

March 1, 2023

Dear Members of PSAD,

This purpose of this letter is to inform you that PSAD is interested in having the organization name change and would like to get answers from you with your vote. With the recent resolution 21-3, it requested that we must finish this BEFORE the upcoming conference in September 2023. Also, there was an amendment on the proposed Bylaws #1 – it was tabled and referred to the board to “host the town hall meetings”.

The PSAD Board decided to form a committee and let them to find a solution to figure how to move with the Proposed Bylaws Amendment #1. We, the #PSAD Name Change committee, had several meetings to discuss this topic. We felt that there is not necessary to host the town hall meetings due to several factors:

1. We might not have the accurate voting.
2. People could come to the town meetings at several locations on several times.
3. It might present a difficult way to figure out if this person is a member or not. The membership secretary must be at every meeting.
4. Some people prefer having a town hall meeting at their hometown where they live. It is hard to find locations among the state of Pennsylvania and meet everyone’s preference.

We also are aware that there is a better way to do this with current technology; however, we don’t have the updated email addresses (many email addresses were bounced back; most couples have ONE email account). We, strongly feel this is the best way to mail out and have members to check which name they prefer to select.

We are requesting that you print and sign the voting form and mail it to Lynn Stroud, c/o #PSAD Name Change. We feel it is very important that we reach many members and we hope you find time to VOTE. Please use the self-addressed stamped envelope to return your votes back to us. **The deadline is July 30, 2023.**

The current plan will be:

- 1) Gathering the votes from the members via mail
- 2) We will count votes and inform members at the conference with result
- 3) We will ask members attending the 2023 conference at King of Prussia to ratify the votes.

There will be no further discussions at the conference

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Grace Shirk-Emmons at 717-283-4179 VP. Vlog on this will be available on www.psad.org also.

Thank you,

#PSAD Name Change Committee

Grace Shirk-Emmons - Denise Brown - Lynn Stroud - Evy Willams

Proposed Bylaws Amendment #1

Conference of Chapters, Committees, and Sections (COCCS) proposed to change the name of Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf to Pennsylvania State Association of the Deaf.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf\Pennsylvania State Association of the Deaf
FIRST: The name of the corporation is Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement Association of the Deaf (PSAD).

Accordingly, there are 26 proposed changes of the word Society to Association in the By-Laws, if approved.

Background Information: In 2011, PSAD Board established a Two-Year Study Committee (2011-2014) to prepare PSAD for the future. The Co-Chairs of this committee were Frank Nemshick and Jeffrey Yockey. One of the recommendations was to change the name of the organization to the Pennsylvania State Association of the Deaf and to keep the same logo and abbreviation, PSAD.

Rationale: "Society" is defined as a voluntary association of persons for common goals/interests. Many think it is a small group of people like a club. All other State Associations associated with NAD have Association in their organization names. The Logo and Abbreviation will remain the same - PSAD.

PSAD will continue to be recognized as a statewide organization. In 1881, the terms Society and Advancement were appropriate and meaningful. Today we are much more as we update the terms in tune with today's language.

Bylaws Committee: We support the change. If approved, the Bylaws committee recommends that PSAD consult an attorney about the name change in the Articles of Incorporation.

PSAD Board: The Board supports the change.

Robert Probst motion to close this proposal due to the objections and comments of those in favor of it. Jeffrey Yockey asked to open the floor for voting and start a poll to keep the discussion going or to start the voting for the proposal.

Poll on close the discussion, Support 48% - 15 members, oppose 39% - 12 members, abstain 1% - 4 members.

Poll in Proposed Bylaws Amendment #1, support 52%, opposed 33% or abstain 15%.

Grace Shirk-Emmons motion that we continue the discussion until all is satisfied, not end it with three objections and three in favor of.

Second recognized

Denise Brown motion that the Proposed Bylaws Amendment #1 to be lay on the table and Board of Managers need to study more related to name changing.

Second recognized

Poll on the Proposed Bylaws Amendment #1 to be lay on the table - Support 70%, Oppose 30%
Vote passed

Resolution 21-3

WHEREAS the topic regarding the name change for PSAD needs to be explored some more with the decision to be made before the conference in 2023 per the motion earlier today.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Managers host several town hall meetings so members can have chances to share their positive and negative comments before the members can make the decision.

SUBMITTED BY: Charles McGowan

Second recognized

ACTION TAKEN: Refer to the Board.

Patricia Stroud amends to have virtual include in case if we cannot have Town Halls in person

Second recognized

Robyn Miller motion to close the discussion

Second recognized

Poll on the motion to close the discussion, Support 100%

Vote passed

Poll on the amend – support 96%, Opposed 4%

Vote passed

Poll on **Resolution 21-3**, Support 85%, Opposed 15%

Vote passed

Note:

We have Gary Bootay's attempt to change name in 2014. His rationale was:

Resolution 14-02:

*Whereas the historical name of Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf is outdated

*Whereas the words for the Advancement of the Deaf was appropriate many years ago when we had no telephone service, no captioning, no interpreters and no CART service

*Whereas today PSAD focuses on many issues besides “advancing the deaf” such as the fight for equality, non-discrimination, and the education of peers as members of state advisory boards and councils.

*Whereas the original name was Pennsylvania Association of Deaf Mutes. The name was changed in 1888 to PSAD to allow and encourage hearing persons to join and help (especially in project to raise funds for and manage a home for aged deaf)

*Be it resolved that the PSAD name to be updated to Pennsylvania Association of the Deaf

*Be it further resolved that the name of Pennsylvania State Association of the deaf will be synonymous with the names of all other state associations.

#PSAD Name Change - VOTE

Lynn Stroud
PO Box 24
Middlebury Center, PA 16935

I prefer: (select only one)

_____ Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf

_____ Pennsylvania Association of the Deaf

_____ Pennsylvania State Association of the Deaf
(Formerly known as Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf)

Print Name: _____ Sign Name: _____

Address: _____ email: _____

Please use the self-addressed stamped envelope to mail back

Votes are to be returned to:

Lynn Stroud
PO Box 24
Middlebury Center, PA 16935

I prefer: (select only one)

_____ Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf

_____ Pennsylvania Association of the Deaf

_____ Pennsylvania State Association of the Deaf
(Formerly known as Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf)

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