

THE LEISURE AND AGING BRANCH

PERSONNEL

The Governing Body of the Leisure and Aging Branch shall consist of the Chair, Chair-Elect/Vice Chair, and five regional representatives, one from each of the TRAPS' regions.

Each regional representative will serve staggered terms and oversee one of the following areas: *Awards & Nominations subcommittee*, *Social-Media & Marketing sub-committee*, *Branch Education subcommittee*, *Legislative Task Force*, and the *TRAPS Education Task Force*.

PURPOSE

- A. To promote and provide professional development, education, and growth for leisure and aging professionals.
- B. To foster inter-organization and peer linkages.

FUNCTION

- A. To serve as a medium to unite people employed or interested in leisure and aging services in the State of Texas.
- B. To foster and maintain high standards of professional quality and ethics among those who provide leisure and aging services.
- C. To promote professional development by planning for leisure and aging awareness and participation at the Annual Institute and regional workshops.
- D. To cooperate with other members of the Texas Recreation and Park Society and with other associations, agencies, societies, and organizations, which could conceivably enrich the lives of those, we serve.
- E. To render whatever assistance possible to any of the above in the establishment, awareness and improvement of leisure and aging services.

CONSTITUTION OF THE LEISURE AND AGING BRANCH

(Approved 9/1/13 and ratified by TRAPS Board 11/22/13; 2/7/22 and ratified by TRAPS Board 2/15/22)

We, the representatives of the leisure and aging professionals/para-professionals in the State of Texas, in order to unite the state's leisure and aging personnel and stimulate interaction and cooperation among ourselves and between us and other recreation personnel, that we may better serve our consumers and the overall population of the state, that we may initiate and promote the establishment, improvement, and proper use of facilities and services, that we may encourage the professional development of the leisure and aging personnel, do hereby proclaim the following to be the laws of the Leisure and Aging Branch of the Texas Recreation and Park Society.

ARTICLE 1. NAME, TERRITORY OF OPERATION AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. Name. The Name by which this organization shall be known and distinguished is and shall be the LEISURE AND AGING BRANCH OF THE TEXAS RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY.

Section 2. Territory of Operations. The territory in which the operations of the Leisure and Aging Branch (The Branch) are to be principally conducted in the State of Texas.

Section 3. Objectives. The objectives of this branch shall be:

1. To serve as a medium to unite people employed or interested in leisure and aging services in Texas.
2. To foster and maintain high standards of professional quality and ethics among those involved in leisure and aging services.
3. To increase awareness and encourage professional standards of operations and leadership among personnel involved in providing recreational, social, educational and leisure services for older adults.
4. To promote professional development in leisure and aging through regional workshops and the TRAPS annual conference.
5. To cooperate with other members of the Texas Recreation and Park Society and with other associations, agencies, societies and organizations, which could conceivably enrich the lives of those, we serve.
6. To render whatever technical assistance possible to any of the above in the establishment and improvement of leisure and aging services enhanced accessibility assessment and evaluation of programs and services.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. State Membership. All members of the Texas Recreation and Park Society are eligible for membership in the Branch who have an interest or professional involvement in leisure and aging services and meet the requirements as provided in the Texas Recreation and Park Society bylaws.

Section 2. Dues. Dues and provision for payment thereof shall be determined by the Board of Directors of the Texas Recreation and Park Society.

ARTICLE III. GOVERNING BODY

- Section 1. Governing Body: The governing Body of the Branch shall consist of the Chair, Chair-Elect/Vice Chair, and five regional representatives, one from each of the TRAPS' regions.

Section 2. Terms of Office. The Chair and Chair-Elect/Vice-Chair will serve a one-year term; and the Chair-Elect/Vice-Chair will move into the Chair role, making the Chair-Elect into a two-year commitment.

The five regional representative, one from each of the TRAPS' regions, will serve a one-year term. Each regional representative will serve staggered terms and oversee one of the following areas:

- Awards & Nominations subcommittee, Social Media & Marketing sub-committee, Branch Education subcommittee, Legislatives Task Force, and the TRAPS Education Task Force.
- Three representatives shall be elected in the even years and two representatives elected in the odd year.

The Chair, Chair-Elect/Vice-Chair, and the five regional representatives may serve consecutive terms. The Branch leadership shall hold office until their successors are elected and installed.

Section 3. Vacancies

- A. Chair/President. A vacancy in the office of the Chair/President shall be filled by the advancement of the Chair/President-Elect. The Chair/President-Elect shall assume the duties of the Chair/President for the remainder of the vacated term.
- B. Chair/President-Elect: When a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair/President-Elect, the remaining members of the Governing Body shall appoint a person to fill the office for the remainder of the term for which the retired officer was originally elected.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 1. Branch Meeting. The Branch will meet as a whole once a year at the Texas Recreation and Park Society Annual Institute and Expo.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the Chair/President by written request of fifteen (15) professional members and notification of said meeting to the Executive Director of Texas Recreation and Park Society. The Secretary shall notify each voting member at least ten (10) days in advance of the called meeting.

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution shall be by the vote of the membership by ballot. A copy of all proposed amendments shall be filed with the Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual election, and the ballot listing the amendments shall be mailed to each voting member at least twenty (20) days prior to the election. Two-thirds (2/3) of the ballots cast must favor an amendment before it shall be ratified. If the annual meeting shall not be held, the members shall be informed of results by mail.

BYLAWS OF THE LEISURE AND AGING BRANCH

(Approved 9/1/13 and ratified by TRAPS Board 11/22/13)

1. Order of Business: The Governing Body shall determine the order of business.
2. Governing Body: Governing Body shall be elected only by ballot. The TRAPS Membership Manager shall prepare a list of all members of the Leisure and Aging Branch (The Branch) eligible to vote, in cooperation with the Executive Director of Texas Recreation and Park Society.
3. Duties of the Officers:

Chair/President: Shall act as presiding officer of the Leisure and Aging Branch Governing Body; shall serve as a member of all committees; prepares agenda for Leisure and Aging Branch meetings, and business meetings of the Branch; keeps informed on needs, opinions of the membership and interprets these to the Leisure and Aging Branch and the Board of Directors of the Texas Recreation and Park Society; and any other duties necessary to carry on the function of this office.

Chair/President-Elect: Serves as a voting member of the Leisure and Aging Branch presides in the absence of the Chair/President; coordinates the work plans of the committees/task forces; shall become acquainted with the activities of the Branch and duties of the Chair/President; and any other duties deemed necessary by the Chair/President to carry on the function of this office.
4. Duties and Powers of Committees/Task Forces: The duties of committees/task forces may be appointed to meet the needs of the branch or goals of the Chair/President. Committees/Task Forces may include such things as nominations/elections committee, constitution/bylaws committee, and membership committee, etc.
5. Amendments: The Governing Body may amend the Bylaws by two-thirds (2/3) vote. The membership shall be given notice of the proposed amendments sixty (60) days prior to consideration by the committee. If twenty percent (20%) of the members object to the proposed amendment in writing prior to the suspended date, the amendment shall be submitted to the membership for referendum.