



Society of Indian Psychologists



BYLAWS

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Article I: Name and Mission

1.1 Name of the Society

The organization will be known as the Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP). “Indian” refers to the American Indians and other Indigenous peoples of the United States, including Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

1.2 Mission Statement

The mission of SIP is to advocate for the psychological well-being of American Indian and other Indigenous peoples and to advance knowledge pertaining to Indigenous psychology.

1.3 Purpose of the Society

The purpose of SIP is to:

- a) Create a forum in which SIP members can network and support each other
- b) Provide outreach and mentorship to American Indian psychology students.
- c) Advance the understanding of the psychology of American Indian people.
- d) Further the development of research methods and models of treatment and intervention that are ethically and culturally appropriate for American Indian people.
- e) Contribute to the scientific understanding of features of ethnicity, culture and class among American Indian people.
- f) Promote adequate education and training related to American Indian people.
- g) Facilitate a professional exchange concerning relevant policy, practice, and research related to American Indian people at the annual SIP convention and beyond.

Article II: Membership

2.1 Membership Criteria

SIP membership is open to individuals who subscribe to the Mission Statement, including psychologists, mental health and related professionals, students, and others interested in advocating for American Indian psychology. The three categories of membership include Full Member, Student Member, and Golden Age Member (aged 65-years or older).

2.2 Application for Membership

Individuals who wish to join SIP can complete a membership application at the current Society of Indian Psychologists website or, if necessary, request membership information directly from SIP leadership.

2.3 Membership Dues

Membership dues are established by the Executive Committee. Discrete fees are defined for Student Membership, Golden Age Membership (aged 65 years and older), Past Presidents (lifetime membership with no dues), and those contending with financial hardship. SIP members in good standing must be current on their annual membership dues (or applications for due waivers) and have provided an up-to-date email address for communication purposes. All Past Presidents of the SIP are entitled to lifetime membership in the Society without further payment of dues.

2.4 Membership Rights & Responsibilities

SIP members, in good standing, have the right to vote in SIP elections, and to subscribe to the SIP listserv. SIP members are responsible for working collaboratively to strengthen SIP, including providing an updated email address. SIP members should not engage in any activities that harm other SIP members or those served by the Society, put SIP in structural or financial jeopardy, or bring discredit to SIP.

2.5 Removal from Membership

If the Executive Committee determines that specific SIP members have violated their responsibilities, their membership may be revoked. Such individuals will be removed from SIP's active membership list.

Article III: Executive Committee and Officers

3.1 Composition of Executive Committee

There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the Presidential Trio (President, Past President, and President Elect), Treasurer, Secretary, Council of Elders, APA Council Representative, Student Representatives, and ad hoc appointed committee Chairs as determined by the Elected Officers (e.g., Conference Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Awards Committee Chair, Mentorship Committee Chair, Chapter Liaisons). Only the Elected Officers will vote on official SIP business (when formal votes are deemed necessary). Generally, all will be American Indian people unless membership approves otherwise.

3.2 Election and Term of Office

SIP Officers are elected through an annual vote by SIP members, in which a simple majority vote among those voting wins the election. Normally, elections will be conducted online, at the discretion of the Elected Officers. Officers shall hold office for a two-year term with the APA Council Representative serving a three-year term. SIP President will be elected in odd years and the nominee for SIP President shall provide evidence of American Indian heritage. Evidence of American Indian Heritage can include tribal enrollment, tribal descendant, direct tribal lineage, BIA documentation, letter of acknowledgement from the tribe, or other acceptable documentation as determined by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer and Secretary will be elected in even years. Student representatives will serve for two years with one being elected annually. Vacancies will be filled by appointment by the Presidential Trio until the following election.

3.3 Removal and Resignation of Officers

An Elected Officer may be removed from office when the membership holds "no confidence" for the office holder. The decision for removal will be made by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee in Executive session. Elected Officers may resign from office by sending a letter or email of resignation to the President and/or Secretary.

3.4 President

The President shall provide leadership and preside at Executive Committee meetings. The President will also represent SIP at meetings where such presence is necessary. The President may delegate these duties to the Past President, President Elect or another member. The Executive Committee may designate further duties to the President to meet the demands of the Society.

3.5 Past President

The Past President shall advise the President of the duties and responsibilities of the Office of the President, and perform other duties delegated by the President or requested by the Executive Committee.

3.6 President Elect

The President Elect shall assume the office of the President at the end of a two-year term, and perform other duties delegated by the President or requested by the Executive Committee in the interim.

3.7 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall supervise the financial affairs of the Society, prepare a report on SIP finances at least twice a year, and perform other duties as directed by the Executive Committee.

3.8 Secretary

The Secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings of the Society, share minutes with the Executive Committee, schedule and convene meetings, and perform other duties as directed by the Executive Committee. If unavailable for a specific meeting, the Secretary will request another Executive Committee member to perform their duties.

3.9 Student Representatives

Student Representatives shall have the responsibility to represent Student members' interests as a part of the Executive Committee, to plan student activities for SIP's annual convention, and to attend the Executive Committee meetings.

3.10 APA Council Representative

The SIP representative to the American Psychological Association's Council of Representatives shall represent SIP's interests at APA Council meetings and routinely engage with and report about APA activities to the Executive Committee and SIP's membership.

3.11 Council of Elders

The Council of Elders is comprised of previous SIP Presidents. The Council of Elders serves as an advisory group for the Presidential Trio and the Executive Committee. They hold an honored role as keepers of the Society's history and maintenance of the cultural integrity of traditional governance. The Council of Elders recognizes that there are different traditions for different tribal groups and works together in respectful ways to reach decisions in everyone's best interest.

Article IV: Meetings

4.1 General Membership Meetings

General Membership Meetings will be convened twice annually in association with the annual SIP convention (typically in June) and during the winter months (typically in January).

4.2 Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee will meet monthly or as needed.

Article V: Committees

5.1: Standing Committees

The Standing Committees of the Association shall be the Bylaws Committee, Membership Committee, Mentoring Committee, and the Awards Committee. The Bylaws Committee will be appointed by the Presidential Trio and may be comprised of the Council of Elders, an Early Career member, and Trio Member. The other committees will be appointed by the Presidential Trio.

5.2 Special Committees & Task Forces

The President and Executive Committee may establish time limited Special Committees or Task Forces for specific, temporary purposes beyond the purview of existing committees. Such committees shall conduct their work in consultation with the President and Executive Committee.

5.3 Committee Reports

All committees will report on their activities to the President and/or Executive Committee no less than twice annually. Some committee chairs may be asked to report on their committee's activities at General Membership Meetings.

Article VI: Non-Discrimination

6.1 Society Policy

SIP is committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, national origin, veteran status, ancestry, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or age. Concerns can be reported to the Executive Committee for assessment and remedy.

Article VII: Bylaw Amendments

7.1 Proposing Bylaw Amendments

Amendments to the SIP Bylaws may be proposed by members of the Executive Committee. Membership at large may also submit proposed changes to the Presidential Trio for review and comments, which will then be forwarded to the Executive Committee and the Council of Elders. The Executive Committee may then provide comments to the Bylaws Committee.

7.2 Review of Proposed Bylaw Amendments

The Bylaws Committee will review the proposed amendments and make recommendations to the Executive Committee, who will make the final decision to reject the amendments or to submit the proposed amendments to a vote of the general membership. Rejected proposals will not move forward.

7.3 Voting on Bylaw Amendments

Proposals deemed acceptable by the Executive Committee will be submitted to SIP membership for a vote, which requires support from a two-thirds majority of participating voting members to pass. Proposed Bylaw amendments should be circulated to the general membership at least six weeks prior to the annual SIP election (usually in association with the SIP convention in June). If this is not feasible, then voting will occur at the subsequent election.

Article VIII: Affiliated Membership Chapters

8.1 Eligibility

Local groups of psychologists and other mental health professionals and trainees that subscribe to the Mission Statement and maintain good standing in SIP may form an Affiliated Membership Chapter. All Affiliated Chapter members must also be SIP members in good standing.

8.2 Applications

Local groups of professionals or trainees may apply for Affiliated Chapter Membership. Applications for Affiliated Chapter Membership will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.

8.3 Dues

Chapter dues will be assessed annually.

8.4 Liaison to the Executive Committee

Each Chapter will select a (non-voting) liaison for the Executive Committee.

8.5 Removal

Any Affiliated Membership Chapter that is not in good standing will be removed from SIP, as determined by the Executive Committee.