



# The Society of Indian Psychologists

## Executive Board

President

Gayle Skawen:nio Morse

President Elect - Iva Greywolf

Past President – Art Blume

Secretary - Joanna Shadlow

Treasurer-Chris Morris & BJ Boyd

## BY-LAWS

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## Article I: Name and Mission

**Section 1.01:** Society of Indian Psychologists, hereinafter referred to as SIP, or the Society for Indian Psychologists.

The term “Indian” refers to the Indigenous people of the Americas. Individual members of SIP who are Indigenous usually prefer to be identified by their traditional tribal names. Other group names sometimes referred to are Indigenous, Alaska Native, American Indian, Native American, Native Hawaiian, First Nations, Aboriginal people, and Native people.

**Section 1.02:** The Mission of the Society of Indian Psychologists is to provide an organization to advocate for the mental and emotional well-being of Native peoples by increasing the knowledge and awareness of issues impacting Native mental health.

**Section 1.03** Purposes of the Society of Indian Psychologists

- (a) To create a forum where SIP members can network and get mentoring and support from each other;
- (b) To provide outreach, guidance and mentoring to Indigenous students of psychology;
- (c) To advance understanding of the psychology of Indigenous people;
- (d) To further the development of research methods and models of treatment and intervention that are ethnically and culturally appropriate for Indigenous people;
- (e) To advance the scientific understanding of features of ethnicity, culture and class among Indigenous people;
- (f) To accentuate the importance of adequate education and training in service and investigative approaches related to indigenous people;
- (g) To advocate on behalf of Indigenous psychologists to promote professionalism and representation;
- (h) To provide a forum for the presentation of policy, clinical and research findings in the area of services to AN/AI and other Indigenous of all age groups at annual SIP convention.



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## Article II: Membership

**Section 2.01:** Membership in the Society of Indian Psychologists is open to any person who subscribes to the Mission of the SIP. Membership in SIP is open to psychologists and students in the mental health disciplines as well as others interested in advocating for Native mental health. Some of the affiliated professions include professions involved with the development, interpretation and implementation of policies affecting mental health research and services. Such professions include, but are not limited to, counseling, Native American studies, family studies, law medicine (e.g., primary care specialties, psychiatry, administration, public health, social work and sociology).

There are three categories of membership: full member, student member, elder member.

**Section 2.02:** Application for Membership, anyone wishing to join SIP can do so by gaining access to the website (<https://www.aiansip.org/>), or contacting the Membership Committee Chair, Webmaster, President or Secretary for application forms and further information about SIP.

**Section 2.03:** Review and Approval of a membership application will be made by the Membership Committee and forwarded to the President for final approval.

**Section 2.04:** Membership rights and responsibilities include voting rights in SIP elections and receipt of a Quarterly Newsletter which may be posted on the SIP webpage.

**Section 2.05:** Removal from membership results from a lack of good standing; any member who is not in good standing will be removed from the active membership list of SIP. Removal will be based on a review conducted by the Membership Committee and a decision of the Executive Committee.

**Section 2.06:** Dues will be assessed for membership. Special provision will be made for student membership. Special provision will be made for elders (retirees). There shall be a special provision for hardship; those who are unable to pay the yearly dues set by the Executive Committee.

**Section 2.07:** *Good standing* requires the member to be current on annual SIP membership dues (or applications for due waivers). Being a Member in good standing affirms the Member's commitment to the vision of the SIP and other SIP policies. It is expected that members in good standing will work collaboratively to strengthen the Society and will not engage in any activities that: a) harm SIP members nor those we serve;

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b) put SIP in structural or financial jeopardy; c) that will bring discredit to SIP.

## Article III: Executive Committee and Officers

**Section 3.01:** There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of a President, Past President, and President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, APA Council of Representative Delegate, Conference Coordinator, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Student Affiliate/Representatives and Appointed Ad Hoc Groups., Generally all will be Native people unless membership approves otherwise.

**Section 3.02:** Election and Term of Office; Officers of the SIP shall be elected by members present at the annual meeting. A simple majority vote wins the election. Officers shall hold office for a two-year term. Elections will be held at the annual meeting. President will be elected in odd years when new president is installed and Treasurer and Secretary will be elected in even years. Student representatives will be for two years with one being elected annually. Vacancies, regardless of cause, will be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee. Voting may be conducted at the annual convention or via online voting procedures through a confidential survey mechanism.

**Section 3.03:** Removal of Officers; officers may be removed from office when the membership holds “no confidence” for the office holder. The decision for removal will be made by a Quorum or simple majority vote of the Executive Committee or by simple majority vote of the general membership. A call for a vote must be presented at least two weeks before a vote by a majority of the Executive Committee. Voting may be conducted at the annual convention or via online voting procedures through a confidential survey mechanism.

**Section 3.04:** President: The President shall have the responsibility to provide leadership and preside at EC meetings throughout the year. The President will also represent SIP at meetings where such presence is necessary to further the mission and purposes of the organization. The President may delegate these duties to the Past President, President Elect or other member. The Executive Committee may assign further duties to the President to meet organizational demands.

**Section 3.05** Past President: The Past President shall have the responsibility to advise

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the President of the duties and responsibilities of the Office of the President. The Past President may represent SIP as requested by the President.

- Section 3.06:** President Elect: The President Elect shall have the responsibility to support leadership by representing the President at his/her request. The President Elect shall take the office of the President at the end of a two year term;
- Section 3.07:** Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have the responsibility to supervise the financial affairs of the organization and prepare a report on SIP finances at least twice a year and perform other duties as directed by the Executive Committee.
- Section 3.08:** Secretary: The Secretary shall have the responsibility of recording the minutes of the meetings of the organization, share minutes with the executive committee, schedule meetings, call the meetings, and perform other duties as directed by the executive committee. If unavailable for a specific meeting the secretary will request another EC member take the minutes.
- Section 3.09:** Student Affiliate: The Student Affiliate shall have the responsibility to represent Student member' interests within the scope of the mission and purposes of SIP. in the Executive Committee, plan the student activity for convention and attend the Executive Committee meetings via phone or video call.
- Section 3.10:** Newsletter Editor: The Newsletter Editor shall have the responsibility to prepare and publish the quarterly SIP newsletter.
- Section 3.11:** American Psychological Association (APA) Council of Representatives (CoR)Delegate: The APA CoR Delegate shall have the responsibility to represent SIP's interests at the APA CoR and participate in the Council Diversity Work Group (CDWG). APA pays for travel expenses of the delegate.
- Section 3.12:** Webmaster: The Webmaster shall have the responsibility of managing the web pages and listserv.
- Section 3.13:** Convention Coordinator: The Convention Coordinator shall have the responsibility of organizing the annual convention and coordinating with



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Executive Committee as needed.

**Section 3.14:** Resignation from Executive Committee – letter or email of resignation sent to the President and/or Secretary.

## Article IV: Meetings

**Section 4.01:** General Membership Meetings will be held at the SIP annual meeting. The Executive Committee will meet monthly or when need arises. Meetings will be facilitated by electronic means (conference calls, email, etc.) when possible outside of the annual SIP meeting.

**Section 4.02:** Notice of the Annual SIP meeting will be posted electronically no later than 3 months prior to the meeting.

**Section 4.03:** Voting: members in good standing are eligible to vote at the annual meeting of the Association or any electronic voting processes.

**Section 4.04:** Quorum: A Quorum is a simple majority of voting members (members in good standing).

## Article V: Committees

**Section 5.01:** Standing Committees: The Standing Committees of the Association shall be the Bylaws Committee, Webpage Committee, Mentoring Committee, the Council of Elders; the Membership/ Chapter Development Committee.

**Section 5.02:** Reports of Standing Committees: each Standing Committee shall transmit an annual written report to the President of SIP who shall report salient developments to the Executive Committee.

**Section 5.03:** Special Committees: The President, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee, may establish a time-limited Special Committee or Task Force for a specific temporary purpose or assigned task which is beyond the Standing Committees' scope of responsibilities as indicated in policies adopted by the Executive Committee. Any such Special Committee or Task Force shall be responsible to the Chair of the Standing Committee with the most closely related scope of responsibility.



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**Section 5.04:** Reports of Special Committees: each Special Committee and Task Force shall complete the specific purpose or the assigned task by a date specified by the Executive Committee and submit a written report to the President of SIP by or before a date set by the Executive Committee.  
The President of SIP shall report salient developments to the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE VI: Nondiscrimination

**Section 6.01:** SIP is committed to providing an environment that is free from **discrimination** because of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or age.

## ARTICLE VII: Bylaws

**Section 7.01:** Bylaws may be amended by a simple two-thirds majority of the members attending the annual SIP meeting or via email/survey vote.

**a)** Proposed amendments may be originated by the Executive Committee, membership at large, or from the Council of Elders.

**b)** The Bylaws Committee will transmit to the Executive Committee such proposed amendments with or without a recommendation regarding each proposed change at least six weeks before the next regularly scheduled Association meeting or an email vote.

## ARTICLE VIII: Local Affiliates

**Section 8.01:** Local Affiliate status of the Society of Indian Psychologists is open to any group that subscribes to the mission of the Association.

**Section 8.02:** Application for Local Affiliate Membership, any group wishing to become a local affiliate of SIP can do so by completing the application materials and submitting to the Chapter Development Committee.

**Section 8.03** Review and Approval of Chapter application will be made by the Chapter Development Committee and forwarded to the President for final approval.



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**Section 8.04** Local Affiliate Status within the Society of Indian Psychologists includes the following types of status:

- a) Full Chapter Status. Local organizations that are capable of meeting all standards of affiliation, which include organizational, programmatic, and financial support to SIP, shall be granted a charter as an “Affiliated Chapter.”
- b) Provisional Chapter Status. Local organizations, which are able to comply with some, but not all standards of affiliation, may be granted a certification as a “Provisional Chapter.”
- c) Community Committee Status. Newly developing local organizations may be affiliated as units of SIP, and are allowed to temporarily operate under direct supervision of the Executive Committee and SIP’s Chapter Development Committee.

**Section 8.05** Removal from Local Affiliate status results from a lack of good standing; any affiliate who is not in good standing will be removed from the active affiliate list of SIP. Removal will be based on a review conducted by the Chapter Development Committee and a decision of the Executive Committee.

**Section 8.06** Dues will be assessed for local affiliate membership status.

**Section 8.07** Each Local Affiliate will have a representative on the Membership/Chapter Development Committee