

ASA Chapter Model Bylaws



_____ CHAPTER OF AMERICANS FOR SAFE ACCESS

Article I: Organization

Upon assembling ten members in good standing with Americans for Safe Access ("the ASSOCIATION"), and electing a steering committee the chapter known as _____ ("Chapter") shall adopt the following bylaws to obtain an official charter of affiliation from the ASSOCIATION. The CHAPTER will serve its bylaws as a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization.

Article II: Purpose

The mission of the ASSOCIATION is to ensure safe and legal access to cannabis (marijuana) for therapeutic uses and research. The purpose of the CHAPTER is to work with the ASSOCIATION to carry out this mission on a local, state, and federal level.

Article III: Membership

CHAPTERS must maintain at least ten members in good standing with the ASSOCIATION in order to use the CHAPTER status. Membership fees are paid to the ASSOCIATION. The membership fee is \$35.00, but exists on a sliding scale for individuals who qualify based on income. All members of the CHAPTER must also be members of the ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE IV: Officers

The Chapter Steering Committee (CSC) is the core leadership group of the CHAPTER. These individuals communicate between chapter meetings and facilitate the process of running a good ASA chapter.

The CSC is elected by the full chapter defined as paid members and must be at least five people; a Chapter Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and another position whose responsibility and title are at the discretion of the chapter. The CSC can choose titles after election or can run for specific titles at the discretion of the chapter.

The CSC elections are held at a minimum of every year and require a two-week notice of membership and authorization from the ASSOCIATION. If a seat is vacated before the end of a term, the CSC may have 60 days to fill the vacant position. This can be done by a vote of the CSC.

Candidates for the CSC must be current members and can self-nominate or be nominated by members.

The CSC and the CHAPTER will make all decisions by consensus aside from elections.

The CHAPTER should strive for diversity in its CSC and membership.

To be eligible for membership in the CSC of a CHAPTER, one must be a current ASSOCIATION yearly member, show an interest in the affairs of the ASSOCIATION by attending meetings and participating in other organized activities of the CHAPTER, and be able to demonstrate attendance of at least half of the CHAPTER meetings and/or events from the last three months.

It is the responsibility of the CSC to maintain the obligation of the CHAPTER under Model Chapter Affiliation Agreement and these bylaws.

Article V: Activities

The main activities of the CHAPTER include hosting public monthly meetings, participate in ASSOCIATION's National Agenda and Campaigns, inform the ASSOCIATION of local and state agenda items, attend national chapter conference calls, get dispensaries, other at risk businesses, and local activists signed up for the ASSOCIATION's Raid Response Program, regularly submits new chapter sign-ups and memberships to ASA, maintains written records of chapter income, expenses, and assets, and complies with the ASSOCIATION's quarterly requirements and to coordinate meetings with elected officials at all levels of government.

CHAPTERs are required to hold public meetings at least once a month. Meetings should be publicly announced at least two weeks in advance. Chapter meetings must also be held in a publicly accessible location that is accessible to those with disabilities and do not have special criteria for entrance such as a dispensary or private club. If it is absolutely necessary to hold a chapter meeting at a dispensary location, the meetings should rotate among dispensaries so that it is clear that the chapter supports all of the local facilities.

CHAPTER cannot endorse candidates or campaigns outside of the focus of the ASSOCIATION'S mission and policy statements

CHAPTER cannot use chapter meetings as a means to dispense medication.

CHAPTER will not tolerate violence, threatening behavior, liable, slander, or hostility. Any such activity at CHAPTER meetings, events or public forums (including Facebook or listservs) will result in revocation of membership and the individual will not be allowed to attend meetings and events. Such matters shall be handled in coordination with the ASSOCIATION.

Article VI: Administrative Requirements and Policies

CHAPTER must participate in the obligations of the chapter portion of the Model Chapter Agreement in order to receive the complete benefits the ASSOCIATION has to offer including quarterly reporting, accurate record keeping, and fundraising activities.

Any requests the CHAPTER will make from the ASSOCIATION must occur in a timely manner in order to ensure timely turn around. The CHAPTER must take into account the 24-36 hour turn around window established by the ASSOCIATION in order to ensure requests are processed in a timely and expedient manner.

Article VII: Non-discrimination

The CHAPTER is committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination in practice and opportunity because of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or age.

Signed on this date: _____

Chapter Steering Committee

Chair _____

Vice-Chair _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____