To fulfill the obligations and duties set forth in the ACA Bylaws and Manual of Policies and Procedures, other duties as customary to the office, and as directed by the Governing Council;
2. To serve as an officer of the Association and a member of the Governing Council;
3. To serve on ACA Committees and Task Forces as directed by the Bylaws and Governing Council action (e.g., Financial Affairs Committee, Strategic Planning Committee);
4. To solicit recommendations for Committee and Task Force appointments from Divisions, Regions, and the ACA membership, ensure that all person nominees are current ACA Members and submit those appointments to Governing Council for approval by the spring meeting;
5. To participate in Regional meetings of the Association;
6. To represent ACA at meetings at the request of the President;
7. To foster collaborative efforts between and among Regions, Divisions, and Branches;
8. To preside at meetings of Governing Council and Executive Committee in the absence of the President;
9. To nominate a member of Governing Council to serve on the Executive Committee representing the underrepresented groups in ACA;
10. To communicate with ACA leadership and staff to ensure an efficient and effective association;
11. To ensure continuity of the ACA Presidency by mentoring the President-Elect-Elect;
12. To serve as a non-voting member of the ACA Insurance Trust and ACA Foundation
13. To facilitate implementation of the ACA Strategic Plan;
14. To monitor the fiscal health of the Association and to work with the Financial Affairs Committee in planning for the upcoming year;
15. To encourage and develop emerging leadership in ACA;
16. To begin planning for the annual ACA conference;
17. To nominate a member to serve on the ACA Insurance Trust;
18. To nominate a member to serve on the ACA Foundation;
19. To nominate a Parliamentarian at the annual ACA conference meeting;
20. To work with ACA staff to develop a calendar for the Presidential year;
21. The President-Elect will copy the President, Past President, and President-Elect-Elect and Executive Director on official correspondence

Approved: 09/17/95, 10/07

Policy 403.1 PAST PRESIDENT

Role: The role of the Past President of the American Counseling Association is to be available as a mentor to the Association.

Functions: The functions of the Past President include:

1. To fulfill the obligations and duties set forth in the ACA Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures, other duties customary to the office, and as directed by Governing Council;
2. To serve as an officer of the Association;
3. To participate in all Governing Council and Executive Committee meetings;
4. To serve as chair of the Nominations and Election Committee and as a member of the Strategic Planning and Publications Committees;
5. To represent ACA, as requested, at national, state and Regional meetings;
6. To identify special areas of interest and expertise in which he/she is willing to serve;
7. To communicate with the ACA leadership and staff to ensure an efficient and effective Association;
8. To support the ACA Strategic Plan;

Approved: 09/17/95, 10/07

Policy 404.1 PRESIDENT-ELECT-ELECT

Role: The role of the President-Elect-Elect of the American Counseling Association is to be in the process of preparation to serve as President of the Association.

Functions: The functions of the President-Elect-Elect include:

1. To fulfill the obligations and duties set forth in the ACA Bylaws and Policies and Procedures, other duties customary to the office and as directed by Governing Council;
2. To nominate the Treasurer-elect for Governing Council confirmation at its spring meeting;
3. To become knowledgeable about fiscal details and governance actions over the last three years;
4. To become knowledgeable about the ACA Bylaws, Policies and Procedures and other Association documents, as appropriate;
5. To observe the Governing Council meeting at the annual conference;
6. To attend Committee meetings when possible;
7. To communicate with the Presidents-Elect-Elect and Chairs-Elect-Elect of the ACA entities.

Approved: 09/17/95
Policy 405.1  
**TREASURER**

**Role:** The role of the Treasurer of the American Counseling Association is to oversee the financial affairs and fiscal health of the Association.

**Functions:** The functions of the Treasurer include:

1. To serve as a non-voting member of the Governing Council and Executive Committee;
2. To chair the Financial Affairs Committee;
3. On behalf of the Financial Affairs Committee:
   a. recommend a budget to the Governing Council;
   b. make a verbal and visual presentation of the proposed budget to the Governing Council;
   c. provide a written report for all meetings of the Governing Council;
   d. provide a verbal report at all Executive Committee meetings;
   e. provide a verbal report on the ACA audit to the Governing Council;
   f. obtain financial information as requested by the Governing Council;
   g. review financial or related actions passed by the Governing Council and make recommendations when further consideration is warranted;
   h. review the budget for the ACA Regions and Committees;
   i. review the monthly statements of the ACA income and expenses;
   j. prepare an official report of the association’s financial status after each Governing Council meeting and post it on the ACA’s website. The report web link will be posted in the Executive Director’s *Counseling Today* column, along with instructions for the reports access for members not connected to the internet.
   k. Attend the workshop at the annual conference for newly appointed or elected Division, Region, and Branch treasurers conducted by ACA staff;
   l. respond to correspondence from ACA members on matters of financial interest;
   m. orchestrate an efficient and effective transfer of responsibilities to the incoming Treasurer;
   n. notify the President of any financial concerns from emerging trends observed due to external or internal forces that have an impact on the fiscal health of ACA;
4. To serve as an officer of the Association.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 09/17/95, 10/98, 10/07; 10/28/10

Policy 406.1  
**TREASURER-DESIGNATE**

**Role:** Serves as a voting member of the Financial Affairs Committee; In consultation with the President-Elect develop the governance portion of budget for the following year to be presented to the Financial Affairs by their winter meeting.

Approved: 10/07

Policy 407.1  
**COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS**

**A. Compensation:** ACA officers shall be compensated as follows: President - the President’s stipend will be up to $55,000 per fiscal year; President-Elect - up to One–half (1/2) the amount allocated to the President; and Past President - up to One-quarter (1/4) the amount allocated to the President. The Treasurer will be provided a yearly stipend up to $5,000. For budget planning purposes, officers shall inform the Executive Director or his/her designate by October 31, the amount of compensation desired for the following fiscal year.

**B. Reimbursement:** The ACA President, President-Elect, and Past President shall be reimbursed within thirty (30) days from the time these elected officers submit properly supported and approved expense reimbursement vouchers to ACA headquarters.
C. **Honoraria Allowed:** ACA national, Regional or Branch elected or appointed officers may accept honoraria from ACA entities when invited to prepare a paper on a special topic that is not related to their ACA office.

D. **Honoraria Restrictions:** ACA national, Regional or Branch elected or appointed officers who speak or consult on official business for ACA shall not accept an honorarium.

E. **Invitation from ACA Entities:** When ACA national, Regional or Branch elected or appointed officers are invited to participate in conferences, meetings, or other events by ACA entities, the inviting entities shall reimburse the officer for travel expenses unless the officer’s budget includes funding for the trip.

Reference: Series 1500 - Fiscal and Budget Matters.
Bylaws Reference: Article IX – Officers of the Association; Section 4. Compensation and Expenses of Officers (a).
Approved: 04/25/95; Revised: 04/12/99, 03/21/00, 04/05/05, 10/07

**Policy 408.1 REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

Any elected Officer may be removed from office, with or without cause, upon a vote of a majority of the Governing Council members then in office to remove him or her from the Officer position, whenever in the Governing Council members' judgment the best interest of the Association would be served thereby, provided that all the Governing Council members have at least ten days’ notice of the proposed removal and the Officer at issue has an opportunity personally to address the Governing Council prior to the removal vote. Any officer appointed by the President may be removed with or without cause by the President.

Approved: 03/23/11
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DIVISION OFFICER

Role: The role of an officer of a Division of the American Counseling Association is to provide leadership to the ACA members who belong to the Division representing areas of specialization and areas of special interest.

Functions: The functions of an officer of a Division include:

1. To conduct the affairs of the Division in compliance with the Bylaws of the Division and the Bylaws of ACA;
2. Each of the officers and Division governance members to be a member in good standing of the American Counseling Association;
3. To file an annual audit with the Association;
4. Each Division shall file a proposed annual budget and annual audit with ACA;
5. Proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of any Division shall be reported in writing to the ACA President no later than fourteen weeks prior to the Governing Council meeting at which the change may be considered. The ACA President shall transmit the written proposed amendments to the ACA Bylaws Committee which will transmit to the Governing Council such proposed amendments with or without recommendations regarding each proposed change at least six weeks before the next regularly scheduled meeting. Any such proposed amendment cannot take effect until approved by the ACA Governing Council;
6. To report to the ACA President the names of the Division directors and officers promptly following their election or appointment;
7. To submit an annual written report to the ACA President who shall report salient developments to the Governing Council;
8. To collaborate with other Divisions and Regions to facilitate the achievement of the ACA Strategic Plan;
9. To attend the meetings of the ACA Council of Presidents and Region Chairs when serving as President of a Division.

Bylaws References: Article IV – National Divisions of the Association; Section 2 (3) Approved: 09/17/95, 10/07

Policy 501.1 ELIGIBILITY

A. ACA Divisions: An existing Division shall maintain its full Division status and a voting member of the Governing Council with a minimum number of 400 members or 70% of its membership also be ACA members. The calculation of members of existing Divisions shall be a monthly average of qualifying members (joint members of ACA and the Division) for the preceding fiscal year. If an existing Division falls below the minimum, the Division has a period of one year to return to that minimum before such Division shall lose its full Division status and vote.

B. ACA Organizational Affiliates: ACA Organizational Affiliates that have a minimum of 500 ACA members as determined by official membership figures maintained by ACA as of June 30 may apply to Governing Council at its next meeting to become an ACA Division as defined in ACA Bylaws Article IV and Article V.

Reference: Series 300 – Governing Council. Members; Policy 301.4 Division Membership. Approved: 03/27/98; Revised: 06/11/99, 03/21/02, 03/20/03, 04/01/04, 10/07
Policy 501.2 APPLICATION PROCESS

The President of the Organizational Affiliate shall send a letter to the Executive Director indicating that the Organizational Affiliate is applying for Division status within ACA. A revised copy of the group’s bylaws or operating rules indicating Division status shall be submitted with the letter. Once the Executive Director has confirmed that the Organizational Affiliate has met the minimum membership requirement and that the bylaws or operating rules are in conformity with the ACA Bylaws, the application shall be forwarded to the Governing Council or Executive Committee to be considered at its next meeting.

Approved: 09/13/92

Policy 501.3 AMENDING DOCUMENTS

The President of a newly accepted ACA Division may authorize the ACA Executive Director to make arrangements for its Articles of Incorporation to be amended, if necessary.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 03/21/00

Policy 501.4 DUES CHANGES

ACA Division or Organizational Affiliate dues changes will be implemented July 1 of each year, provided that the ACA Executive Director or his/her designee is notified of such changes by one week following the ACA Annual Conference. Because of the publication of promotional materials and applications that list dues amounts, Division and Organizational Affiliate dues changes occurring at other times during the year will not be implemented until July 1. Rate changes not received prior to the deadline may not be implemented unless the entity agrees to incur any and all costs resulting from this delay.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 501.5 VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL OF A NATIONAL DIVISION

An organization’s status as a National Division of the Association may be withdrawn when the organization deems it is in their best interest to sever the relationship with the American Counseling Association.

Rules for Withdrawal of a National Division: In order to facilitate an orderly separation, the following rules have been established in the Bylaws:

1. No Division of ACA may effect its voluntary withdrawal from the Association except pursuant to and in full compliance with these rules.
2. A Division shall give written notice of its intent to withdraw by registered mail, addressed to the President of the Association, with a copy to the Executive Director sent to the Headquarters address, in which an effective date of proposed withdrawal is specified which is not earlier than a date more than twenty-four (24) calendar months next following the month in which such written notice is received by the Association.
3. A referendum shall be conducted jointly by the Division and the Association on the question of the proposed withdrawal. Costs for the referendum will be paid by the Division. The referendum shall be held at any time not less than sixty (60) days nor more than one hundred and eighty (180) days next following receipt of the notice of intention of withdrawing. Each person member in good standing of the Division shall, by written ballot, vote as to whether or not he/she wishes the Division to withdraw from the Association. All ballots, procedures, and rules for tallying the ballots and ascertaining the vote shall be jointly approved by the Association and the Division in question. A positive vote for a Division’s withdrawal from ACA will require that a minimum number of members cast ballots that include the average percentage of that Division’s members who cast ballots in the last five presidential elections of that Division. Of those who
cast ballots in the withdrawal question referendum, two-thirds of those voting must vote in favor of withdrawal. In the event less than the minimum number of members cast ballots or less than two-thirds of those casting ballots vote in favor of withdrawal, the referendum shall be declared a decision against withdrawal.

4. A withdrawing Division shall settle payment in full all its outstanding obligations to the Association or to third parties from whom services or materials have been secured for the benefit of the Division.

5. All the physical property or inventory of the withdrawing Division, after payment of its indebtedness or other obligations, if any, of the type described in Section 4, shall be physically removed from the Association's property or custody.

6. A withdrawing Division must have paid to the Association the actual sum of money disbursed by the Association in undertaking any action incident to complying with any of these conditions precedent.

7. A withdrawing Division, by written formal action of its governing body, must have transferred to this Association all its right, title and interest in the name of the Division and must have agreed not to use it thereafter except pursuant to the written consent of the Governing Council of the Association.

Bylaws Reference: Article IV – National Divisions of the Association; Section 8. Voluntary Withdrawal of a National Division.

Approved: 09/29/96; Revised: 06/11/99

Policy 501.6 INvoluntary Revocation of A DIVision CHARTer

ACA reserves the right to revoke the charter of any Division.

Removal for Cause: In addition to other good reasons, it will be deemed in the best interest of ACA to revoke the charter of a Division if either of the following events occurs:

1. A Division has engaged in deficit budgeting or any other financial practices indicating it is acting in an irresponsible manner fiscally, or otherwise is unable to pay its debts as they mature; or

2. A Division alters its stated purposes, either formally or in the conduct of its affairs, in such a manner as the Governing Council shall deem it is not acting in accordance with the formal purposes of the Association, or is conducting its affairs in any manner deemed not to be in the best interests of the Association.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99

Policy 501.7 INFORMATION TO EXECUTIVES

When information from headquarters and ACA leaders is sent to Division presidents, the Division Executives shall be copied.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 501.8 DIVISION REQUIREMENT

A. Consultation Regarding ACA Activities: ACA will endeavor to consult with Division presidents with regards to any proposed program, actions, legislation and expenditures, whose outcome directly affects, enhances, or impinges upon that Division. Furthermore, ACA must advance such actions and initiatives with a declaration of that Division’s position in regards to such ACA programs, initiatives, and expenditures.
B. **Division Interests:** Presidents or chairs of ACA entities are to supply in writing to the ACA President, ACA Executive Director, and ACA Senior Executive Management with areas of interest about which the entity wishes to be consulted. Areas of interest may include, but are not limited to, program, actions, legislation, and expenditures. Each entity is to provide names of those members who may be consulted.

C. **Budget Requirements:** Each Division shall file a proposed annual budget by July 30, and an audit and Form 990 within thirty days of completion.

Approved: 01/30/96; Revised: 06/11/99

Policy 501.9 **ROTATIONAL SYSTEM FOR DIVISION BYLAW REVISIONS**

A. **Review of Division Bylaws:** Division bylaws will be reviewed every ten (10) years by the ACA Bylaws and Policies Committee to determine congruency between the two sets of bylaws.

B. **Year of Review:** Request for submission of a division’s bylaws will be based upon the rotational schedule established by the ACA Bylaws and Policies Committee.

C. **Notification:** The rotational schedule established by ACA will be sent to all divisions and each division will be reminded one year in advance of the year of review by the Bylaws and Policies Committee.

Approved: 06/11/99; 10/30/10
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Policy 601.1  ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATES

A group with a professional purpose and identity that distinguishes itself from current Divisions of ACA may apply for Organizational Affiliate status.

A. **Size of Membership:** The group shall initially consist of at least two hundred (200) ACA members.

B. **Bylaws or Rules of Order:** The group shall have Bylaws that are in compliance with ACA’s Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures.

C. **Purchasing ACA Services:** ACA will not assist financially or administratively in the organizational process. ACA mailing labels, *Counseling Today* advertisements, or other ACA products or services must be purchased.

D. **Application Process:** The proposed Organizational Affiliate must complete an ACA Organizational Affiliate application to be submitted to the ACA Executive Director along with a copy of the Organizational Affiliate’s bylaws.

   The ACA Executive Director will forward copies of the proposed Organizational Affiliate’s application and bylaws to Division and Organizational Affiliate presidents a minimum of 180 days before the next Governing Council meeting. The Executive Director will also forward a copy of the bylaws to the ACA Bylaws Committee for review and suggestions.

E. **Application Review:** The Division and Organizational Affiliate presidents will review the application to determine if the purpose and identity are different from their Division or Organizational Affiliate and submit their responses to the Executive Director.

F. **Application to Governing Council:** At least forty-five days prior to the next Governing Council meeting, the Executive Director will submit to Governing Council the proposed Organizational Affiliate’s application, membership list (to be verified by ACA staff), bylaws and acting officers.

G. **Granting of Charter:** Upon approval by the Governing Council, the group will be granted a charter.

Approved: 06/11/99; Revised: 03/21/02

Policy 601.2  GOVERNING COUNCIL OBSERVERS

An Organizational Affiliate may voluntarily send an ex officio member to ACA Governing Council meetings; however, the ex officio member shall attend at the expense of the Organizational Affiliate, and does not have voting rights.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99

Policy 601.3  ROTATIONAL SYSTEM FOR BYLAWS REVISIONS

A. **Bylaws Review:** Organizational affiliate bylaws will be reviewed every ten (10) years by the ACA Bylaws and Policies Committee to determine congruency between the two sets of bylaws.

B. **Request for Submission of Bylaws:** Request for submission of an organizational affiliate’s bylaws will be based upon the rotational schedule established by the ACA Bylaws and Policies Committee.
C. **Notification:** The rotational schedule established by ACA will be sent to all organizational affiliates and each organizational affiliate will be reminded one year in advance of the year of review by the Bylaws and Policies Committee.

Approved: 06/11/99; 10/29/10

**Policy 601.4**  
ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATE DUES CHANGE

An Organizational Affiliate dues change will be implemented July 1 of each year, provided that the ACA Executive Director or his/her designee is notified of such changes one week after the conference. Because of publication of promotional materials and application that list dues amounts, Organizational Affiliate dues changes occurring at other times during the year will not be implemented until July 1. Rate changes not received prior to the deadline may not be implemented unless the respective entity agrees to incur any and all costs resulting from this delay.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/07
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REGION OFFICER

Role: The role of an officer of a Region of the American Counseling Association is to provide leadership training, professional development, continuing education and public policy and legislative training to Branch members following the ACA Strategic Plan.

Functions: The functions of an officer of a Region include:

1. To coordinate a leadership workshop at the ACA annual conference;
2. To report on activities to the Governing Council;
3. To coordinate and implement the strategic planning concepts at the Branch level;
4. To hold an annual Regional meeting to provide leadership training, conduct the business of the Regions and to elect officers;
5. Every third year to submit to the ACA Nominations and Election Committee the names of two candidates who have been Branch Presidents in the Region to be placed on the ballot to serve as the Governing Council representative for the Region. The nomination, selection and announcement of the Regional candidates for the Governing Council representative must take place at the ACA annual conference;
6. To promote and facilitate communication between and among Branches and Regions;
7. To facilitate the articulation of Regional and Branch issues and concerns.

Approved: 09/17/95, 10/07

Policy 701.1 REGION NAMES

The names of the four Regions of ACA shall be: ACA-Midwest Region; ACA-North Atlantic Region; ACA-Southern Region; and ACA-Western Region.

Approved: 03/19/96

Policy 701.2 LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Regions are directed to provide leadership training to the State Branch leaders and emerging leaders of the Association. The training shall take place annually and may include but not be limited to the following: (1) Orientation and linkage to ACA; (2) Leadership skills and styles; (3) Government relations; (4) Member retention and recruitment; (5) Communication, including state conference and state newsletters; (6) State Executive Director/secretary training; (7) Ethical, legal issues for leaders; (8) State Branch and Division relationships; (9) Advocacy, (10) Not-for-Profit tax exempt training, and 11) Multicultural Diversity training. The Regions shall give Divisions an opportunity to offer training and participate in the Regional leadership training

Approved: 09/24/94; Revised: 05/21/95, 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 701.3 REGION SUBSIDIES AND FINANCES

A. ANNUAL SUBSIDY: ACA shall provide each of its four Regions an annual subsidy to be determined by the Financial Affairs Committee and approved by Governing Council during the annual budgeting process.

B. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSIDY: The amount of this subsidy shall be communicated to each Region Chair and Chair-Elect, immediately following the adoption of the ACA budget no later than thirty (30) days prior to the fiscal year.
C. PURPOSE OF SUBSIDY: The purposes of the subsidy are:

1. to assure that financial resources are available for Regional officers to attend ACA conference and leadership meetings, e.g., Council of Presidents and Region Chairs, the fall Regional training, and
2. to allow Regional officers to expend the subsidy in the best interest of their Region, Branches and Plan of Action.
3. to use additional subsidies to support low income Branches sending representatives to Regional leadership assemblies.

D. ACCESSING FUNDS: The Region shall provide an annual accounting of the funds received by no later than July 31 following the conclusion of the fiscal year during which the funds were expended. Once the previous year's accounting report of the subsidy is approved, the current year's subsidy will be deposited into the Region checking account. The money is then accessed like any other disbursement.

E. RETURN OF UNUSED SUBSIDY: Any subsidies provided by ACA that are not expended or encumbered by June 1st of the fiscal year are forfeited by the Region and returned to ACA's operating fund.

F. INDEPENDENT FUNDS: Any monies raised by Regions, from any source, must be deposited into their respective Regional bank accounts maintained by ACA. These monies belong to each Region and shall not be “at risk” or subject to forfeiture under any circumstances. Additionally, ACA shall not have the authority to withdraw any monies from this account without express written authority from the Regional Treasurer or Chair.

G. CONTRACTS: To facilitate annual region meetings, the Regions shall be permitted to execute contracts for services. All contracts must be reviewed by ACA PRIOR to being signed by the Region Chair. It is expected that the region meetings will be self-supporting.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 03/12/93, 01/03/96, 06/11/99, 10/15/99, 03/21/00

Policy 701.4 MEETING DATES AND SITES

Dates and sites for Annual Regional meetings must be approved by the Governing Council.

Approved: 05/21/95, 10/07
BYLAWS IMPACTING THIS SERIES:

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BRANCH OFFICERS

Role: The role of an officer of a Branch of the American Counseling Association is to provide leadership to Branch members.

Functions: The functions of an officer of a Branch include:

1. To conduct the affairs of the Branch in compliance with the Bylaws of the Branch and the Bylaws of ACA;
2. To be a member of the American Counseling Association;
3. Proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of any Branch shall be reported in writing to the ACA President no later than fourteen weeks prior to the Governing Council meeting at which the change may be considered. The ACA President shall transmit the written proposed amendments to the ACA Bylaws Committee which will transmit to the Governing Council such proposed amendments with or without recommendations regarding each proposed change at least six weeks before the next regularly scheduled meeting. Any such proposed amendment cannot take effect until approved by the ACA Governing Council;
4. To send to the ACA President the names of the directors and officers promptly following their election or appointment;
5. To submit a written report to the ACA President who shall report salient developments to the Governing Council;
6. To facilitate the achievement of the Branch and ACA goals;
7. To participate in leadership training;
8. To facilitate the articulation of Branch issues and concerns and relay these concerns and issues to Regional leaders and other ACA leaders;
9. To attend Region meetings.

Bylaws References: Article VII – Branches of the Association: Section 3 (a-c); and Section 6. Reports.
Adopted: 09/17/95, 10/07

Policy 801.1 INFORMATION TO BRANCH EXECUTIVES

When information from headquarters and ACA leaders is sent to Branch Presidents, the Branch Executives shall be copied.

Approved: 05/27/97; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 801.2 BRANCH INPUT

ACA shall advise the Branch President of ACA activities which are to be presented within that Branch.

Approved: 03/19/96, 10/07

Policy 801.3 ROTATIONAL SYSTEM FOR BYLAWS REVISIONS

A. Bylaws Review: Branch bylaws will be reviewed every ten (10) years by the ACA Bylaws and Policies Committee to determine congruency between the two sets of bylaws.

B. Year of Review: Request for submission of a branch’s bylaws will be based upon the rotational schedule established by the ACA Bylaws and Policies Committee.
C. Notification: The rotational schedule established by ACA will be sent to all branches and each branch will be reminded one year in advance of the year of review by the Bylaws and Policies Committee.

Approved: 06/11/99; 10/28/10
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Policy 901.1  COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS AND REGION CHAIRS

A Council of Presidents and Region Chairs shall be established, composed of Division and Organizational Affiliate Presidents, Region Chairs, and the ACA President, President-Elect and Executive Director.

Approved: 04/25/95, 10/07

Policy 901.2  FUNCTION OF THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS AND REGION CHAIRS

The function of the Council of Presidents and Region Chairs is to promote intra- and inter-organizational collaboration and cooperation; to provide input to and participate in the Strategic Planning process; and to make any other recommendations of concern to the Council.

Approved: 04/25/95, 10/07

Policy 901.3  MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS AND REGION CHAIRS

The ACA President will call and chair the meetings of the Council of Presidents and Region Chairs. The meetings of this Council will be funded by the participating entities.

Implementing Procedures:

Funding: ACA will be responsible for meeting expenses e.g., conference room, audio-visual materials, refreshments, and lunch. The Division, Organizational Affiliate, and Region is responsible for funding the council members' housing, travel and per diem expenses except for lunch.

Approved: 04/25/95; Revised: 06/11/99, 03/21/00, 10/07
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Policy 1001.1 CORPORATE AFFILIATES

ACA has corporate partners, known as corporate affiliates, who provide specific benefits or member services to the Association. These corporate affiliates are separately incorporated and maintain separate tax identification numbers.

A. ACA Insurance Trust: ACAIT is a corporate affiliate which provides insurance services to ACA members.
   1. Contracts: ACAIT contracts with ACA for services.
   2. Appointments to ACAIT: The ACA President appoints one (1) member to ACAIT for a four (4) year term and appoints the chair of ACAIT for a one (1) year term.

B. ACA Foundation: ACAF is a corporate affiliate which supports innovative research efforts to respond to social needs and supports programs that help strengthen the counseling profession.
   1. Contracts: ACAF contracts with ACA for services.
   2. Appointments to ACAF: The ACA President appoints one (1) member to ACAF for a three (3) year term.

C. Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs: CACREP is a corporate affiliate that provides a service to all counseling professionals through their program for accrediting educational programs.
   Contracts: CACREP contracts with ACA for services.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 03/21/00, 10/07
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Policy 1101.1  OFFICIAL LIAISONS

A. Appointments of Liaisons: Liaisons are appointed by the President.

B. Term of Liaisons: A liaison shall be appointed by the President for one (1) three (3) year term.

C. Yearly Reports: Liaisons shall submit reports of their activities to the President annually.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 110.2  THE ALLIANCE OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING ORGANIZATIONS (APCO)

The Alliance of Professional Counseling Organizations (APCO) consists of independent associations with autonomous bylaws who wish to work closely with ACA but have no governance role in ACA. APCO allows ACA to magnify the effect of its efforts by utilizing the resources of other organizations who wish to work on a common goal. Alliance members will agree, on a case by case basis, to work together on public policy, public service, research, and other projects. The ACA President, as spokesperson for the association, will decide whether ACA participates in an APCO project. When APCO members do choose to work together on a given project, it may be stated that the project is “endorsed by the Alliance of Professional Counseling Organizations.” APCO will have no governance structure and no APCO member will be involved in the ACA governance structure.

Implementing Procedures:

1. Application: In order to become an APCO member, an organization independent from ACA should send a request to the ACA President requesting inclusion in the Alliance of Professional Counseling Organizations. The request should include a description of common goals with ACA. The ACA President, in consultation with the ACA Executive Committee, will decide whether to include the request as an item at the next Governing Council meeting. Requests voted on at a Governing Council meeting require a simple majority for passage.

2. Voluntary Withdrawal or Involuntary Termination: Organizations may end their membership in APCO by sending a written request to the ACA President stating their desire to withdraw from the Alliance. The termination of membership will take effect upon receipt of the letter by the ACA President. The ACA Governing Council may also terminate an organization’s membership in APCO by a simple majority vote.

Approved: 3/03

Policy 1101.3  CONTRIBUTIONS TO ACA

ACA may accept contributions from reputable and appropriate sources for purposes that are consistent with the objectives of the association, its bylaws, ethical standards, and its strategic plan. The acceptance of all such contributions shall be approved by the Executive Director.

Reference: Series 1500 - Fiscal and Budget Matters
Approved: 12/07/92, 10/07

Policy 1301.4  ACA ENDORSEMENT REQUESTS

A. Official Endorsements: ACA will not officially endorse programs, products, projects, or proposals.
B. Joint Ventures: Joint ventures in which ACA has a major responsibility and direct involvement and control may be considered and supported, consistent with the guidelines established for the acceptance of advertisements in ACA publications as presented in Series 1800E - Advertising.

Approved: 12/07/92

Policy 1101.5 OUTSIDE SPONSORSHIP OF ACA EVENTS

Sponsorship of ACA events by outside groups will be allowed with the express approval of the Executive Director. Sponsorship shall be consistent with guidelines established for the acceptance of advertisements in ACA publications as presented in Series 1500 - Fiscal and Budget Matters.

Approved: 12/07/92, 10/07

Policy 1101.6 ACA RECOGNITION OF INTEREST NETWORKS

ACA members may initiate an ACA Interest Network by submitting a Petition for Recognition to the ACA Governing Council.

A. Petition for Recognition: A letter petitioning ACA for recognition shall include:
   1. Name of the Interest Network
   2. Purpose(s) of the network
   3. Need for the network – demonstrating that the interest network will promote a professional interest not otherwise provided for by Divisions or Organizational Affiliates.
   4. Name, address, phone number and e-mail address of those initial members of the Interest Network, along with indicating who would serve as the network facilitator. All members must be members in good standing of ACA at the time of submission.

B. Submission of Petition: The letter of petition shall be submitted to the ACA President at least 60 days prior to a Governing Council meeting at which the petition will be presented for discussion and a vote.

Adopted: 12/2/01 References addition to be made. (Bylaws Article V, Section 4)
Revised 10/07

C. Initiation, Management, and Maintenance of an ACA Interest Network:

Implementing Procedures:

1. Interest Network Membership: In order to establish an ACA Interest Network, the group must have at least twenty-five (25) ACA members included as individuals participating in the Interest Network.

2. Initiation of the Network: Once the Interest Network is adopted by the Governing Council, ACA will provide notice in Counseling Today and the ACA website announcing the establishment of the group and providing information on how to join the group.

3. Management Responsibilities: ACA will provide support to the Interest Network via posting of information on the ACA website and in appropriate publications.

4. Monitoring the Network: The Interest Network will be responsible for providing a report of activities to the Governing Council once a year, to be sent to the ACA President and Executive Director upon request for distribution to the members of the Governing Council. If no annual report is received by the deadline, the Interest Network will be considered to be dissolved.
5. **Dissolving an Interest Network:**
   a. When an Interest Network decides to dissolve, the facilitator shall notify the ACA President and the Executive Director in writing, that the interest network will be dissolved, why it is dissolving and the date that the dissolution will take effect.
   b. The ACA President shall notify the Governing Council of the impending dissolution.
   c. When an Interest Network no longer serves its approved purpose or it is no longer in ACA’s best interest to support the Interest Network, a motion to dissolve the relationship will be presented to the Governing Council for a discussion and a vote.
   d. The ACA President will notify the network facilitator of the impending action.
   e. The ACA President will notify the interest network facilitator of the Governing Council action.
   f. If an Interest Network dissolves, the ACA President and Executive Director will announce such action to the membership.
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ACA COMMITTEE CHAIR

Role: The role of a Committee Chair is to further the Mission of the American Counseling Association.

Functions: The functions of a Committee Chair include:

1. To transmit an annual written report to the President of the Association who shall report salient developments to the Governing Council;
2. If asked, make an oral report to the Governing Council
3. When appropriate, create subcommittees from among Committee members and appoint subcommittee chairs for one-year terms;
4. To facilitate communication among Committee members;
5. To maintain close working relationship with ACA Presidents, other appropriate ACA Committees, Governing Council liaisons, and staff assigned to the Committee.

Bylaws References: Article XII – Committees: Section 1. Standing Committees; Section 2. Reports.
Reference: Series 1300 – Code of Leadership; Series 400 – Officers: Policy 401.4 – President Speaks for the Association
Approved: 06/11/99, 10/07

ACA COMMITTEE MEMBER

Role: The role of a Committee Member to further the Mission of the American Counseling Association.

Functions: The functions of a Committee Member include:

1. To work with the Committee Chair and other Committee members to further the Mission of the American Counseling Association;
2. To maintain communications with the Chair and other Committee members;
3. To fulfill Committee assignments;
4. To report findings to the Chair;
5. To understand the concerns, issues, and positions of ACA;
6. To attend Committee meetings held at the annual conference
7. To follow the ACA Bylaws and Policies and Procedures.

Bylaws References: Article XII – Committees: Section 1. Standing Committees; Section 2. Reports.
Reference: Series 1300 – Code of Leadership; Series 400 – Officers: Policy 401.4 – President Speaks for the Association
Approved: 06/11/99

ELIMINATION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committees shall be reviewed every five years, and shall renew and continue automatically unless eliminated by the vote of Governing Council during a review.

Approved: 03/27/08; 10/28/10

Policy 1201.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE

A. Audit Committee Responsibilities: The Committee’s primary duties and responsibilities are to: a) In working with the auditors, review the adequacy and the reliability of ACA’s internal controls and financial reporting; b) Review the independence and performance of ACA’s external independent auditor (“Auditor”); c) Review the ACA’s compliance with tax requirements; d) Review allegations of violations of the ACA’s stated policies on Business Conduct, Conflicts of Interest, and Business Ethics; and e) The Committee will report to Governing Council and recommend appropriate actions at regularly scheduled meetings.
B. **Committee Membership:** The Audit Committee shall be comprised of not less than one member of Governing Council and at least three additional members of ACA, who shall be financially literate or who shall become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after appointment to the Committee.

C. **Committee Reports:** The Audit Committee will transmit an annual report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President

D. **Next Review:** March 2015

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**Policy 1202.1  AWARDS COMMITTEE**

A. **Awards Committee Responsibilities:** The Awards Committee shall develop procedures and administer the awards program for the Association.

B. **Committee Membership:** The Awards Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. **Committee Reports:** The Awards Committee will transmit an annual report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President

D. **Next Review:** March 2013

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**Policy 1202.2  PRESIDENT’S LIFE ENRICHMENT AWARD**

A “President’s Life Enrichment Award” may be presented at the ACA annual conference to recognize an individual or organization outside of ACA whose work furthers the mission, goals and fundamental purposes of ACA. The President-Elect will assist the President in determining an appropriate award.

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**Policy 1202.3  AWARDS GIVEN**

ACA may make the following awards at its annual conference:

- Gilbert and Kathleen Wrenn Award for a Humanitarian and Caring Person
- Kitty Cole Human Rights Award
- Arthur A. Hitchcock Distinguished Professional Service Award
- David K. Brooks, Jr. Distinguished Mentor Award
- Don Dinkmeyer Social Interest Award
- Courtland C. Lee Multicultural Excellence Scholarship Award
- ACA Professional Development Award
- ACA Extended Research Award
- ACA Research Award
- Ralph F. Berdie Memorial Research Award
- Glen E. Hubele National Graduate Student Award
- Carl D. Perkins Government Relations Award
- ACA Federal Legislative Service Award
- ACA Local, Branch and Regional Award
- ACA Fellow Awards
- Best Practices Awards
• ACA State Branch Advocacy Award
• ACA Counselor Educator Advocacy Award
• Robert Rencken Emerging Professional Leader Award

Approved: 05/93; Revised: 10/03/03, Revised 10/07

Policy 1203.1 BRANCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A. **Branch Development Committee Responsibilities:** The Branch Development Committee shall promote information sharing and mentoring at the Region and Branch level regarding a) membership recruitment and retention plans and programs that have proven effective or successful; b) sources of and ways to enhance non-dues revenue; c) leadership recruitment, retention and revitalization; d) website design, operation and maintenance; and Branch evaluation and planning for present and future technology needs.

B. **Committee Membership:** The Branch Development Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. **Committee Reports:** The Branch Development Committee will transmit an annual report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. **Next Review:** March 2012

Adopted 3/10

Policy 1204.1 BYLAWS AND POLICIES COMMITTEE

A. **Bylaw Committee Responsibilities:** The Bylaws and Policies Committee shall review all proposed additions, revisions and deletions to the ACA Bylaws and the Bylaws of branches, divisions, organizational affiliates and forward their review to the ACA Governing Council.

At the request of the officers, Executive Director, Executive Committee and/or the Governing Council, the Policy and Procedure Committee shall review designated policies that are in question or are proposed for adoption or deletion to determine appropriateness, clarity, redundancy, and/or conflict with other policies or bylaws.

B. **Committee Membership:** The Bylaws and Policies Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. **Committee Reports:** The Bylaws and Policies Committee will transmit an annual written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. **Next Review:** March 2013

Approved 6/11/99; Revised 10/07

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Policy 1204.2 POLICY AND PROCEDURE SUB-COMMITTEE

Policy and Procedure Sub-Committee Responsibilities: The Policy and Procedure Committee shall be a subcommittee of the Bylaws and Policies Committee and shall work closely with the Bylaws and Policies Committee chairperson. At the request of the officers, Executive Director, Executive Committee and/or the Governing Council, the Policy and Procedure Committee shall review designated policies which are in question or are proposed for adoption or deletion to determine appropriateness, clarity, redundancy and/or conflict with other policies or bylaws. The Policy and Procedure Committee Chair shall forward to the Bylaws and Policies Committee Chair all recommendations, suggested revisions to proposed policy and suggested need for consultation with ACA’s attorney to verify legal status of specific policies.

Approved 6/11/99, Revised 10/07

Policy 1205.1 ETHICS COMMITTEE

A. Ethics Committee Responsibilities: The Ethics Committee shall be responsible for educating the membership concerning the Code of Ethics monitoring and periodically revising the documents and procedures pertinent to the Code of Ethics and receiving and processing complaints of alleged violations of the Code of Ethics of the association. The Ethics Committee shall prepare and publish in an ACA publication an annual statistical report of cases.

The Ethics Committee shall be responsible for developing, revising, and implementing written procedures for interpreting the ACA Code of Ethics for members and the Code of Leadership of the American Counseling Association for leaders.

B. Committee Membership: The Ethics Committee shall consist of at least eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms, including two co-chairs whose terms overlap, and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. Ethics Committee Reports: The Ethics Committee shall transmit an annual written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. Next Review: March 2013

Reference: Series 1300 – Code of Leadership; Series 400 – Officers: Policy 401.4 – President Speaks for the Association
Approved: 09/13/92 Revised: 06/11/99, Revised 10/07

Policy 1205.2 PROCESSING COMPLAINTS

The Ethics Committee shall be responsible for developing, revising, and implementing written procedures for processing ethical complaints against members.

Approved: 09/13/92

Policy 1205.3 ETHICS APPEAL PANEL

A. Ethics Appeal Panel Responsibilities: Decisions of the ACA Ethics Committee may be appealed by the member found to have been in violation based on one or both of the following grounds:
1. The Committee violated its policy and procedures for processing complaints of ethical violation; and/or
2. The decision of the Committee was arbitrary and capricious and was not supported by the materials provided by the complainant and charged member.
3. Sanctions that are inconsistent with or disproportional to the violation found may also be grounds for appeal.

B. **Ethics Appeal Panel Membership**: The ACA Ethics Appeal panel consists of six appointed members. Two members are appointed annually for three year terms by the President Elect; appointments are subject to confirmation by the ACA Governing Council. Of the two annual appointments, one shall serve as a professional member of the panel, and one will serve as an alternate, available in the event one of the professional members is determined to have personal interest in and withdraws from reviewing the case. The President will fill any vacancies on the panel in the same manner, and the person appointed should serve the unexpired term of the member whose place he or she has assumed.

**Policy 1206.1 FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

A. **Financial Affairs Committee Responsibilities**: The Financial Affairs Committee shall advise the Governing Council and Executive Director on such matters as budget planning and development and financial management. The Financial Affairs Committee shall monitor the Association’s finances and fiscal health.

B. **Committee Membership**: The Financial Affairs Committee shall consist of five members. Members shall include the immediate past Treasurer, current Treasurer, Treasurer-Designate, ACA President, ACA President-Elect, and ACA Past President. The current Treasurer shall serve as chair. The President-Elect shall appoint from Governing Council, a Division representative and Region representative.

C. **Monthly Review of Fiscal Operations**: The Committee shall conduct a monthly review of fiscal operations and develop a balanced budget for the following fiscal year for presentation to the Governing Council.

D. **Budget Revision**: At the direction of the Governing Council or Executive Committee, the Financial Affairs Committee shall review and make required revisions to the current or proposed fiscal year budgets.

E. **Fiscal Implication of Motions**: The ACA Financial Affairs Committee shall study and recommend with respect to all motions submitted to Governing Council to determine (1) financial implications/costs; and (2) the fiscal year particular items could reasonably be implemented.

F. **Next Review**: March 2013

Reference: Series 1500 Fiscal and Budget Matters
Approved: 05/21/95; Revised: 05/21/95, Revised 10/07, Revised 10/11

**Policy 1207.1 GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE**

A. **Graduate Student Committee Responsibilities**: The ACA Graduate Student Committee shall promote graduate student members interest in the ACA. The committee shall work toward establishing active communication between ACA leadership, divisions, branches, and regions in order to promote graduate student involvement in the organization. The committee shall prepare an annual report detailing its activities, goals, and objectives.
B. **Committee Membership:** The Graduate Student Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight student members and one professional member who shall serve three-year terms. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. **Committee Reports:** The Graduate Student Committee will transmit a written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. **Next Review:** March 2013

**Policy 1208.1 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

A. **Human Rights Committee Responsibilities:** The Human Rights Committee shall promote programs that proactively address human rights, societal trends, and social issues most relevant to the profession and react to the barriers that interfere with human rights. The Committee shall administer the Human Concerns Fund and shall address human concerns as they affect the counseling profession.

B. **Committee Membership:** The Human Rights Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. **Committee Reports:** The Human Rights Committee will transmit a written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. **Next Review:** March 2013

**References:** Series 1500 – Fiscal and Budget matters: Fund Raising, and Policy 1216.1 Strategic Planning.
Approved: 09/13/93, Revised 10/07

**Policy 1208.2 HUMAN CONCERNS FUND**

The purpose of the Human Concerns Fund is to help alleviate human suffering by providing financial assistance to programs which address the needs of the least fortunate persons in our society.

**Implementing Procedures:**

1. **Fund Administration:** Money collected for the Human Concerns Fund will be held by ACA as an identified account until it reaches a total of $10,000. When that amount has been reached, the ACA President will ask the American Counseling Association Foundation to invest the amount and all further contributions on behalf of ACA. The Foundation will notify the Chair of the ACA Human Rights Committee on February 1 of each year an estimate of interest that will be available for an award that association year. The Chair of the ACA Human Rights Committee shall oversee regarding the disposition or the reinvestment of the annual award each year.
2. **Contributions:** The ACA Human Rights Committee is responsible for soliciting contributions to the Human Concerns Fund. In addition to special solicitations, ACA members will be given the opportunity to donate as they join or renew their membership.

3. **Disposition of Annual Fund Interest:** Each year, after the Committee has been informed of the amount of interest available that year, the ACA Human Rights Committee will decide whether to reinvest the interest or to make an award at the annual conference.

4. **Award Recipients:** In the event an award is given, the recipient shall be an organization or program that addresses issues related to the purpose of the Human Concerns Fund. No awards shall be made to individuals. Preference will be given to organizations or programs that meet the following criteria:
   a) Located in the host city for the ACA annual conference.
   b) Do not receive federal or state funds. These criteria indicate preferences, not requirements.

5. **Award Decision:** Awards decisions will be made by the ACA Human Rights Committee in the following manner:
   a) The Committee Chair will issue a call for nominations each fall. A nomination form will be sent to those who wish to nominate an organization or program.
   b) Nominations must be submitted on the form.
   c) The Committee will develop a procedure for selecting an award recipient from among those nominated.

6. **Award Presentations:** Awards will be presented by the Chair of the Human Rights Committee and the President during the annual conference.

Approved: 05/21/95, Revised 10/07

**Policy 1209.1 INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

A. **International Committee Responsibilities:** The International Committee shall promote, respect, and recognize the global interdependence among individuals, organizations, and societies. The Committee shall build bridges and promote meaningful relationships between ACA and other organizations outside the United States. The purpose of international professional collaboration shall be to promote the commonalities across these international organizations and their missions.

B. **Committee Membership:** The International Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. A represented from the International Association for Counselling shall be invited to serve on the Committee as a standing committee seat (non-voting). ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. **Committee Reports:** The International Committee will transmit a written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President. At the end of each year, the IIC Chair and Committee shall submit liaison reports from each collaborative relationship to the ACA President for review at the fall Governing Council meeting.
D. **Next Review:** March 2013

**Policy 1210.1 INTERPROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE**

**A. The Interprofessional Committee Responsibilities:** The Interprofessional Committee shall build bridges and promote meaningful relationships between ACA and other professional organizations that hold similar professional goals and are within the United States and U.S. Territories. The purposes of professional collaboration shall be: 1) educating members of other professional organizations as to the nature of professional counselors and ACA, and 2) researching the commonalities across these organizations and their missions.

**B. Committee Membership:** The Interprofessional Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

**C. Committee Reports:** The Interprofessional Committee shall submit a written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. **Next Review:** March 2013

Approved: 03/16/01; Revised: 09/27/02, Revised 10/07

**Policy 1211.1 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION COMMITTEE**

**A. Nominations and Election Committee Responsibilities:** The Nominations and Election Committee shall conduct the nominations and election of the Association, and annually review and recommend procedures for carrying out the annual election in accordance with the nominations and elections policies as adopted by the Governing Council.

**B. Committee Membership:** The Nominations and Election Committee shall consist of five members, including the Chairperson:

1. **The Chairperson:** The immediate Past President of the Association shall serve as Chairperson.

2. **Other Members:** The other members shall be two Past Presidents appointed by the President and subject to confirmation by the Governing Council, one member elected by the Regional representatives to the Governing Council and one member elected by the Divisional representatives to the Governing Council.

3. **Regional and Divisional Council Members:** The Region and Divisional Council members for the following association year are to be elected at the last meeting of the Governing Council from among Governing Council members who will be serving on the Governing Council during the next association year.

**C. Term of Office:** The term of office for members of the Nominations and Election Committee is one year with the exception of the two Past Presidents who will each serve a two-year rotating term. Members may not serve consecutive terms.

**D. Candidate for President-Elect:** A member of the Nominations and Election Committee shall not be a candidate for President-Elect of the Association.
E. **Committee Reports:** The Nominations and Election Committee Chair shall report the results of the election to the President as soon as the results have been determined.

F. **Next Review:** March 2013

**Bylaws Reference:** Article IX – Officers of the Association; Section 3: Nominations and Elections of Officers (a-d)
Nominations and Elections Operating Handbook, Revised 10/15/99
Approved: 9/13/92; Revised: 03/15/93, Revised 10/07

**Policy 1211.2 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

A. **Ballot:** The Nominations and Election Committee shall conduct the election of officers by ballot provided to the voting members of the Association via mail and Internet.

B. **Submission Nominations:** Each Division, Organizational Affiliate, and Region shall have the right to submit to the Nominations and Election Committee the name of no more than one candidate to be placed on the ballot for President-Elect.

C. **The Nominations and Elections Committee** will submit a list of all nominated candidates to the Governing Council. The Governing Council will vet and approve all candidates before they are placed on the ballot. A simple majority vote of the Governing Council will be required for approval.

D. **The timetable for ACA elections will be as follows:** Candidates for elected office in ACA shall have submitted all required paperwork to the chair of the Nominations and Elections committee 21 days prior to the beginning of the spring Governing Council meeting.

1. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall prepare a list of candidates for President Elect and present the list to the Governing Council at their spring meeting.
2. At their spring meeting, the Governing Council shall vet the submitted candidates for President Elect to insure that they meet the criteria contained in these By-Laws and approve the slate of candidates to be presented to the membership.
3. The election of President Elect and other such officers as shall need to be elected will commence on or about December 1 of each year and continue through midnight, the last day of January each year.
4. The winner of the election will be announced to the membership no later than midnight on the final day of February of each year.

**Policy 1211.3 QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES**

A. **Requirements of President-Elect:** Candidates for President-Elect must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Association for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive years immediately prior to nomination.
2. Have had no ethical violations for the past ten (10) consecutive years immediately prior to nomination.
3. Have served at least two of the following three roles: a) a president of a national division, b) region chair, or c) Governing Council representative.
4. Must be a member of the branch located in the jurisdiction in which they reside or work, if such exists.

B. **Candidate Restrictions:** Cannot be a candidate for president-elect of a Division or Organizational Affiliate or chair-elect of a region at the same time they are a candidate for ACA President-elect.

Revised 10/11
Policy 1212.1 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A. Professional Standards Committee Responsibilities: The Professional Standards Committee shall promote the professionalization of counseling. The Committee shall be responsible for counselor advocacy and for monitoring graduate program accreditation, counseling center accreditation, and national voluntary counselor certification programs.

B. Committee Membership: The Professional Standards Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. Committee Reports: The Professional Standards Committee will transmit a written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. Next Review: March 2013

Reference: Series 1216.1 Strategic Planning
Approved: 09/13/93, Revised 10/07

Policy 1213.1 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

A. Publications Committee Responsibilities: The Publications Committee shall make recommendations to the Governing Council and the Director of Publications on such matters as media policy and procedures, planning, and development. The Committee shall develop policies for the publication of the Journal of Counseling & Development, Counseling Today, books, and other media developed by the Association.

B. Committee Membership: The Publications Committee shall consist of at least five members, including the chair. The immediate Past President of the Association and the Chair of the Council of Journal Editors shall serve on this Committee while holding their offices. If he/she is not the chair of the Council of Journal Editors, the Editor of the Journal of Counseling & Development shall serve as an ex officio member without vote. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become a Committee member. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint a Committee member to a three-year term to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the Committee members and shall serve as Chair for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. Committee Reports: The Publications Committee will transmit a written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. Next Review: March 2013

Approved: 09/13/92, Revised 10/07

Policy 1213.2 BASIC PRINCIPLES

A. Not-For-Profit Activities: Media efforts of the Association are considered a not-for-profit activity of the Association and revenues in excess of expenditures are to be used to expand publication services or products or to reduce costs to members of consuming such services or products.
B. Development, Production, and Distribution: The emphasis of ACA Publications Committee is on the development of products that represent the current research and knowledge on issues of immediate relevance to the members of the Association and their clients.

C. Intended Audience: The intended audience for the products and services of ACA media includes professional counselors, human development specialists, and their clients, who are consumers of counseling services.

Policy 1213.3 MAGAZINE

The official magazine of the Association is Counseling Today. ACA publishes the magazine 12 times each year; two issues will be expanded to include ACA election and ACA conference coverage.

Policy 1213.4 JOURNAL

The official professional journal of the Association is the Journal of Counseling & Development. ACA publishes the journal four times per year.

Policy 1213.5 COUNCIL OF NEWSLETTER EDITORS

A. Reporting to Publications Committee: The ACA Council of Newsletter Editors reports to the ACA Publications Committee.

B. Newsletter Council Members: The council includes the editors of newsletters produced by ACA divisions, and organizational affiliates.

C. Editor Coordinator: The Counseling Today Editor coordinates the council.

Policy 1213.6 COUNCIL OF JOURNAL EDITORS

A. Reporting to Publications Committee: The ACA Council of Journal Editors reports to the ACA Publications Committee.

B. Journal Council: The council includes the editor of Journal of Counseling & Development and the editors of the professional journals published by ACA Divisions and Organizational Affiliates.

C. Council Chair: A council chair is elected from among the members for a one year term.

D. Chair as a Voting Member: The council chair serves as a voting member of the ACA Publications Committee.

Policy 1213.7 THE MEDIA GUIDE

The Media Guide includes procedures established by the ACA Publications Committee and approved by the Governing Council. It shall be considered an operating handbook of the association. Bylaws and Policies pertaining to Media will be referenced in the operating handbook.

Policy 1213.8 NEW DIVISION JOURNALS

ACA will not provide financial grants to assist new division or organizational affiliate journals.
Policy 1213.9  PUBLICATION STORAGE

ACA shall manage publication inventories for ACA, divisions, and organizational affiliates according to the following guidelines:

A. Archival Copies: Five hard archival copies of all ACA, division, and organizational affiliate publications distributed by ACA shall be permanently retained.

Approved: 09/29/02, Revised 10/07, Revised 10/11

Policy 1214.1 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SUPPORT COMMITTEE

A. Public Awareness and Support Committee: The Public Awareness and Support Committee shall promote public awareness of and support for the counseling profession. The Committee shall maintain current position papers adopted by the Association.

B. Committee Membership: The Public Awareness and Support Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. Committee Reports: The Public Awareness and Support Committee will transmit a written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the P resident.

D. Next Review: March 2013

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/03/03, Revised 10/07

Policy 1214.2 INITIATION OF POSITION PAPERS PROPOSALS

Regions, Committee, or other entities may propose position papers to the ACA President to be considered for adoption by the Governing Council. Adopted positions will be placed in a designate section of the Manual of Policies and Procedures.

Policy 1214.3 ADOPTION AUTHORITY

Only the ACA Governing Council may adopt official ACA resolutions or position papers.

Implementation Procedures:

1. Introduction of a Resolution:
   a. Resolutions presented to Governing Council are to be accompanied by a body of evidence supporting the resolution. The body of evidence is to be made available to Governing Council prior to the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered.

2. Recording of a Resolution: The full resolution will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
3. Follow-up to a Resolution
   a. The President is responsible for follow-up to designated action in the resolution.
   b. The Executive Director is responsible for the distribution of resolutions to the staff.

4. Dissemination of a Resolution: Upon passage, resolutions are to be posted to a resolutions section on the website and/or the magazine as determined by the President.

Approved 09/13/92; Revised 06/11/99, Revised 3/29/06

POLICY 1215.1 PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

A. Public Policy and Legislation Responsibilities: The Public Policy and Legislation Committee shall promote and support public policy and legislation that promotes the profession and enhances human development. The Committee shall be responsible for national and state legislative efforts related to counseling, including state licensure, and for government relations training of members.

B. Committee Membership: The Public Policy and Legislation Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. Committee Reports: The Public Policy and Legislation Committee will transmit a written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. Next Review: March 2013

Reference: Series 1216.1 – Strategic Planning
Approved: 09/13/93, Revised 10/07

Policy 1215.2 LEGISLATIVE GRANTS

A. Administering Legislative Grants: ACA will administer legislative grants for the purpose of advancing the profession of counseling.

B. Analysis of Current Critical Issues: The Public Policy and Legislation Committee has the responsibility for establishing priorities yearly based on an analysis of current critical issues (political realities) and the ongoing needs of the profession.

C. Grant Applications: Grant applications which address identified needs will be given priority consideration.

D. Available Funding: The number and amount of awards will be determined annually by the Public Policy and Legislation Committee based on the amount of available funding and the identified priorities.

Implementing Procedures:

1. Procedures for the administration of legislative grants are as follows:
a. The Public Policy and Legislation Committee will develop a grant application which includes a description of the ACA identified needs. The application will include:
1) a statement of need/background information;
2) a description of how funds will be used, including goals, objectives, timelines, and persons responsible; (grant funds may not be used for any activity which would jeopardize the 501(C)(3) status of the organization)
3) an explanation of how funds will be matched with branch funds to support the goals of the grant;
4) a budget;
5) the name of the person designated as grant monitor; and
6) an evaluation/accountability plan to be completed at the end of the grant period.

b. Grant applications will be sent to all branches by July 1st each year. Information about the grant process will also be disseminated through Counseling Today.

c. Completed applications will be returned to the Public Policy and Information office at ACA. The Public Policy and Legislation Committee will review the grants and choose award recipients. Other ACA members and staff liaisons will be included in the process as appropriate.

d. Award recipients will be notified by mail. Awards will be sent to the grant monitor, unless otherwise directed. The monitor will be responsible for submitting the accountability report to the Public Policy and Legislation Committee within six weeks after the end of the grant award period. The report will include a summary of activities that will be shared with other branches and members. Grant awards may be extended if needed; written permission is needed from the Public Policy and Legislation Committee, and should be requested six weeks prior to the end of the grant period. Any unexpended funds must be returned to ACA along with the accountability report.

2. Public Policy and Legislation Committee procedures are as follows:
   a. The Public Policy and Legislation Committee will submit an annual budget to the Governing Council which includes the request for funding for legislative grants.
   b. The Public Policy and Legislation Committee will work with the Executive Committee in determining the priorities for grant awards and in selecting branches for funding proposals.
   c. The number and amount of awards will be established annually by the Public Policy and Legislation Committee depending on the number of applications received, priorities of ACA, and the amount of funding available. Branches that have never received funding will be given priority consideration but are not guaranteed funding. Branches that have received funding in a prior year will not be given priority consideration but are eligible to receive additional funding.
   e. The Public Policy and Legislation Committee will be responsible for collecting the reports from the recipients and for providing a summary to the Governing Council regarding the use of funds.
   f. The Public Policy and Legislation Committee will share information about activities funded through the Legislative Grants with branches and members through an article in Counseling Today. Consideration will also be given to disseminating information through a session at the ACA Annual Conference.

Approved: 09/29/96

POLICY 1216.1 RESEARCHES AND KNOWLEDGE COMMITTEE

A. Research and Knowledge Committee Responsibilities: The Research and Knowledge Committee shall promote the advancement and dissemination of research and knowledge in counseling.
B. **Committee Membership:** The Research and Knowledge Committee shall consist of at least nine members, eight professional members who shall serve three-year terms and one student member who shall serve a one-year term. ACA members who qualify according to ACA policy shall apply to the ACA President-Elect to become Committee members. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint one student and enough professional members to bring the complement to nine to begin the next July 1 from among those who have applied. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the current Committee members and shall serve for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. **Committee Reports:** The Research and Knowledge Committee will transmit a written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. **Next Review:** March 2013

Reference: Series 1700 – Corporate Matter, Affinity Programs, policies 1701.7.
Approved: 03/12/93, Revised 10/07

**POLICY 1217.1 STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

A. **Strategic Planning Committee Responsibilities:** The Strategic Plan is developed jointly by the Strategic Planning Committee and the Governing Council. The Governing Council has the major responsibility for the development and implementation of the plan.

B. **Committee Members:** The Strategic Planning Committee shall consist of eleven members, including the chair. The following members shall be appointed to three-year terms: A former president of ACA; a former president of an ACA division; a former chair of an ACA region; an ACA member with expertise in strategic planning; and two ACA members at large. A Committee member may fill only one designated position on the Committee even if he/she has multiple qualifications. The ACA President-Elect and immediate Past President shall be appointed to one-year terms. A current ACA Governing Council member shall be appointed to a one-year term that may be renewed for one additional term. The ACA President and ACA Executive Director shall serve as ex officio members, without vote. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint the current ACA Governing Council member from members who will be serving on the Governing Council the next year to begin the next July 1. The ACA President-Elect shall appoint two Committee members for three-year terms to begin the next July 1 from the ACA membership, provided that they qualify according to the specified composition of the Committee. The Committee Chair shall be chosen by the ACA President-Elect from among the voting Committee members and shall serve as chair for one year beginning the next July 1.

C. **Committee Reports:** The Strategic Planning Committee will transmit a written report to the President of the Association at a time assigned by the President.

D. **Next Review:** March 2013

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/07
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ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS: SERIES 1200-AR

INTRODUCTION
The intention of the Governing Council is to appoint nominees to Committees who have demonstrated skill and knowledge in the areas that are the focus of the Committees.

It is, also, the intention of the Governing Council to have ACA Committee membership formed in a manner which allows ACA to benefit from the breadth of knowledge and diversity of the members in ACA Regions, Divisions, and Organizational Affiliates.

The Administrative Rules and Regulations in Series 1200-AR applies to all Standing Committees or Special Function Groups.

Approved: 06/11/99; Renumbered & Revised: 03/16/01

AR1. COMMITTEE MEMBER CRITERIA

A. Member of ACA: All Committee members must be members of the American Counseling Association and meet the standards of Professional Membership (except for student members).

Membership Verification: Staff will verify that all persons nominated and continuing Committee members are current ACA members. The Executive Director or his/her designee will verify that all continuing Committee members are current ACA members.

B. Chair Qualification: All Committee Chairs or co-chairs must have served on the Committee for a minimum of one year before being named chair or co-chair.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; Renumbered: 03/16/01

AR2. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP RESTRICTIONS

A. Maximum Number of Committee Appointments: ACA members may not serve concurrently on more than one ACA Standing Committee.

1. ACA members who accept an appointment to an additional ACA Standing Committee must resign from any other ACA Standing Committee on which they currently are serving.

2. Requirement to Resign Exception: The ACA President serves without vote on all ACA Standing Committees; and the ACA Past President serves on the Publications Committee, the Nominations and Election Committee, and the Strategic Planning Committee.

B. Division, Organizational Affiliate, and Region Officers: ACA Division and Organizational Affiliate presidents-elect and presidents-elect-elect and Region chairs-elect and chair-elect-elect may not be re-appointed to an additional term or appointed to begin service on an ACA Committee for the next association year.

C. Research and Knowledge Committee Members: At no time during their tenure on the ACA Research and Knowledge Committee and for one year thereafter may a Committee member serve as an ACA Project Director on a project sponsored by an ACA entity.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; Renumbered: 03/16/01; Revised: 03/19/10
AR.3 AT-LARGE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS, APPLICATIONS, AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Self Nomination: ACA members who wish to serve on a Committee may nominate themselves or be solicited for nomination from Divisions, Organizational Affiliates, Regions and other ACA members.

B. Notification of Call for Committee Nominations and Applications: An annual call for applications shall be issued through Counseling Today for members who are interested in being considered for appointments to Committees.

Call for Nominations Exceptions: Appointments to the Audit, Financial Affairs, Nominations and Election, and Strategic Planning Committees are specific by background; therefore, calls for nominations will not be issued.

C. President-Elect to Solicit Nominations and Applications: The President-Elect will solicit nominations and applications each year and provide forms to be completed and returned.

D. President-Elect Makes Appointments to Committees: The ACA President-Elect will receive the applications and will appoint members and a chair to each Committee.

E. Governing Council Confirmation: The President-Elect will have nominations for Committee positions and Committee Chairs ready to be confirmed by the Governing Council at its conference meeting.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; Renumbered: 03/16/01

AR.4 LENGTH OF COMMITTEE TERM

A. Committee Member Term: Committee members may serve on a Committee not more than one consecutive three-year term. Service for 18 months or more shall be regarded as a full three-year term.

B. Student Committee Member Term: A student serves on a Committee for a one-year term, and may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

C. Committee Chair Term: A Committee Chair or Co-Chair may serve as chair or co-chair not more than two consecutive one-year terms.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; Renumbered: 03/16/01

AR.5 REMOVAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR CHAIR

A. Removal Process: In the event the ACA President determines that a Committee member or chair is not meeting Committee responsibilities adequately, the President shall take the following steps:
   1. Consult with the Committee Chair;
   2. Ask the member or chair to resign, if necessary.
   3. If a Committee member or chair refuses to resign after being asked, the President has the authority to remove the member or chair. A Committee Chair may be removed without removing that person from the Committee, or the chair can be removed as Chair and removed from the Committee as well.
   4. Governing Council or Executive Committee approval to remove Committee members or Chairs is not required.
B. **Replacing Removed Committee Members or Chair:** After the President has removed a Committee member; the President shall take the following steps:

1. May ask the Division, Organizational Affiliate, or Region that originally recommended the Committee member to recommend to the ACA President a replacement to serve the remainder of that person’s term as long as doing so will not negatively reflect upon the member or chair just removed.
2. If the Committee member was an at-large appointment, the President shall appoint the replacement.
3. The President shall appoint a new chair to replace a removed chair.
4. All appointments made under this provision must be submitted to the Governing Council or Executive Committee for approval.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; Renumbered: 03/16/01, 10/07

AR.6 COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Vacancies occurring on Committees, due to reasons other than removal, shall be filled by the President and shall be confirmed by the Governing Council or Executive Committee.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; Renumbered: 03/16/01

AR.7 ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE FORMATION

A. **Only Standing Committees Authorized:** No Committee of any type other than Standing Committees or Special Committees or Task Forces may be formed. All association tasks must be assigned to one of the Standing Committees.

B. **Subcommittees of Standing Committees:** Committee chairs or co-chairs may create subcommittees from among Committee members and appoint subcommittee chairs for one-year terms.

C. **Groups Organized to Perform Functions:** The President, subject to confirmation by the Governing Council, may establish a time-limited Special Committee or Task Force for a specific temporary purpose or assigned task which is beyond Standing Committees’ scope of responsibilities as indicated in policies adopted by the Governing Council.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; 10/28/10 Renumbered: 03/16/01, 10/07

AR.8 COMMITTEE BUDGET

A. **Conference Meetings and Expenses:** All ACA Committee Chairs and Committee members are expected to attend the ACA conference at their own expense and to participate in a Committee meeting, if scheduled. No expenses will be reimbursed by ACA.

B. **Conference Oral Reports to Governing Council:** When Committee Chairs are asked to make oral reports to the Governing Council at its conference meeting; the chairs may be reimbursed for one night’s lodging and one day of per diem.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; Renumbered: 03/16/01

AR.9 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Final Reports: The final report to the Governing Council shall list each Committee goal and indicate progress toward the goal.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99; Renumbered: 03/16/01
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Policy 1301.1 SERVICE

ACA leaders commit to styles of leadership that reflect and are motivated by a desire to serve. The officer understands that power and authority are bestowed by those being led. Organizational members create the opportunity for persons to lead and trust leaders to serve in a manner that benefits the organization and its members. An officer assumes responsibility while foregoing privilege, empowers those seeking to share leadership, and holds oneself accountable for results without seeking control. Such an officer focuses on effective stewardship of the organization’s reputation, social influence, and resources, not on self-interest, acquisition of power, personal status, or private gain.

Approved: 04/09/07

Policy 1301.2 ORGANIZATIONAL WELL-BEING

The primary responsibility of ACA leaders is to protect and promote the organizational health and effectiveness of the association. This fiduciary responsibility includes public representation, organizational dynamics, and fiscal components. The effects of individual and collective decisions and actions upon these components of organizational health must be considered.

Approved: 04/09/97

Policy 1301.3 ORGANIZATIONAL INCLUSION

ACA is a complex organization composed of numerous professional Divisions/specializations. It is incumbent upon ACA leaders to understand, value, and support the professional diversity of the organization and its represented professions at all levels. The attitudes and actions necessary for such professional inclusion are the same as those necessary for inclusion across other groups in society—humility, willingness to learn, and unconditional positive regard.

Approved: 04/09/97

Policy 1301.4 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

ACA leaders should act in accordance with the highest standards of professionalism established by ACA for the well-being of clients. In addition, ACA leaders’ modeling of professional conduct should extend beyond counseling practice to the behavior, attitudes, and communication processes with which they lead. Employees of the organization should be treated with courtesy, an interpersonal respect born of professionalism, and an awareness of the potential for injustice that exists in an imbalance of power. ACA meetings, correspondence, dialogue, and organizational deliberations should be marked by respect for the dignity and worth of persons, by honesty and openness in communication, and by a willingness to resolve problems in a manner which is satisfactory to all persons concerned. Only through such professional interpersonal conduct can leaders hope to establish the constructive relational dynamic among leaders that is essential to organizational survival and effectiveness.

Approved: 04/09/97

Policy 1301.5 RELIABILITY

ACA leaders should carry out their responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner. Gaining the benefits of a leadership position without fulfilling the responsibilities of that position is a clear violation of the reasonable expectations of the organization and a primary cause of dissatisfaction among constituents. Leaders who cannot fulfill their responsibilities should consider taking the step of resigning their positions.

Approved: 10/19/97
Policy 1301.6  ACCESSIBILITY

Officers should be easily accessible to their co-leaders and constituents. Responding to inquiries and comments from organizational members in a timely manner is essential for the following reasons:

A. Officer Information: Officers often have valuable and helpful information about the organization and profession, access to which can assist members and co-leaders in the performance of their own duties;

B. Officer as a Model: Interaction with present leaders is a primary motivating factor among emerging leaders in the organization;

C. Officer Representation: Access to leaders is a reasonable component of representation.

Approved: 04/09/97, 10/07

Policy 1301.7  COLLECTIVE DECISION MAKING

ACA leaders will avoid operating unilaterally and in isolation from the consensus of co-leaders, unless to do so is clearly in keeping with an approved task mandate from a governing body. Leaders will deliberate with appropriate co-leaders regarding fiscal matters, implementation of policies, and decisions of organizational direction. Such collaborative decision processes are essential to representative governance.

Approved: 04/09/97

Policy 1301.8  FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

In addition to monitoring expenditures of organizational funds, ACA leaders will ensure that the fiscal priority of the organization is direct services to and representation of its members. This fiscal priority determines (but is not limited to) the following expenditure guidelines:

A. Economic Utility/Quality: Leaders should consider economic utility in all fiscal decisions, considering the most cost-effective means of accomplishing a given task without compromising needed quality.

B. Restraint in Expenditures: Leaders should exercise restraint in the expenditure of funds for travel of organizational leaders and employees. Such travel must clearly be of direct service to members.

C. Meeting Location/Facilities: National, Regional, and state conferences should be held in locations and facilities which are financially conducive to attendance by the largest number of organizational members, many of whom must rely on their own financial resources to attend. Leadership meetings should be conducted in locations and facilities of moderate cost. Expenditure for and style of social events and meetings should be consistent with present fiscal limitations and the nature of the task at hand.

D. Cost Effective Communication: Communication between and among leaders conducted through electronic correspondence is encouraged, reserving the most costly meeting process for special and appropriate occasions.
E. **Funds Expended:** Use of organizational funds for a given task, project, or meeting should be weighed against the overall benefit to members relative to the proportion of organizational funds expended. For major expenditures of organizational funds to be justified, such expenditures must be of clear and significant benefit to the majority of members.

Approved: 09/09/97; Revised: 06/11/99
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CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

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Series 1400 - Introduction

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect the Association’s interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Association. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable corporations.

Approved: 04/09/97

Note: Policy 301.6 is identical to 1401.1. It is important to have this policy placed in Series 300 and repeated in Series 1600 in order to make both series comprehensive. This is the only policy that is identical but has two policy numbers.

Reference: Series 300 Governing Council Member; Policy 301.7 Conflict of Interest
Approved: 04/09/97

Policy 1401.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A. **Possible Conflict:** Governing Council members serve on the Governing Council to conduct the business of the American Counseling Association. Governing Council members are gathered to be a representative group of the ACA membership. On those occasions when the best interests of ACA would be different than the best interest of the entities the Governing Council members represent, the member must make decisions that give primary consideration to the welfare of the American Counseling Association.

B. **Unable to Resolve Conflict:** In cases where Governing Council members are unable to resolve the conflicts of interest between representing the Division or Region and representing ACA, notification should be given to the ACA President or his or her representative. After such notification, the members shall refrain from voting.

Reference: Policy 301.7
Approved: 09/29/96; Revised: 06/11/99

Policy 1401.2 DEFINITIONS OF PERSONAL/FINANCIAL INTERESTS

A. **Interested Person:** Any director, principal officer, or member of a Committee with board delegated powers who has direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

B. **Financial Interest:** A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:
   1. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Association has a transaction or arrangement, or
   2. A compensation arrangement with the Association or with any entity or individual with which the Association has a transaction or arrangement, or
   3. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation or arrangement.

C. **Compensation:** Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration, as well as gifts or favors that are substantial in nature.

Approved: 04/09/97
Policy 1401.3 VOTING RESTRICTIONS ON COMPENSATION

A voting member of any Committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Association for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member’s compensation.

Approved: 04/09/97

Policy 1401.4 OPERATING AS A TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

A. Periodic Reviews: To ensure that the Association operates in a manner consistent with its charitable and educational purposes and that it does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews conducted by the Executive Committee shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:
   1. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable and are the result of arm’s-length bargaining.
   2. Whether partnership and joint venture arrangements with third-party service providers conform to written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable payments for goods and services, further the Association’s charitable purposes and do not result in inurement or impermissible private benefit.
   3. Whether lobbying efforts are within the constraints for a not-for-profit organization.
   4. Whether the association is abiding by the “no campaign support” restriction.

B. Use of Outside Experts: In conducting the periodic reviews provided for in Series 1401.4, the Association may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the board of its responsibility for ensuring that periodic reviews are conducted.

Approved: 04/09/97; Revised: 09/09/99, 03/21/00

Implementing Procedures:

1. Duty to Disclose: In connection with any actual or possible conflicts of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of his or her financial interest and all material facts to the directors or members of Committees with board-delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists: After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he or she shall leave the board or Committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or Committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest:
   a. An interested person with a conflict of interest may make a presentation at the board or Committee meeting, but after such presentation, he or she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the proposed transaction or arrangement.
   b. The chairperson of the board or Committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or Committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
   c. After exercising due diligence, the board or Committee shall determine whether the Association can obtain a more advantageous transaction or arrangement with reasonable efforts from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably attainable under circumstances that would not give rise to a conflict of interest, the board or Committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Association’s best interest and for its own benefit and whether the transaction is fair and reasonable to the Association and shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement in conformity with such determination.

4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy:
   a. If the board or Committee has reasonable cause to believe that a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
   b. If, after hearing the response of the member and making such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances, the board or Committee determines that the member has in fact failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

5. Records of Proceedings: The minutes of the board and all Committees with board-delegated powers shall contain:
   a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the board’s or Committee’s decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
   b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection therewith.

6. Annual Statements: Each Director, principal officer, and member of a Committee with board-delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms that such person:
   a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy;
   b. Has read and understands the policy;
   c. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
   d. Understands that the Association is a charitable organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities that accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Approved: 04/09/97
AMERICAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The American Counseling Association ("Association") and its volunteer leaders are dedicated to serving the interests of the Association’s constituency in the most honorable and ethical manner possible. Among the Association’s duties is the responsibility to provide assurance to its constituencies that debates, decision making, and all governance at the Association is conducted in an objective and bias-free context. Among the duties of the volunteer leaders of the Association is a duty of loyalty—to place the best interests of the Association uppermost when acting on the Association’s behalf. This duty of loyalty, or “fiduciary” duty, encompasses the obligation to avoid or disclose any “other interests” that could dilute, diminish, or divide a leader’s unqualified loyalty and complete commitment to the Association. Where such interests exist or even appear to exist, they are “conflicts of interest” that the Association is responsible to manage in order to ensure bias-free governance.

Summary of the Policy
The Association’s policy is to require that volunteer leaders disclose “other interests” as defined in this policy at least once each year or more frequently if “other interests” arise. Then the Governing Council, or delegated representatives of the Governing Council, must decide what if anything to do in reaction to disclosures of “other interest” according to the Association’s procedures for doing so. In most cases it will be decided that the proper corrective measure is disclosure of the “other interests” to the Governing Council or other governance body of the Association. But in some cases the volunteer leader might be asked to “recuse”—refrain from participating in debate or resolution of matters where the volunteer leader has “other interests.” In rare cases the volunteer leader might be asked to resign from the position on the board or elsewhere in the governance structure of the Association.

“Other Interests”
1. To what volunteer leaders does this policy apply?
   The Governing Council has determined that the policy applies to any director, principal officer or member of a Committee with board delegated powers

2. What “other interests” are to be disclosed?
   Disclosure is expected of these “other interests”:
   a) Ownership, employment, or volunteer or agency interest or involvement in a commercial entity or nonprofit organization that competes with the Association;
   b) Ownership, employment, or volunteer or agency interest or involvement in a commercial entity or nonprofit organization that is, or seeks to be, a vendor of products or services to the Association; or
   c) Position as spokesperson, consultant, employee, or agent for another commercial or nonprofit organization that advances opposing or adverse public policy positions from those of the Association.

   Note: The “Association” includes the Association’s subsidiaries and affiliates.
   The volunteer leader should disclose these “other interests” personally and for close business associates and family members.

3. When and how is disclosure to be made?
   Disclosure is to be made at least annually when requested by the Governing Council, and after that at any time throughout the year when an “other interest” arises or becomes known that was not disclosed at the time of, or has significantly changed since, the annual disclosure. Disclosure should always be in writing. Disclosure forms are provided for that purpose. Volunteer leaders should feel free to provide additional information as appropriate.
4. **What information is to be disclosed about “other interests”?**
The volunteer leader should provide sufficient information about any “other interest” so as to permit an evaluation of what effect the “other interest” might have on the leader’s participation in the Association’s governance.

5. **What about confidential information on “other interests”?**
Any confidential information should be clearly marked as such on the volunteer leader’s disclosure. The Association will endeavor to keep the information confidential. But if a requirement for confidentiality precludes the Governing Council of the Association from fairly evaluating the disclosure, the Governing Council may respond accordingly in its recommendation regarding corrective measures.

**Corrective Measures**
It is the Association’s prerogative, not the disclosing volunteer leader’s, to make determinations regarding corrective measures with respect to “other interests.” The Governing Council or its delegated representatives will do so. Among the corrective measures available to be recommended are these:

1. Disclosure to the governance body: In most cases, it is expected that the possibility of subjectivity or bias will be sufficiently offset by disclosing the “other interest” to the entire governance body of which the disclosing volunteer leader is a member. That governance body will be expected to take the individual’s “other interest” into consideration when discussions, debates, or decisions occur in the governance body. The Association, its governing board and the volunteer leader will all have fully discharged their duties.

2. Recusal: In some instances it may be determined that the avoidance of conflicts of interest, or even the mere appearance of conflicts of interest, will dictate that the disclosing individual should avoid discussions, debates, and decision making on subjects related to the disclosure. The volunteer leader will remain a member of the governance body affected but will withdraw from portions of meetings or activities appropriately.

3. Resignation: There could be situations, expected to be rare, in which the volunteer leader’s “other interest” is so extensive or pervasive that, in the view of the Association’s governing board or its representatives, the leader’s involvement in discussions, debates, or decision making in the pertinent governing body on any subject will be adversely affected. In that case the leader will be asked to resign. If resignation is not forthcoming, the Governing Council will decide on alternatives consistent with the Association’s Bylaws and governing state law.

**Implementing Procedures:**

1. Annual disclosure. Volunteer leaders will be asked to complete the attached disclosure form annually. Forms should be submitted at other times as well if “other interests” arise or become known.

2. Review, evaluation, and recommendation. Representatives of the Governing Council, appointed by the President, will review the annual disclosure forms along with the Executive Director and his or her designees. The volunteer leader may be asked to provide additional information as a result of this review. If this reviewing body determines that no action is required, then none will be taken. If the body determines that disclosure to the full governing body on which the volunteer leader sits is the appropriate corrective measure, this will be undertaken with notice to the volunteer leader. If other corrective measures are recommended, the matter will come before the Governing Council.

3. Governing Council. The Governing Council makes the final determination of the appropriate corrective action to be recommended to the volunteer leader and any subsequent action or procedures that may become expedient.

Any questions about the Association’s policy or procedures should be raised with the Executive Director of the Association.
Disclosure of Other Interests

As a volunteer leader of American Counseling Association (the "Association), I recognize that the Association must provide bias-free governance to the Association’s constituency, and that I owe a duty of loyalty to the Association. One aspect of fulfilling my duty is to avoid or disclose “other interests” according to the Association's policy and procedures on conflicts of interest. I am therefore disclosing the following “other interests” as defined by the Association. I will provide further information if requested and will cooperate with any review and evaluation on behalf of the Association.

1. Any ownership, employment, or volunteer or agency interest or involvement in a commercial entity or nonprofit organization that competes with the Association:

2. An ownership, employment, or volunteer or agency interest or involvement in a commercial entity or nonprofit organization that is, or seeks to be, a vendor of products or services to the Association:

3. Any position as spokesperson, consultant, employee, or agent for another commercial or nonprofit organization that advances opposing or adverse public policy positions from those of the Association:

Note: The "Association" includes the Association’s subsidiaries and affiliates.
Note also: The volunteer leader should disclose these “other interests” personally and for close business associates and family members. Please use additional sheets or attached explanatory documents if appropriate.

Please indicate whether any information provided here is requested to be kept confidential by the Association.

This information is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and ability.

____________________________________________________  __________________  
Signature                                           Date

________________________________
Association Position

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SECTION III.

FINANCE
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Policy 1501.1 BALANCED BUDGET AND APPROVAL

A. Non-Deficit Budget: The Financial Affairs Committee shall not recommend a deficit budget to the Governing Council in any fiscal year.

B. Budget Approval: The budget for each fiscal year will be approved in the preceding year.

Adopted: 05/21/95

Policy 1501.2 RESERVE FUNDS

A. Corporate Safety Net: ACA will build a reserve(s) at a rate of $50,000 per year.

B. Contingency Reserves: The proposed annual budget recommended to Governing Council should contain a line item of not less than $50,000 for building, equipment, and contingency reserves.

Approved: 05/21/95 Revised: 04/96, 06/11/99, 03/21/02, 3/21/07

Implementing Procedures:

1. Prorating Monies: Each year the Financial Affairs Committee, with the Executive Director’s recommendations, shall pro-rate those monies designated in the annual budget.

2. Monitoring Reserve Funds: Reserve funds will be monitored on an annual basis by the Financial Affairs Committee.

3. Financial Affairs Committee Authorization: Any disbursement from any reserve funds must be authorized by the Financial Affairs Committee, the Executive Committee or Governing Council.

4. Report on Reserve Funds: The Executive Director shall present a report of the accumulated expenses in each contingency fund during the present fiscal year at each Governing Council meeting, except that at the first meeting of each fiscal year, a report will be made of the previous fiscal year. (Rationale: Accountability is needed for spending undesignated funds).

5. Other Transfers into Reserves: At the close of the fiscal year, one third of any excess operating revenues over operating expenses shall be transferred into the excess revenue over expense reserve fund. This transfer is to exclude investment income, gains/losses from the sale of fixed assets, and any other transaction excluded in calculating an operating profit. The transfer shall occur within six months of the close of the fiscal year.

Revised: 10/28/07; 10/07

Policy 1501.3 FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

A. Deposits and Signatures: The funds of this corporation shall be deposited in its name at the direction of the Executive Director, with banks or other financial institutions. All banks or financial institutions used should be members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, but exceptions may be made by the Financial Affairs Committee.

B. Cost Centers: Those who are responsible for cost centers in the ACA budget (officers, chairs, staff members, etc.) are required to adhere to the budget.
C. **Executive Director’s Report:** The Executive Director shall provide monthly reports to the Financial Affairs Committee and semi-annual reports to the Governing Council on professional, technical, auditing, and consulting fees.

D. **Monthly Review:** The Financial Affairs Committee shall conduct a monthly review of the financial operations of the American Counseling Association.

E. **Non-Dues Revenue:** New income producing projects and products may be implemented at the discretion of the Executive Director and the President.

F. **Activities with Fiscal Implications:** Activities with fiscal implications should be reviewed by the Financial Affairs Committee with ultimate recommendations to the Governing Council.

G. **Financial Impact Statement:** All Governing Council motions must have a financial impact statement.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 05/21/95, 06/11/99, 03/21/02, 10/07

**Implementing Procedures:**

1. **Supporting Data:** All Governing Council agenda items and motions submitted for action MUST be accompanied with supportive data as follows:
   a) A specific financial statement which will include how it will affect the budget and the anticipated cost that implementation of the motion will incur shall be evaluated by the Financial Affairs Committee for completeness and accuracy.
   b) A statement of how the item or motion will impact the profession and its relationship to the Strategic Plan.
   c) Reports from appropriate administrative departments MUST accompany the motion or agenda item if that motion/item will have an effect upon the department’s functioning (i.e., marketing plan, legislative plan).
   d) If an agenda item or motion will not have any impact on the above mentioned areas, that fact should be so stated.

2. **Uncompleted Supportive Data:** If the above mentioned information is not accompanying the motion or agenda items, the motion or agenda item should not be brought before the Governing Council until the information has been obtained.

   The President, in collaboration with the Executive Director and the Executive Committee, will send the uncompleted agenda items or motion to the appropriate members, Committees or staff for completion.

3. **Notification of Governing Council Members:** The agenda item and/or motion should be sent to the Governing Council members prior to the Governing Council meeting so that the information can be read and the implications understood.

**Policy 1501.4 ** **AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER**

A. **Transfer Between Line Items:** The President or Executive Director has the authority to transfer amounts between one or more budget line items without prior approval, as long as the unit budget is not exceeded, with the exception of transfers to Technical Services and Professional Fees.

B. **Transfer Between Units:** The President or Executive Director is required to obtain prior authorization from the Financial Affairs Committee for any transfers between units or any transfers that increase the approved budget.
C. **Reporting:** The President or Executive Director is required to report any transfers not requiring prior approval of the Financial Affairs Committee within 30 days of the transfers.

D. **Reporting Budgetary Transfers:** 1) The Financial Affairs Committee and the Executive Committee must be informed of all transfers within the originally approved budget. 2) Any budgetary transfers shall be a matter of official record and be reported to the Governing Council at the next scheduled meeting and be made a part of the minutes.

Approved: 05/21/95; Revised: 10/97, 03/27/98, 06/11/99, 03/21/00, 03/21/02

**Policy 1501.5 LOAN AUTHORIZATION**

A. **Executive Committee Authorization:** ACA loans recommended by the Executive Director shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee and authorized by the Executive Committee.

B. **Interest Rates:** Interest rates earned or charged will be negotiated by the Executive Director and shall be comparable to the market rate at that point in time.

C. **Loan Security:** Adequate and sufficient security is required for all loans made by ACA.

D. **Loans to Governing Council Members:** Loans to Governing Council and Executive Staff members are strictly prohibited.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 03/21/00

**Policy 1501.6 HANDLING DIVISION/CORPORATE AFFILIATE FUNDS**

A. **Commingling of Funds:** ACA shall not commingle or maintain any Division, Corporate Affiliate or other entities monies in the same bank account.

B. **Collection of Funds:** All monies collected on behalf of a Division or Corporate Affiliate must be forwarded by the 15th of the following month to the appropriate Division/Corporate Affiliate treasurer or processed in a manner approved by the appropriate Division/Corporate Affiliate treasurer.

Approved: 10/95

**Policy 1501.7 MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT**

A. **External Bank Accounts:** ACA shall open and maintain a separate bank account for each entity that elects ACA accounting services under the Management Services Agreement. The signers on these accounts will be the Assistant Executive Director of Finance or his or her designee and those individuals designated by each respective entity. It is the responsibility of each entity to document any restrictions on their respective bank accounts.

B. **Changes in Charges:** Charges to Divisions, Organizational Affiliates or Corporate Affiliates, for administrative services provided by ACA will be outlined in the Management Services Agreement. All efforts will be made to provide the Management Services Agreement for the following fiscal year to all Treasurers or Executive Directors by February 15th of each year to ensure sufficient time to review its contents. The Management Services Agreement must be signed no later than the deadline approved by Governing Council in the current fiscal year to apply to the following fiscal year.
C. **Cost Recovery Rate:** The Management Service cost recovery rate will be established to recover all costs incurred to provide those services. When the rates to provide Management Services are not sufficient to recover costs, the rates will be increased, unless waived by the Financial Affairs Committee.

D. **Late Charges:** Management Services Agreements signed after August 1 are subject to a surcharge set by the Financial Affairs Committee. That surcharge will be not more than five percent (5%) of the prevailing rate.

E. **Late Payments:** If payments owed to ACA by any entity are over sixty (60) days late, ten percent (10%) interest will be assessed. If the debt accrues to ninety (90) days, monthly revenue payments could be withheld until the debt is liquidated.

Approved: 10/96; Revised: 04/12/99, 06/11/99, 03/21/07

**Policy 1501.8** **AUDITS**

A. **Auditing Firm:** The ACA auditing firm is responsible to the Governing Council, through the chair of the Financial Affairs Committee (Treasurer). The ACA auditing firm shall be available to the Financial Affairs Committee as needed.

B. **Screening Auditors:** The Financial Affairs Committee shall be responsible for screening and recommending to the Governing Council the auditing firm to be under contract with the Association.

C. **Audit Report:** The auditing firm will be requested to provide the annual audit report to all Governing Council members within four weeks, if possible, but no later than six weeks after completion.

D. **Cost for Audits:** A percentage of ACA’s audit will be prorated to those related parties sharing the annual audit, e.g., ACA Insurance Trust, among others. This shared expense represents the direct cost of preparing the annual tax returns and the evaluation of the internal control system. The percentage will be defined in the Management Services Agreement, which is to be signed prior to the deadlines approved by Governing Council for the fiscal year being audited.

E. **Audit Recommendations:** The services of the auditing firm shall be reviewed annually by the Financial Affairs Committee and relevant recommendations shall be forwarded to Governing Council.

Approved: 1998; Revised: 06/4/00, 03/21/02

**Policy 1501.9** **CONTRACTS WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

A. **Executive Director Approval:** If not included in the budget, any contract over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars ($250,000) which may obligate the association, in any manner, must be approved by the Financial Affairs Committee and signed by the Executive Director or his or her designee(s).

B. **Use of Legal Counsel:** Only at the discretion of the Executive Director or the President should legal counsel be consulted in any manner.

C. **Reputable/Appropriate Agencies:** ACA may only enter into contracts with reputable and appropriate sources that are consistent with the principle objectives of the association including the Association’s discriminatory practices.

Approved: 06/11/99; Revised: 03/21/02
Policy 1501.10  ELECTION EXPENSES

A. Charges: The charges for the annual election will be allocated in the following manner: ACA pays fifty percent (50%) and Division and Organizational Affiliates pay a proportional amount of the remaining fifty percent (50%) based on the number of members in the entity as of the preceding July 1.

B. Ballot Printing Costs: Cost for the preparation, printing and distribution of the ballots shall be absorbed as an operating cost of ACA. Balloting costs will not be a budgeted item under the Nominations and Election Committee.

Adopted: 09/92; Revised: 06/11/99

Policy 1501.11  TRAVEL, MEETING AND CONFERENCE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS

A. Reimbursement Authority: ACA provides reimbursement for travel, housing and per diem for ACA officers, Governing Council members, Committee Chairs, staff and other persons authorized by the ACA President.

B. Authorizing Signature: The ACA President’s signature or President’s designee(s) serves as the authorization for reimbursement of official ACA travel expenses for officers and others traveling on behalf of ACA Governance. The Executive Director’s signature or Executive Director’s designee(s) serves as the authorization for reimbursement of official ACA travel expense for ACA staff and non staff.

Implementing Procedures:


2. Supporting Data: Dates, places and purpose of the authorized activity or meeting must be indicated.

C. Travel Advances: Travel advances must be followed by a Travel and Expense Reimbursement Form, original receipts, and any applicable reimbursement of unused funds within thirty (30) days of the event.

D. Time Frame for Submitting Vouchers: Travel vouchers must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the incurring of travel costs. The association reserves the right to not reimburse any expenses not received within the thirty (30) day time limit.

E. Travel by Public Transportation: Round trip travel by air (coach fare), train and bus will be provided and will be reimbursed after submission of an official voucher and related receipts.

Implementing Procedures:

1. Lowest Fare: ACA will reimburse travel at the lowest fare available at the time of travel unless approved by the ACA President.

2. Travel Restrictions: Whenever possible, no more than two members of the Executive Management Team should travel on the same flight.

3. Travel Review: Travel expenses for the President will be reviewed and signed off by the Executive Director and travel expenses for the Executive Director will be signed off by the President.
F. **Travel by Private Automobile**: Travel by automobile will be reimbursed at the rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service, not to exceed one round trip air coach fare from the individual’s place of residence or point of departure to the meeting site.

G. **Automobile Rental**: Automobile rental may be reimbursed only if it is specifically authorized by the ACA President or Executive Director.

H. **Ground Transportation**: Airport ground transportation is allowable and should be reported on the official voucher forms.

**Implementing Procedures**:

1. **Supporting Data**: Original receipts, departure point, destination, business purpose, date, amount of expenditure and name of passenger must be provided.

2. **Intra-City Taxi Cab Fares**: Other than transportation for meals, intra-city cab fares are allowed when the official business requires such travel.

Reference: 1501.11 Per Diem Inclusions.

I. **Housing Reimbursement**: ACA provides housing reimbursement for ACA officers, Governing Council members, Committee Chairs, staff, and other authorized persons when they are required or requested to attend meetings.

J. **Per Diem Reimbursement**: A fifty dollar ($50.00) subsistence allowance will be given for each day of official business with the pro rata allocation for travel days. The daily allocation will be as follows: Breakfast - $9.00; Lunch - $11.00; and Dinner - $30.00.

**Implementing Procedures**:

1. **Business Meals**: Only those meals that would have been incurred during the time that an individual was traveling on ACA business are eligible for reimbursement.

2. **Reduction of Per Diem**: In the event the traveler is provided meals in the course of association business, the meal allowance shall be reduced on the following basis: Breakfast - $9.00; Lunch - $11.00; and Dinner - $30.00.

3. **Provided Meals**: Reimbursement for provided meals may not be claimed regardless of whether or not the individual partakes.

4. **Per Diem Inclusions**: Public transportation fares to and from restaurants, taxes and tips are considered part of the cost of the meal and are not reimbursed.

Approved: 06/11/99; Revised: 12/8/99, 03/21/00, 03/21/02, 03/21/07, 10/18/08

**Policy 1501.12 TRAVEL ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

A. **Authority to Purchase**: ACA staff are authorized to purchase accident insurance for ACA staff and ACA leaders.

B. **Age Restriction**: Persons not fully covered by the ACA blanket travel insurance because of age may be specifically added to be provided comparable coverage.

Approved: 05/21/95; Revised: 03/21/00
Policy 1501.13 INVESTMENT OF ASSOCIATION FUNDS
The Association shall endeavor to invest Association assets, within a level of risk deemed acceptable, in such a manner as to optimize long-term appreciation and consistency of total portfolio returns.

Approved: 06/11/99; Revised: 03/21/02, 3/21/07, 10/07

Implementing Administrative Rules and Regulations:

1). Governing Council Responsibilities:
   a. The Governing Council shall have oversight over any investments and to the best of their ability follow the Association’s commitment to socially responsible investing.
   b. The Governing Council shall review and adopt, if acceptable, any recommendation or report received from the Financial Affairs Committee or the Executive Director.

2) Financial Affairs Committee Responsibilities:
   a. The Financial Affairs Committee will review policy 1501.15 INVESTMENT OF ASSOCIATION FUNDS annually.
   b. The Financial Affairs Committee shall review and analyze the Association’s investment portfolio and forward related recommendations to the Governing Council.
   c. The Financial Affairs Committee will annually review the asset mix in collaboration with the Executive Director and the Investment Advisor. They will then recommend a target mix to the Governing Council.
   d. The Financial Affairs Committee may recommend any revisions or modifications to the Governing Council for approval.
   e. At its discretion, the Financial Affairs Committee will recommend the hiring or replacing of an investment advisor to the Governing Council.
   f. The Financial Affairs Committee will review any candidates for the Association’s investment advisor prior to making any recommendation to the Governing Council.

3) Executive Director Responsibilities:
   a. The Executive Director shall prepare a schedule of invest, cost and market; and an investment year-to-date report for presentation on an annual basis to the Governing Council.
   b. At least semiannually ensure any portfolio is re-balanced according to target weights.
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PERSONNEL (STAFF)

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A. **Basic Function:** The Executive Director is responsible for the effective operation of the Association; for the direction of operations and activities; for implementing policies authorized by Governing Council, and for advising and making recommendations to the Officers and Governing Council.

B. **Qualifications:** Qualifications include a degree in counseling, human resources management, psychology or a related combination of education and experience; strategic planning experience and skills; fiscal management skills; demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills, high level of professionalism and integrity. Experience in association management or not-for-profit organization management is recommended.

C. **Responsibilities and Authority:**

The Executive Director:

1. May delegate portions of his/her responsibilities consistent with sound operations and authorized policies and procedures, together with proportionate authority for their fulfillment, but the Executive Director may not delegate nor relinquish any portion of his/her accountability.

2. Utilizing advice and input from the Assistant Executive Director of Finance and other staff, the Treasurer, and the Financial Affairs Committee, the Executive Director is responsible for development of an annual budget, overseeing the authorized and proper expenditure of funds, and assures that all funds, physical assets, and other property of the association are appropriately safeguarded and secured.

3. Monitors the Association’s environment to determine the need for new services and programs. Proposes such services and programs to the President, Executive Committee, and Governing Council.

4. Identifies new sources of revenue, proposes revenue enhancing projects to the Executive Committee and Governing Council, and ensures that approved projects are implemented.

5. Sees that the Governing Council and Executive Committee are kept fully informed in a timely manner about the conditions and operations on all important aspects of the Association. The Executive Director has the authority to make all personnel decisions related to hiring, firing, promoting, transferring, or otherwise deploying staff. Major changes in top management personnel will be made in consultation with the President. As a courtesy, the Executive Director will consult with the President prior to hiring or discharging anyone on the top management team.

6. Serves as a resource to elected leadership by studying and reviewing Association bylaws, policies, positions, programs and operations, and suggesting any changes needed for more effective operation of the Association.

7. Oversees or is responsible for the development of specific procedures and programs to implement the policies and activities authorized by the Governing Council; and further sees that these procedures and programs are effectively administered and controlled, and authorizes all headquarters office policies and procedures.

8. Sees that sound plans of organization are maintained for the headquarters office, and oversees the direction and coordination of all approved programs, projects, and major activities of the staff.
9. Provides for optimum utilization of all staff at the headquarters office, and sees that the organization is staffed with competent people, that they are delegated authority; and that appropriate limitations of their authority are defined and understood with respect to policy, commitment, expenditures, and actions affecting personnel.

10. Maintains a cooperative climate of responsiveness to volunteer leaders and all ACA members.

11. Is subject to overall personnel policy, is responsible for hiring of management personnel and overseeing the hiring of support personnel, the maintenance of salary administration procedures, and has responsibility and authority with respect to promotions and terminations.

12. Provides the necessary staff liaison support to Committees, and provides authority staff members to enable them to properly perform their liaison functions.

13. Authorizes and executes such contracts, agreements, and commitments as may be authorized by the Governing Council or established policies.

14. Develops and maintains an appropriate budgetary procedure with the Financial Affairs Committee, Treasurer, and the Assistant Executive Director of Finance; oversees the authorized and proper expenditure of funds, and assures that all funds, physical assets, and other property of the Association are appropriately safeguarded and administered.

15. Uses up-to-date technology to efficiently and effectively carry out the Association’s agreed upon policies, procedures, programs, and services.

16. Has regular contact with the President, Executive Committee, and the Governing Council.

17. Executes such other general responsibilities as delegated by the President, Governing Council, or Executive Committee.

D. **Relationships:**

The Executive Director:

1. Is directly responsible to the President, the Governing Council, and the Executive Committee for the administration of the headquarters office and for proper interpretation and fulfillment of the functions of this Position Description and the fulfillment objectives and budget as approved or authorized by the Governing Council.

2. Develops and maintains peer relationships with executives of other organizations. In certain circumstances, as determined by the President, the Governing Council, or the Executive Committee, represents the Association in articulating its positions and objectives to business and industry, government, and the Association community.

3. Is responsible for the conduct and operations of key staff personnel. Secures the advice of key personnel in formulating plans and programs, and stands ready at all times to render advice and support to staff.

4. Ensures that all key members of headquarters staff understand and carry-out the policies set by the elected leaders of the Association.

5. Is present at all meetings of the Governing Council and Executive Committee and is responsible for the preparation of quarterly and annual reports to the Governing Council.
6. Represents a high level of professionalism and integrity in all personal and business activities.

Approved: 09/17/95; Revised: 03/16/01

Policy 1601.2 EMPLOYMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Executive Director is to provide a set of employment rules and regulations, which will facilitate the management of the Association's business to all ACA employees. The Chief of Staff will provide copies of the "Human Resources Operating Handbook" to members of Governing Council before the fall Governing Council meeting.

(Implementing Procedures found in the ACA Human Resources Operating Handbook.)
Approved: 04/99, 10/07

Policy 1601.3 EMPLOYEE SALARIES

Employee salaries are to be determined by the Executive Director and his/her designees in conjunction with an employment performance evaluation. Merit increases are not automatic and are granted only after job performance is rated.

A. Financial Affairs Committee Responsibility: The Financial Affairs Committee is responsible for reviewing staff salaries as part of the annual budget preparation process.

B. Executive Director Responsibility: The Executive Director and his or her designee will determine employee salaries after an analysis of the job market and an analysis of the pay for comparable positions in associations in the geographical area.
   1. Justification of Salaries: The Executive Director and his or her designee will be responsible for justifying the salary expense in the operations budget.
   2. Reporting to Financial Affairs Committee: The Executive Director will submit the analyses and the justifications for staff salaries to the Financial Affairs Committee prior to inclusion in the proposed operating budget.

C. Honoraria Allowed: ACA staff members may accept honoraria from ACA entities when invited to prepare a paper on a special topic that is not related to their ACA office or staff position.

D. Honoraria Restriction: ACA staff members who speak or consult on official business for ACA shall not accept an honorarium.

E. Invitation from ACA Entities: When ACA staff is invited to participate in conferences, conferences, meetings, or other events by ACA entities, the inviting entities shall reimburse the staff for travel expenses, unless the staff's budget includes funding for the trip.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 06/11/99, 03/21/00
Policy 1601.4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION PROCESS

The ACA Executive Committee has the sole responsibility for the evaluation of the ACA Executive Director’s performance.

Participation in the Evaluation: Governing Council members and staff will be asked for their input at the Spring Governing Council meeting. Additionally ACA staff will be allowed the opportunity to provide 360º feedback relative to the Executive Director’s performance. The Chief of Staff will be responsible for tabulating all responses and providing a Confidential Report to the Executive Committee prior to the Spring Executive Committee Meeting. The results of this Report will be used as part of the process to determine the employment status and/or contract provisions for the Executive Director.

The President will meet with the Executive Director to discuss the results of this process prior to the end of the fiscal year. This is usually done on the first day of the Spring Executive Committee Meeting.

Approved: 01/24/93; Revised: 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 1601.5 EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

All employees receive Merit Evaluations that are connected to salary increases.

Approved: 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 1601.6 SPEAKING FOR THE ASSOCIATION

In the absence of written position statements, ACA staff, when requested to address issues of the counseling and development profession, shall, when feasible, contact the appropriate entity or entities affected by the position statement prior to making statements relative to the association’s position. In the absence of the President, the chain of command in Policy 401.4 shall prevail.

Approved: 06/11/99

Policy 1601.7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITUS

The title of Executive Director Emeritus may be conferred only on those individuals who previously have served as Executive Director and who presently are not serving in that role. To qualify for the title, the Executive Director must have served in that capacity for at least five years continuous service. The individual’s name must be submitted to the Governing Council for approval.

Approved: 1992
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Policy 1701.1 DISCRIMINATION DEFINITION

Discrimination is an act that differentiates between individuals or groups in a manner that seeks to deprive them and/or results in the loss of their civil and human rights.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 09/94, 04/25/95, 10/07

Policy 1701.2 NONDISCRIMINATION

BYLAW ARTICLE XIV states, “There shall be no discrimination against any individual on the basis of ethnic group, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, and/or disability. This statement should appear in Counseling Today and Journal of Counseling & Development.

Approved: 09/94; Revised: 04/25/95, 07/01/96, 06/11/99, 10/07

Policy 1701.3 HARASSMENT

The American Counseling Association is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which leaders, volunteers and staff can work together in an atmosphere free of all forms of harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Sexual harassment, like harassment on the basis of race, gender, or religion, is a form of discrimination expressly prohibited by law. It is a violation of Title VII of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. Sexual harassment is not limited to sexual exploitation but includes verbal statement, e.g., inappropriate jokes, physical contact, inappropriate touching, etc. In addition to being illegal, all forms of harassment run counter to the mission of the Association. When people feel threatened, intimidated, or otherwise pressured by others into granting sexual favors, or are singled out for derision or abuse because of their gender, their performance is liable to suffer. Such actions violate the dignity of the individual and the integrity of the Association as an organization for professional counseling. Freedom can only exist when every person is free to pursue ideas in a non-threatening, non-coercive atmosphere of mutual respect. Sexual harassment is harmful not only to the persons involved, but also to the entire counseling community.

Disciplinary Action: The Association will take whatever action is needed to prevent, stop, correct, or discipline behavior that violates this policy. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to:

1. Employees: Oral or written warning, demotion, transfer, suspension or dismissal for cause.
2. Leaders: Oral or written warning, removal from office or responsibilities, or loss of membership in the Association for cause.
3. Members: Oral or written warning, removal from association responsibilities, or loss of membership in the Association for cause.

Approved: 06/11/99

Policy 1701.4 LEGAL ACTION PROGRAM (Legal Defense Fund) (9/13/92)

The purpose of the Legal Action Program is to financially support legal cases in which facts are at issue that are deemed by the Review Panel to discriminate clearly against counselors in general or against the counseling profession. The Legal Defense Fund has been established for this purpose.

Approved: 09/13/92

Implementing Procedures:

1. **Member Eligibility:** An ACA member eligible for this program must be a member in good standing for at least one year prior to the onset of the legal dispute. State and national Divisions and Branches are automatically eligible provided their charter has been current for one year.
2. **Funding Criteria:** For funding under this program to be authorized, an actual case must be pending. In civil suits, a bill of complaint and responsive pleadings must have been filed. In a criminal suit, charges must have been filed. In appellate cases, the appeal must have been filed.

3. **Funding Restrictions:** Cases will not be funded if a counselor’s performance, judgment, or competence is at issue, unless the Review Panel determines that the allegations, even if proven accurate, do not constitute unprofessional, unethical, or illegal conduct.

4. **Legal Case Funding:** Five hundred dollars ($500) must be paid by sources other than ACA.
   a) The ACA member must pay two hundred and fifty dollars ($250) of legal fees and expenses.
   b) After the $250 of legal expenses are paid by the member, a minimum of $250 shall be provided by any of the following:
      1) an ACA Branch
      2) an ACA Branch Division
      3) an ACA national Division
      4) A professional or private source
   c) A sum not to exceed $1,000 may be provided to the approved member from the Legal Action Program after ascertaining that the expenditures made by the member and other sources total at least $500.
   d) Should the receipted expenditures exceed the initial $1,000, costs above that $1,000 may be reimbursed up to an additional $4,000 sum per member per act or occurrence.
   e) if more than one member is involved in the same occurrence under litigation, only a $5,000 payment will be authorized, except as determined by the ACA Governing Council.
   f) Expenditures will be limited to the authorized sums in the Legal Action Program fund.
   g) Branch or national Divisions, and Branches may apply for up to $5,000 provided they have evidenced expenditure of or committed funds of a matching amount of money designated for such legal action.
   h) if a funded case is appealed to a higher court, an additional $5,000 may be authorized.
   i) if the outcome of the legal action results in a reimbursement of legal fees to the member, the member shall repay to ACA the monies received from the Legal Action Program.
   j) falsification of any document or the submission of any fraudulent statements or materials shall render the application null and void. If such falsification or fraudulence is discovered before or after payment is made, ACA reserves the right to take whatever action is necessary that is appropriate legally and ethically, to recover allocated funds or expenditures related to processing such an application.

5. **Application Procedures:** ACA members eligible for the Legal Action Program should request an “Application for Assistance from the ACA Legal Action Program” from ACA Headquarters.
   a) The completed application forms are sent to the Executive Director. The member shall complete these forms during the legal proceedings. All forms, documentation, and records shall be treated as confidential documents.
   b) Upon receipt of the completed forms and supporting documents signed by the applicant, representing attorney, and official representative of the group contributing the additional $250 to guarantee expenditures of at least $500, the Executive Director will review all of the information in relation to the established policies and procedures and, then, submit this information to the Review Panel for determination of eligibility.
6. **Review Panel:** The ACA President, ACA Immediate Past President, and ACA Executive Director, and President of the applicant’s primary and most relevant Division (subject to the desire of the applicant) shall serve as a review panel for all applications for assistance from the Legal Action Program.
   a) ACA General Counsel will serve as a consultant to the Review Panel.
   b) The judgment of the Review Panel shall be made in accordance with these policies and procedures established by Governing Council.
   c) Applicants seeking support from this program will be notified of the decision of the Review Panel within sixty (60) working days of receipt of the application and all supporting documents.
   d) Once the eligibility for assistance is determined, the member will be notified and a check for the authorized amount will be authorized and made payable to the attorney.
   e) If the Review Panel determines the member is ineligible for assistance, the member may appeal the decision to the ACA Governing Council. The Governing Council shall notify the member of the results of its deliberations, including the reasons for its actions.

**Policy 1701.5 PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR THE ASSOCIATION**

ACA staff is authorized to purchase professional liability insurance for the Association, subordinate entities, staff, and leaders.

Approved: 05/21/95

**Policy 1701.6 NAME, LOGO AND STATIONERY**

A. **Name and Logo:** ACA members may state on business materials that they are a member of the American Counseling Association. When doing so, members are encouraged to state that ACA membership requires adherence to the ACA Code of Ethics. Members may not state or imply that ACA membership certifies counseling competency since ACA does not administer any outcome-based assessment for entry into the association.

ACA members may not use the ACA logo on business materials since the ACA logo is a trademark of the association.

B. **Stationery:** All ACA departments, Officers, Committees, and Regions shall use standard official ACA stationery. Group titles, return addresses, and other information may be typed on the stationery. The ACA Presidents may print on the stationery their names, year of office, addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and any other relevant information.

Approved: 1994; Revised: 03/22/07

**Policy 1701.7 ACA PROFESSIONAL MEMBER LOGO**

A. **Guidelines for Appropriate Use of ACA Professional Member Logo:** Only individuals who meet both criteria indicated below may use the ACA Professional Member Logo:

1. Current ACA members whose membership is active, not lapsed.

2. Membership category is “Professional” or “New Professional.” Individuals in the “Student” or “Regular” categories of membership are expressly prohibited from using the ACA Professional Member Logo. Members who hold membership in the “Retired” category may use the logo if they had been “Professional” members of ACA prior to converting to retiree status. There is no cost to use the logo—it is a member benefit for those in the “Professional,” “New Professional” and “Retiree” categories.
B. Conditions for Appropriate Use:

1. Current ACA Members who wish to use the logo must agree to these conditions:

2. If the member’s ACA membership lapses and not renewed, or if the member is expelled from ACA due to an ethical violation, the member will immediately destroy materials or delete the logos that appear on websites or other electronic sources. Members are urged to select print quantities with this in mind.

3. Under no circumstances is it appropriate for the Member to provide the Professional ACA Member Logo to anyone else, even if they are ACA members. Each member must download their own Member Logo from the ACA website after logging in as a member. Any violation of this condition for use of the Member Logo may be considered a violation of the ACA Code of Ethics and thus subject to terms and conditions outlined in the Code.

4. For either printing or electronic usage, the logo color is black. It is not permissible to use any other color.

5. If use of the logo in a size other than that provided by ACA, the logo art must be sized in proportion and cannot be distorted. The font used in the logo is Trade Gothic Bold. No other font may be used.

Policy 1701.8 AFFINITY PROGRAMS

Affinity Programs provide benefits or services to members of ACA and are designed to garner revenue for the Association. Each vendor/provider is separate and independent of the Association.

A. Membership List Affinity Program: ACA will rent/sell its membership lists to persons or agencies supplying information, materials, products, services, and assistance to counselors and human development specialists. The lists shall be used to announce, promote, or sell information, activities, and products believed to be helpful to or facilitative of professional services rendered by our membership.

B. Nondiscriminatory Use of Membership List: ACA will not knowingly rent/sell membership listings to external sources whose proposed use of the list discriminates on the basis of ethnic group, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and/or disability.

C. Acceptable Advertising: Advertising will be accepted for ACA publications of those services, instruments, products, or institutions that would be of possible professional use, interest, value, or general service to members of ACA. The advertising must be consistent with the type of professional presentation expected by the Association’s members.

Implementing Procedures:

1. Affinity Program Proposals: A proposal for a new affinity program may be solicited by ACA or generated by a potential vendor. Once proposals are received, staff will evaluate the proposals, check references, gather financial information for the company, and make recommendations to the Executive Director.

2. Soliciting Bids: When a proposal is not unusual or “one-of-a-kind,” alternative proposals or bids will be solicited from other vendors. A file will be maintained with former contacts to assist in identifying potential bidders.

3. Specially Designed Programs: If the proposal is unusual or “one-of-a-kind,” (for example, a program designed specifically for ACA), no other bids need be sought.
4. **Member Proposals:** Proposals from members seeking ACA business will be considered on the same basis as other vendors, but great care will be taken to give them personalized treatment and answers. A file of such proposals will be maintained by staff.

5. **Program Extensions:** If a proposal represents an expansion or extension of an existing program (for example a variation on existing credit card program), staff will evaluate according to the “Criteria for Proposal Screening,” dated 9/13/92. Competitive bids are not required if the program is unique or is offered by the current ACA vendor.

6. **Formal Approval:** If the Executive Director determines the results of the staff reviews of the Affinity Program proposals, extensions or expansions warrant initiating or renewing the affinity program, he or she will request approval from the Executive Committee or Governing Council.

7. **Criteria for Proposal Screening:** All project proposals will be evaluated by appropriate staff as follows:

   Criteria for Proposal Screening:
   1. Size of the potential ACA market.
   2. Member service potential: Needs satisfaction and value.
   3. Non-dues revenue production potential.
   4. Impact on staff time and association resources.
   5. Effect on the potential market, including number of non-dues revenue solicitations received by members.
   6. Congruity with ACA’s mission, guidelines of good taste, and overall quality of member benefits, to ensure that ACA’s programs enhance its image.
   7. Vendor’s financial standing, stability and references from other clients, particularly from other non-profit and membership organizations.
   8. Uniqueness of offer: Is it readily available to members elsewhere?
   9. Possible conflicts with other ACA contracts or commitments.

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised: 05/21/95, 06/11/99, 10/07

### Policy 1701.8 GUIDELINES FOR MEETING REQUEST AT THE ACA CONFERENCE

1. Group must adhere to ACA mission, goals, and policies.
2. Related, but unofficial groups other than ACA Divisions, Branches, Region, and Affiliates, requesting meeting space prior to, during, or after the annual conference should submit the request to the ACA Director of Conference and Meetings.
3. Groups must attest in writing that there is a connection with ACA mission, goals, and policies.
4. Group must abide by the ACA non-discrimination policy.
5. The Conference and Meetings Department will forward the request to the ACA Executive Director for final approval.
6. No changes will be made after final approval from the ACA Executive Director.

Approved: 10/15/2011
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Criteria for the Selection of Leaders for ACA Sponsored People To People Ambassador Programs Delegations ...................................................................................................................... 1814.1
A. Blog Content:
   a. Blog content and the replies to the blog are expected to be respectful and useful dialogue about perspectives, experiences, and thoughts about topics related to the ACA mission.
   b. Bloggers and participants are responsible for not including material that is defamatory, abusive, obscene, discriminatory, offensive, commercial, confidential, or proprietary content. This is intended to preclude, among other content:
      i. Unprofessional, defamatory, incendiary, libelous or illegal statements;
      ii. Content deemed as intended to offend a person or group of people based on their race, gender, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, language, ability, ideology, social class, occupation, appearance, mental capacity or any other distinction that might be considered by some as a liability;
      iii. Advertising;
      iv. Content owned by others (proprietary or confidential information).
   c. ACA Blog content may be circulated beyond the blog. If you wish to have a private conversation, you should initiate that outside the blog with the intended recipient.

B. Publication:
   d. ACA blogs represent the opinion of the individual blogger and are not to be considered the opinion of ACA.
   e. ACA has the sole right and discretion to determine if a blog will be accepted for posting.
   f. ACA will endeavor, but does not guarantee, to screen out content noted above as impermissible.
   g. The ACA Director of Professional Projects (DPP) in concurrence with the ACA Chief Professional Officer (CPO), and their designees, will have authority to screen submitted blog content and enforce this policy.

C. Selection of bloggers:
   h. Nominations for bloggers will be accepted every three months.
   i. Anybody on the blog team, as well as the DPP and the CPO, can nominate a Counselor/blogger
   j. ACA has the sole right to determine who will be permitted to participate as bloggers.
   k. All bloggers will be Counselors and ACA members.
   l. It is the intention to involve Bloggers who represent a variety of specialties within the profession and who reflect the diversity and multiculturalism of ACA’s members.
   m. ACA bloggers are meant to have a writing ability commensurate with a Masters-prepared professional.
   n. The DPP and the CPO (in concurrence with others they deem appropriate) will choose the bloggers from the nomination list.

D. Frequency of blog posts:
   o. Beginning bloggers are expected to submit one blog per week for the first twelve weeks.
   p. After the first twelve weeks, bloggers are expected to submit at least one blog per month to remain active in the ACA blog project.

E. Continuation of appointment:
   q. Bloggers are appointed for a one year term.
   r. Re-appointments to remain an ACA blogger will be made annually by the DPP and CPO.

Policy 1802.1 COUNSELING SPECIALIZATION CONSIDERATION

In order to be considered for official recognition by ACA as a counseling specialization, the specialty area must have accomplished the following:
A. **Specialization Recognition:** Achieved recognition as a specialization by CACREP, CORE (rehabilitation counseling), or a similar accrediting group that requires a minimum of a Master’s degree in counseling or a closely related field and is recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA); or

B. **Voluntary National Specialization:** Have a voluntary national specialization credential offered by NBCC, CRCC, or a similar individual certifying group that requires a minimum of a Master’s degree in counseling or a closely related field and is recognized by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

**Policy 1803.1 ENTRY LEVEL COUNSELORS**

A. **Professional Counselor Level:** ACA will advocate for the concept of professional counseling services being offered by no less than entry-level counselors.

B. **Definition of Entry Level:** Entry-level counselors are defined as counselors who hold a masters degree from a CACREP or CORE accredited program or the equivalent.

**Policy 1804.1 HEALTH INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT**

A. **Advocate for Insurance Reimbursement:** ACA will advocate for clients receiving health insurance reimbursement for public and private counseling services provided by qualified counselors.

B. **Criteria for Insurance Reimbursement:** Private and public counselors qualified to render services that should be reimbursed by health insurance meet the following criteria:

1. Hold a masters degree from CACREP or CORE accredited program or hold an equivalent state license, certificate, or registration, or hold an equivalent national professional certification; and
2. have completed course work either as a part of the masters degree or as part of specialized training beyond the masters degree that reflects the mastery or competencies in either of two areas: diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, or psychosocial rehabilitation of mental and emotional disorders; and
3. have a minimum of two years post-masters experience which includes 3,000 hours of supervised counseling experience in the diagnosis and treatment or the psycho-social rehabilitation of mental and emotional disorders and includes 100 hours of face-to-face supervision; and adhere to a professional code of ethics.

**Policy 1805.1 INTERDISCIPLINARY ORGANIZATIONS ENcouraged**

ACA encourages interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary mental health organizations, provided such organizations have purposes, policies, or activities that support, endorse, or are in agreement with the mission or policies of ACA.
Policy 1806.1 LEGISLATION TERMINOLOGY

The term “professional counselor” shall be the standard language used by ACA pursuing all legislation. The term “professional counselor” may be further defined within legislation according to specialty and/or certification where advisable. Bills that were proposed or introduced prior to 1991, including the reintroduction of such bills in a new congressional session, may contain language different from “professional counselor”, e.g. “Professional School Counselor”.

Policy 1807.1 OPPOSITION TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

ACA is opposed to any public or private activities that discriminate against professional counselors or interfere with professional counselors practicing their professions.

Policy 1808.1 PRAYERS AT EVENTS

ACA functions will exclude invocations. ACA entities are encouraged to be respectful of the religious diversity of members

Approved: 09/13/92; Revised 10/07

Policy 1809.1 RECOGNIZED ACCREDITATIONS

ACA endorses the accreditation of professional counseling graduate programs by CACREP and CORE only.

Policy 1810.1 RECOGNIZED COUNSELING SPECIALIZATIONS

ACA officially recognizes the following counseling specializations:

- Career Counseling
- College Counseling
- Community Counseling
- Counselor Education
- Gerontological Counseling
- Couple and Family Counseling
- Mental Health Counseling
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- School Counseling

Policy 1811.1 RECOGNIZED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS

ACA officially recognizes the following mental health professions:

- Counseling
- Medicine (psychiatric specialization)
- Psychology (clinical and counseling specializations)
- Social Work (clinical specialization)
- Nursing (psychiatric specialization)
Policy 1812.1 REVIEW OF STATE CREDENTIALING BILLS

States are strongly encouraged to submit bills to ACA for review. The purposes of this review are to promote the development of uniform counseling credentialing laws based on ACA standards, to provide technical assistance to ACA Branches, and to determine if ACA will endorse proposed bills.

PROCEDURES:
The following procedures were established at the July 1992 meetings of the Public Policy and Legislation Committee (PPLC) and Professional Standards Committee.

A. Materials for Review: This process begins when a state sends four copies of the proposed legislation to ACA for initial review.
   1. Each bill should show evidence that the ACA Model Licensure Bill has been consulted.
   2. Language and content of the state bill is not expected to exactly match the model bill. However, state bills are expected to be consistent with definitions and provisions specified in the Model Licensure Bill.
   3. In order to provide written feedback to state leaders in a timely manner, reviewers are encouraged to submit their comments to the Professional Standards Committee’s Liaison to the Public Policy and Legislation Committee (to be referred to as “the Liaison”) within ten days of receiving the bill.
   4. Review materials can be faxed with hard copies sent later.

B. Procedures for Review: The following steps will be taken in reviewing a proposed bill:
   1. The date the proposed legislation is received is noted. ACA critiques the proposed bill and fills out the “State Credentialing Legislation Key Elements Checklist” and the “Criteria for Review of State Counselor Credentialing Bills” to compare elements of the state bill with the ACA Model Licensure Bill.
   2. The Checklist is forwarded to the chair of the PPLC’s Licensure Subcommittee (to be referred to as “the Chair”) and the Liaisons.
   3. In order to promote the independence of the review of the proposed legislation, the Criteria for Review form, including staff analysis of the proposed bill and recommendations, will be sent in a sealed envelope to the Liaison only.
   4. The Chair fills out the Criteria for Review form. He or she may delegate this task, or request additional review by a member(s) of the PPLC Licensure Subcommittee.
   5. The Liaison fills out the Criteria for Review form. He or she may delegate the task, or request additional review by a member(s) of the Professional Standards Committee. After formulating his or her own recommendations regarding the content of the proposed bill, the Liaison will compare these to those made by staff and the Chair on their criteria forms and make final determination as to endorsement (in consultation with Committee members as needed).
   6. The Liaison provides the state licensure contact person and the state ACA president with written feedback and recommendations based on reviewers’ comments.
   7. The Liaison forwards copies of all review materials, including those sent to the Liaison by the Chair and the feedback letter(s), to ACA for maintenance of files pertaining to the review of all states’ proposed legislation.

Policy 1813.1 SPECIALIZATION STATE REGULATION OPPOSED

ACA endorses state regulation of professional counselors and is opposed to state regulation of specializations.
Policy 1814.1  CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF LEADERS FOR ACA SPONSORED PEOPLE TO PEOPLE AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS DELEGATIONS

Leaders for ACA sponsored People To People Ambassador Programs delegations will be selected by the ACA President. ACA staff will recommend candidates utilizing the following criteria:

1. The leader selected will be a well known name in the counseling profession. This will help to market the program and to ensure that enough ACA members sign up for the delegation to make it viable.
2. The leader selected will have an international orientation. Specifically, the leader will:
   a. value cultural differences.
   b. see alternative approaches in the host country as different and valuable rather than as inferior to US approaches.
   c. understand that the ACA delegates have much to learn from counselors in the host country.
3. The leader selected is diplomatic and can further international relations with counselors and dignitaries in the host country.
4. The leader selected has good leadership and group skills. A democratic leadership style is highly valued.
5. The leader selected will set the importance of providing an excellent experience for the delegates as a priority.
6. The leader selected will be willing to spend significant time communicating and planning with the delegates in the months before the delegation.
7. The leader selected will be willing to write a four to six page article for the People To People journal within two weeks of returning from the delegation.
8. In order to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, members of the ACA Governing Council, ACA division presidents, ACA region chairs, and ACA branch presidents may not be named as a delegation leader during the period in which they serve in office.

Approved: 10/28/10