

# **GUIDE DOG USERS OF ARIZONA**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE 1. NAME.**

- (A) The name of this organization shall be Guide Dog Users of Arizona, hereinafter to be known as GDUA.**
- (B) The name of Guide Dog Users of Arizona shall not be used by any person or organization without the expressed written consent of the President and/or the Board of Directors of GDUA.**

### **ARTICLE 2. PURPOSES.**

**The purpose of this organization shall be:**

- (A) To promote the acceptance of guide dog teams by all agencies, employers, educational institutions, those doing business with the general public, and by the general public.**
- (B) To work for the standardization and enforcement and expansion of the legal provisions governing the admission of guide dog users to public places, transportation, facilities, hotels, apartments, restaurants, places of amusement and all places to which the general public is invited.**
- (C) To work to improve the scope and quality of educational, cultural, rehabilitation and employment opportunities for guide dog users through cooperation and affiliation with Guide Dog Users, Inc (GDUI), the Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB), and the American Council of the Blind (ACB).**
- (D) To encourage and improve the relationship between Guide dog puppy raisers, guide dog users and guide dog schools.**
- (E) To work to improve the scope and quality of guide dog breeding, selection, training, health care, and guide dog retirement.**

### **ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING**

- (A) Any person 18 years of age or older may become a member of GDUA upon compliance with the provisions and requirements of this constitution and such bylaws as may be adopted.**
- (B) Junior Members - Any individual who is the age of thirteen (13) but under the age of eighteen (18) may join as a Junior Member. Junior members shall have the right to attend meetings and to participate in the discussion of motions, votes and other organizational business, but shall not have the right to hold office, make motions or cast votes.**
- (C) The majority of GDUA members shall be guide dog users.**
- (D) All members in good standing shall have the right to cast their individual votes at any meeting of the membership of GDUA, AZCB, GDUI and ACB.**
- (E) All GDUA members will also be members of the AzCB, GDUI, and ACB.**

#### **Article 4 OFFICERS of GUIDE DOG USERS OF ARIZONA AND DIRECTORS.**

- (A) The officers of GDUA shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.**
- (B) Only members of GDUA can be officers. No member can serve in multiple offices simultaneously.**
- (C) The President and Vice-President must be guide dog users.**
- (D) Elections shall be held in the Fall of each year. All officers shall be elected by a vote of the membership for terms of one year; except for the President. The President will serve a two-year term.**
- (E) There will be two members elected to serve as Directors on the GDUA board. One Director shall be elected in odd numbered years to serve a two-year term with a second elected in even numbered years also to serve a two-year term.**
- F) The officers shall perform the usual duties of their offices as provided for in the most recent edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, Newly Revised, unless otherwise**

provided for by this constitution or such bylaws as may be enacted.

- (G) The Officers and the Board of Directors shall be the governing body of GDUA between meetings of the membership.**
- (H) Board meetings may be held in person or by telephone. A majority of the Board including two guide dog users shall constitute a quorum at such meetings.**
- (I) All elections shall be by a majority vote of the member's present.**

#### **ARTICLE 5. MEETINGS.**

- (A) GDUA shall hold one membership meeting a year to be held in the fall, and a workshop. These meetings may be held concurrently.**
- (B) One-third of the members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.**
- (C) The President or a majority of the Board of Directors may call a special meeting. At least two weeks' notice must be given to the membership in order to hold a special meeting.**
- (D) Special meetings of the membership can be conducted via conference call.**

#### **ARTICLE 6. FISCAL YEAR.**

- (A) The fiscal year of GDUA shall be from January 1 through December 31st.**
- (B) All fees, membership and other requirements of affiliation with AzCB, GDUI and ACB shall be provided as determined by the organization.**

#### **ARTICLE 7. RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.**

- (A) Any officer or director may resign from office by notifying the President in writing. The Board of Directors may,**

thereafter, in its discretion, elect a person to serve in the vacant office until the next annual meeting.

- (B) Any officer or director may be removed from office for good and sufficient cause as enumerated in Bylaw 5, by a vote of two-thirds of the total membership of the Board of Directors; however, in no event, shall the Board vote to remove a person from office until the officer or director has been given notice in writing of the charges pending against him/her and is afforded an opportunity to appear and defend against the alleged charges.
- (C) At the next annual meeting, the membership of this organization shall, if necessary, elect a person to complete the term for which the resigned or removed officer or director was originally elected.

#### **ARTICLE 8. Amendments**

- (A) This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members attending a regular or special meeting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been mailed to the membership not less than 30 days prior to the meeting.
- (B) All bylaw amendments shall be approved by a majority vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 9. COMMITTEES**

- (A) The President shall appoint the chairperson of all committees within the organization unless otherwise instructed by the membership or the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE 10. AFFILIATION**

- (A) This organization shall be affiliated with Guide Dog Users Inc. GDUA will also be an affiliate of the Arizona Council of the Blind AzCB, and abide by any established rules in the AzCB constitution governing affiliates.

## **ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION**

- (A) Upon a vote of dissolution by 85 percent of the active membership and after paying all of its debts and obligations, all remaining funds shall revert to Guide Dog Users, Inc.**

## **BYLAWS**

### **1. DUES:**

- (A) The annual dues of this organization shall be \$20.**
- (B) Of the twenty dollars, eight dollars will be sent to GDUI, ten dollars sent to AZCB, and two dollars shall be deposited in the GDUA account. These dues shall be determined from time to time by a majority vote of the membership at any regular meeting.**
- (C) A majority shall be half of the members in good standing plus one.**
- (D) Annual dues shall be payable at each fall meeting and become delinquent as of January 1 of each year.**

### **2. FINANCES:**

- (A) The President and the Treasurer shall be responsible for the selection of a bank where GDUA bank accounts shall be established.**
- (B) The Treasurer may issue checks upon the order of the President.**
- (C) Either the President or the Treasurer may sign checks on behalf of the organization.**
- (D) The Treasurer and the President shall not spend more than \$50 without the approval of the Board of Directors or the membership.**

### **3. VACANCIES:**

- (A) If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice-President shall assume the office.**
- (B) If a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President, the President may appoint a GDUA member in good standing to serve until the next annual meeting of the organization. This appointment is subject to approval by a vote of a majority of GDUA board members. An election will be held at the next annual meeting for the office in which any member in good standing may be elected. The individual elected at that meeting will complete the term of the previous Vice-President or serve a full term if the previous one has been completed.**
- (C) If a vacancy occurs in another office of the organization, the Board of Directors shall appoint a person to continue in that office until the next scheduled election.**

### **4. CONVENTION DELEGATES:**

- (A) On or before July 1], the board shall appoint a delegate and an alternate delegate to serve at the annual convention of Guide Dog Users, Inc.**

### **5. GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE:**

- (A) Failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors without just cause.**
- (B) Failure to pay dues or otherwise comply with the membership requirement of GDUA.**
- (C) Failure to perform the duties of office as prescribed by the constitution and bylaws.**
- (D) Performance of the duties of office in a manner that is detrimental to the aims and purposes of this organization.**
- (E) Conviction of a felony.**

### **6. STANDING COMMITTEES:**

- (A) Fund raising.**
- (B) Advocacy.**
- (C) Membership.**
- (D) Legislative.**
- (E) Public Relations.**
- (F) Publications.**
- (G) Special Needs.**

**Revision November, 2016**