

## **ASALH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CODE OF ETHICS**

A code of ethics is a moral code, not a law. It is a list of standards—fairness, trust, honesty, integrity, civility—under which members of the Executive Council members agree to operate. The value of a written code of ethics is that it becomes a compact whereby all EC members agree to abide by common standards of conduct. It is also a testimony to the unselfish motives of the Executive Council members because it demonstrates that their efforts are devoted to serving the Association rather than themselves.

### **As a member of the Executive Council, I will:**

- Listen carefully to my peers on the council, and the members of the Association whom I serve.
- Respect the opinion of my fellow EC members. Be civil, considerate, and courteous at all times, and, under all circumstances.
- Respect and support the majority decisions of the Council.
- Recognize that all authority is vested in the Council when it meets in legal sessions and not with individual Council members.
- Participate actively in Council meetings and actions.
- Recognize that the Council member's job is to ensure that the Association is well-managed, not to manage the Association.
- Refer member or staff complaints to the proper level in the chain of command.
- Vote to hire the best possible person to manage the Association.
- Represent all members of the Association and not a particular geographic area or special interest group.
- Consider myself a "trustee" of the Association and do my best to ensure that the Association is well maintained, financially secure, growing, and always operating in the best interests of its members.
- Always work to learn more about the Council member's job and how to do the job better.
- Declare any conflicts of interests between my personal life and my position on the Council and avoid voting on issues that appear to be a conflict of interest.

### ● **As a member of the Executive Council I will not:**

- Be critical, in or outside the Council meeting, of fellow Council members or their opinions.
- Use the Association or any part of the organization for my personal advantage or the personal advantage of my friends or relatives.
- Discuss the confidential proceedings of the Council outside the Council meeting.
- Enlist staff to complete work or tasks.
- Interfere with the duties of the executive director or undermine the executive director's authority.
- Obligate the Association in any way.

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Signature

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Date