



MTASA

MASSAGE THERAPY  
ASSOCIATION OF SA

---

# CONSTITUTION OF THE MASSAGE THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

---

Policy Document

[2021]



## CODE OF ETHICS – For all members

This Code of Ethics is grounded in core ethical and professional values and standards.

1. Integrity: Incorporate core ethical values and standards as the foundation for good character and responsible practice.
2. Respect for persons: Respect all persons and acknowledge their intrinsic worth, dignity, and sense of value.
3. Best interest: Act in the best interests of patients even when there are conflicts with your own personal self-interest.
4. Human rights: Recognise that some interests of individuals may be so important that they acquire the status of human rights in the form of either claims or freedoms to be respected by all.
5. Autonomy: Honour all persons' right to self-determination or to make their own informed choices, living their lives by their own beliefs, values, and preferences.
6. Truthfulness: In professional relationships, regard the truth and truthfulness as the basis of trust.
7. Confidentiality: In professional relationships, treat personal or private information as confidential, unless overriding reasons confer a moral right to disclosure.
8. Compassion: Be sensitive to and empathise with individual and social needs for comfort and support, and seek and create opportunities to translate emotions, such as feelings of sympathy or empathy, into action.
9. Tolerance: Respect the rights of people to have different ethical beliefs as these may arise from deeply held personal, religious, or cultural convictions.
10. Justice: Treat all individuals and groups in an impartial, fair, and just manner.
11. Community: Consistent with your professional abilities and standing in the community, strive to contribute to the betterment of society.
12. Unity: At all times, present a unified front to the public and refrain from criticism of colleagues and/or other health professionals, be it oral or written.
13. Discrimination: Do not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.



## CODE OF PRACTICE – For full members only

1. Practice your profession only within the boundaries for which you have had proper training and in accordance with the Scope of Practice of a Therapeutic Massage Therapist according to the Allied Health Professions Act, No 63 of 1982.
2. Promote access to healthcare. If you are unable to provide a service, refer the patient to another healthcare professional or to a healthcare facility that can provide the required service.
3. Avoid over-servicing. Recommend or refer your patients for necessary treatment only. Prescribe only treatments that serve your patients' needs.
4. Work with and respect other healthcare professionals in pursuit of the best healthcare possible for your patients.
5. Maintain and improve the standard of your performance by keeping your professional knowledge and skills up to date throughout your working life.
6. Acknowledge the limits of your professional knowledge and competence. Do not pretend to know everything.
7. Observe and keep up to date with the laws that affect your practice.
8. Apply the principle of informed consent as an on-going process. Respect the right of your patients' to be fully involved in decisions about their treatment and care.
9. Respect your patients' privacy, treat them politely and with consideration and listen to them and respect their opinions.
10. Be mindful that a Therapeutic Massage Therapist is in a position of power over a patient and avoid abusing that position.
11. Ensure that your personal beliefs do not prejudice your patients' care. If you feel your beliefs might affect the treatment you provide, explain this to your patients, and inform them of their right to see another health professional.
12. In no way instigate or tolerate any kind of sexual advance while acting in the capacity of a Therapeutic Massage Therapist.
13. Do not attempt to entice a patient to leave another Therapeutic Massage Therapist to become your patient.
14. Ensure that your health and personal hygiene are such as to cause neither offence nor danger to the patient.



15. Refrain from engaging in activities that may affect your health and lead to impairment.
16. Maintain proper hygiene in your working environment.
17. Keep your massage equipment and furniture in good working order.
18. Ensure that linen used for treatments is clean, in good condition, sufficient and stored as per good hygiene practices.
19. Ensure that all entranceways, stairways and/or passages leading to the treatment room are kept clean and well lit.
20. Keep accurate and up-to-date professional and business records.

**CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP**  
(1 For Full members, 2 & 3 For all members)

1. Registration with the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa.
2. Agreement to abide by the Code of Ethics, Code of Practice, Conditions of Membership and Constitution of the Association.
3. Payment of the annual membership fee, which falls due on 1st March each year and which is payable by 31 May of the same year.



CONSTITUTION  
(For all members)

1. NAME

- 1.1 The Association shall be called the Massage Therapy Association of South Africa, hereinafter referred to as the “Association”, and shall be a professional non-profit Association constituted to further the objectives given below.

2. POSTAL ADDRESS

- 2.1 The postal address of the Association shall be Post Net Suite 16, Private Bag X18 Milnerton, 7435, or such other address as the Executive Committee may determine from time to time. All correspondence shall be sent to this address.

3. HEAD OFFICE

- 3.1 The Head Office of the Association shall be 80 Signal Avenue, Dawnview, 1401, or such other place as the Executive Committee may determine from time to time.

4. LEGAL ENTITY

- 4.1 The Association is a juristic person having perpetual succession, capable of suing and being sued in its own name, having the power to hold property distinct from its members who have no rights to the property of the Association by reason of their membership and who are not liable for the debts of the Association.

5. OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 The objectives of the Association shall be:

- 5.1.1 To promote the image and secure the recognition of its members as reputable, caring, and qualified professionals in their field;
- 5.1.2 To promote and provide Therapeutic Massage Therapy as a form of health benefit;
- 5.1.3 To ensure the maintenance of professional, ethical practice by its members;



- 5.1.4 To keep its members informed of the latest developments of relevance to Therapeutic Massage Therapy;
- 5.1.5 To do its utmost to advance the collective interest of its members;
- 5.1.6 To seek group benefits for its members;
- 5.1.7 To co-operate with other health organisations;
- 5.1.8 To publicise and promote the Association by means of journals, lectures, exhibitions, advertising, meetings, or any suitable means whatsoever.
- 5.1.9 To assist prospective members to become registered with the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa.

## 6. MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Membership shall be confined to four categories:

- i. Full members,
- ii. Student members,
- iii. Associate members and
- iv. Honorary members,

in accordance with requirements as specified by the Association.

### 6.2 Full Membership

6.2.1 A Full Member shall:

- 6.2.1.1 Be a Therapeutic Massage Therapist resident in South Africa who adheres to The Code of Ethics, Code of Practice, Conditions of Membership and Constitution of the Association and is registered with the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa;
- 6.2.1.2 Be eligible to describe him/herself as a Full Member of the Association and be entitled to use the abbreviation FM MTA after his/her name;
- 6.2.1.3 Be eligible to serve on the Committee;
- 6.2.1.4 Be eligible to vote at Special and Annual General Meetings;
- 6.2.1.5 Be eligible to group benefits.



### 6.3 Student Membership

#### 6.3.1 A Student Member shall:

- 6.3.1.1 Be a Therapeutic Massage Therapy Learner resident in South Africa, currently completing the Diploma in Therapeutic Massage Therapy, who adheres to the Code of Ethics, Conditions of Membership and Constitution of the Association and who is registered with the Allied Health Professions Council of Southern Africa;
- 6.3.1.2 Be eligible for consideration for upgrade to full membership when the criteria laid down by the Association has been fulfilled;
- 6.3.1.3 Be eligible to describe him/herself as a Student Member of the Association and be entitled to use the initials SM MTA after their name;
- 6.3.1.4 Not be entitled to serve on the Committee;
- 6.3.1.5 Be eligible to vote at annual general meetings;
- 6.3.1.6 Be eligible for group benefits.

### 6.4 Associate Membership

#### 6.4.1 An Associate member shall:

- 6.4.1.1 Adhere to the Code of Ethics, Conditions of Membership and Constitution of the Association;
- 6.4.1.2 Not practice Therapeutic Massage Therapy, neither as a hobby nor as a profession;
- 6.4.1.3 Only describe him/herself as an Associate Member of the Association and shall not be entitled to the use of any abbreviation after their name, nor be entitled to advertise under the MTA logo;
- 6.4.1.4 Not be eligible for group benefits;
- 6.4.1.5 Not be entitled to serve on Committee;
- 6.4.1.6 Not be eligible to vote at meetings.



## 6.5 Honorary Membership

- 6.5.1 The Executive Committee has the sole discretion to grant Honorary Membership of the Association to any deserving person.
- 6.5.2 Such persons who are Therapeutic Massage Therapists shall be subject to the conditions as listed under Full Membership;
- 6.5.3 Such persons who are not Therapeutic Massage Therapists shall be subject to the conditions as listed under Associate Membership.

## 7. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1 Applications for membership shall be made on the prescribed forms.
- 7.2 The Executive Committee shall have the absolute discretion to accept or reject an application for membership of the Association.
- 7.3 Where an application for membership has been rejected the applicant shall not be entitled to be furnished with any reasons for such a refusal.
- 7.4 Where an application for membership has been approved, the Executive Committee shall forward the Associations' Membership Certificate together with the Policy Documents to the successful applicant.
- 7.5 All members shall be subject to the Constitution and Rules of the Association.
- 7.6 The Executive Committee shall, from time to time, determine the requirements and registration procedures for membership, as well as for any subscriptions.

## 8. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE

- 8.1 Every member of the Association, except an honorary member or a serving member of the Executive Committee, shall be required to pay an annual subscription fee, the amount which shall be determined by the Executive Committee and ratified at the Annual General Meeting from time to time.
- 8.2 Membership Fees shall become due and owing on the 31 March and be payable on or before 31 May of each year. A member shall be deemed to have resigned with immediate effect if the payment of the annual fee is four months in arrears i.e., unpaid as at end of August each year, unless the Executive Committee grants a special exemption to such a member.





## 9. ADMINISTRATION FEES

- 9.1 A once-off administration fee shall be payable by all Full and Associate members at the commencement of their membership. Should the member resign or allow his/her membership to lapse, the administration fee shall again be payable at the subsequent renewal of membership.

## 10. REGISTER

- 10.1 The Executive Committee shall cause to be maintained a register listing every member and it shall be the duty of every member to furnish the Association with all data required for that purpose.

## 11. RESIGNATIONS

- 11.1 A member may resign from the Association at any time by giving notice in writing to the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

## 12. DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

- 12.1 The Association has the power to hold disciplinary proceedings, to make a finding and to punish a member where a member has transgressed the Association's Constitution, the rules and regulations made thereunder and Code of Ethics, Code of Practice and Conditions of Membership. The Executive Committee or an Ad hoc committee appointed by it will act as the Association's Disciplinary Tribunal in the execution of the aforesaid powers.
- 12.2 Every member is deemed to be aware of and bound by the provisions of the Allied Health Professions Act 63 of 1982, the Association's Constitution, the rules and regulations made thereunder and the Code of Ethics, Code of Practice and Conditions of Membership.
- 12.3 Any unprofessional conduct by a member of the Association as defined in section 1 of the Allied Health Profession Act 63 of 1982 ("the Act") will be reported to the Allied Health Profession Council of South Africa in terms of Section 3 (b) of the Act. Other transgressions will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Tribunal in a fair and just manner in terms of which the offending member will be notified of the transgression and be afforded a reasonable opportunity to respond thereto.
- 12.4 The Disciplinary Tribunal may impose the following sentences in the event of finding the transgressing member guilty:



- i. A reprimand;
- ii. A fine not exceeding R 3 000;
- iii. Suspension of membership for a maximum period of six months;
- iv. Expulsion from the Association.

12.5 The Disciplinary Tribunal's decision must be unanimous, is final and the member shall have no right of appeal.

### 13. CERTIFICATES

13.1 All certificates issued are the sole property of the Association and must be returned on termination of membership.

### 14. TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND COLLEGES

14.1 Therapeutic Massage Therapy Training Institutions and Colleges can be affiliated to the Association provided that the requirements as stated by the Executive Committee has been met.

### 15. ADMINISTRATION

15.1 The management of the Association shall be vested in a Committee.

15.2 The Committee

15.2.1 The committee shall consist of an Executive Committee and a General Committee.

15.2.2 The committee shall elect the Executive Committee members at the first ordinary meeting of each year.

15.3 The Executive Committee

15.3.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- i. A Chairperson;
- ii. A Vice-Chairperson;
- iii. A Secretary;
- iv. A Treasurer.

15.3.2 The number of the Executive Committee members may be increased to accommodate Regional Representatives.



15.3.3 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the affairs of the Association.

15.3.4 Subject to the provisions of this constitution, the Executive Committee shall have the full range of powers to give effect to the objectives stated herein.

15.3.5 Without limiting the generality of its powers, the Executive Committee shall have the following specific powers:

15.3.6 To appoint Ad hoc committees as deemed necessary. The management and administration of such committees to be determined by the Executive Committee;

15.3.7 To co-opt additional supernumerary members to the Committee for their expertise in certain matters at their discretion from time to time. Such co-opted Committee members shall have no voting powers.

15.3.8 To incur expenses on behalf of the Association on condition that:

- i. the expenses incurred is in furtherance of the Association and its objectives;
- ii. the assets of the Association will exceed the liabilities after such expense is paid;
- iii. any expense does not exceed the sum of R10 000.

15.3.9 To authorize the establishment of Regional Chapters of the Association in South Africa as set out hereunder;

15.3.10 To accept on behalf of the Association any donations and bequests to be applied for the furtherance's of one or more of the objectives of the Association;

15.3.11 To invest the surplus monies of the Association without any encumbrance.

#### 15.4 The General Committee

15.4.1 The General Committee shall consist of a maximum of three (3) members.



## 16. DESIGNATED FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### 16.1 The Executive Committee

Each Executive Committee member shall, as part of his/her portfolio undertake the following:

#### 16.1.1 Chairperson

16.1.1.1 The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Association and shall undertake the following:

- i. General supervision of the officers of the Association and the affairs relating thereto and shall make a yearly report at the Annual General Meeting concerning the welfare of the Association;
- ii. Countersigning of all certificates and all the documents (except receipts) bearing the seal of the Association when issued with the consent of the majority of the Committee;
- iii. Act as the liaison between all Government statutory bodies, associations, or other organizations on behalf of the Association.

#### 16.1.2 Vice-Chairperson

16.1.2.1 The Vice President shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson or Secretary in the absence or disability of that officer.

#### 16.1.3 Secretary

16.1.3.1 The Secretary shall assist the Chairperson at all meetings of the Association. In addition, thereto, the secretary shall have the following duties:

- i. To see that the minute books and other records are carefully kept and generally carry out such duties or instructions as the Executive Committee may impose;
- ii. Any matters affecting the Association or its interests or affairs which shall arise, and which by reason of their urgency should not be delayed until the next Committee Meeting, shall be referred by the Secretary to the Chairperson, and the Secretary shall be entitled to act upon the instructions of the Chairperson relating to such matters;



- iii. Maintain a register of all members of the Association by respective categories of membership;
- iv. Prepare and forward to each member the appropriate membership certificates and other relevant documents.

#### 16.1.4 Treasurer

- 16.1.4.1 The Treasurer shall receive all moneys and shall account for all money and other property received and alienated by the Association and shall undertake the following:
  - i. Payment of the Association's accounts;
  - ii. The deposit of all funds in the designated bank accounts;
  - iii. The furnishing of financial accounts whenever called upon to do so by the Chairperson. These accounts shall be open to inspection by the members;
  - iv. To keep such books of account as are necessary, and at the close of the financial year to present a financial report to the members at the Association's General Meeting.

#### 16.2 The General Committee

##### 16.2.1 The General Committee shall:

- i. Assist and support the Executive Committee in its functions.
- ii. Chair sub-committees and manage portfolios as determined by the Executive Committee.

#### 17. INCOME AND ASSETS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 17.1 The income and assets of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objectives as set forth in this Constitution and to enable the Executive Committee to attend to the day to day running of the affairs of the Association. No portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to any member of the Executive Committee.



## 18. ACQUISITION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

- 18.1 A majority vote at a Special or an Annual General Meeting shall be required for the purchase of immovable property by the Association in furtherance of its stated objectives. In the event of a “yes” vote, the aforesaid meeting shall appoint an Ad hoc committee to deal with the acquisition, improvement, and utilization of the immovable property.

## 19. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

- 19.1 The members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- 19.2 Nominations for members to be elected to the Committee must be duly signed by a proposer and a seconder, each being a member of the Association, and together with the written acceptance of the nominee, must be received by the Association by no less than thirty (30) days prior to such Annual General Meeting, and the names of the candidates so nominated shall be notified to all members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting, together with the relevant notice and agenda for the Annual General Meeting.
- 19.3 Every member in good standing shall have the right to cast one vote. A member in good standing is a member whose annual membership fee is not outstanding for longer than three months.
- 19.4 Any members unable to be present to vote in person at such a meeting may lodge their votes on a prescribed form with the Association prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- 19.5 The incumbent members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.
- 19.6 Should there be, at the commencement of such meeting, an insufficient number of candidates nominated, nominations may be taken from the floor of the meeting.
- 19.7 Members of the Committee shall be elected by majority vote.

## 20. RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

- 20.1 Any member of the Committee may resign by giving notice in writing to the Chairperson and such resignation shall take effect from the date thereof.
- 20.2 A member of the Executive Committee may be removed at a Special or Annual General Meeting by a two thirds majority of members present



and entitled to vote at such a meeting. In such a case the reasons for the proposed removal should be put to the relevant member of the Executive Committee who must then be afforded an opportunity to state his/her case in answer thereto. Only thereafter may the members at such a meeting proceed to vote.

## 21. COMMITTEE VACANCIES

- 21.1 Should any of the above stated positions become vacant, for whatsoever reason, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall be authorized to co-opt other members to fill any such vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.

## 22. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 22.1 The Committee shall meet at least once every three months and the business of such meetings shall be to review the activities of the Association and to plan and deal with ongoing business and the business and administrative affairs of the Association. The quorum of any meeting of the Committee shall not be less than three Executive Committee members.
- 22.2 Every member present at the Committee Meeting shall have one vote and in the event of an equal number of votes for or against a motion the Chairperson shall not have an additional casting vote. In such event the motion shall be deemed to have been decided in the negative.
- 22.3 The Chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the Committee. If the Chairperson cannot be present, the Vice-Chairperson shall be the Chairperson. If the Vice-Chairperson is not present at the meeting, then the members present may choose amongst one of them as Chairperson for that meeting.
- 22.4 A member of the Committee shall be deemed to have resigned if he/she fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings unless:
- 22.4.1 the necessary leave of absence has been granted by the Executive Committee or;
- 22.4.2 the absence is for reasons considered to be satisfactory by the Executive Committee.
- 22.4.3 If a member becomes of unsound mind and/or incapable of serving on the Committee he/she shall be deemed to have resigned with immediate effect.



22.4.4 The minutes of the aforesaid meetings must be properly kept and filed at the Association's head office.

## 23. ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

23.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held within three months of the end of the Association's financial year, being the end of February of each year.

23.2 The meeting shall be held at a time and place decided by the Executive Committee and not less than thirty (30) days written notice thereof shall be given to all members of the Association. Such written notice shall set out the business to be dealt with at the meeting, which business must include:

- i. the presentation by the Chairperson of the Association's annual report;
- ii. the presentation by the Treasurer of the Association's financial statements as approved and/or reported on by an auditor and/or accountant;
- iii. the election of the members of the Committee for the ensuing year;
- iv. any other relevant business to be transacted.

23.3 The Executive Committee shall convene all meetings of the Association.

23.4 The Chairperson shall chair the meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall chair the meetings.

23.5 When both office-bearers are absent, the meeting shall choose a chairperson from amongst those members present.

23.6 A general meeting of members may be called at any time during the year by the Executive Committee, subject to the same notice period as above and the notice convening the meeting shall set out the business to be dealt with as well as any proposals to be voted upon.

23.7 A Special General Meeting may be called at any time during the year by the Executive Committee or at the request of members by means of a written requisition signed by not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the members should the total membership be below three hundred (300), but at no time shall such a requisition be signed by less than twenty-five (25) members. The aforesaid notice or requisition shall comply with the notice period set out above and shall clearly state the reasons for the convening of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted thereat.





- 23.8 The quorum for an Annual or Special General Meeting shall be the number of members present at such a meeting.
- 23.9 At any meeting called as above, each member in good standing and who is present in person shall be entitled to one vote. The Chairman shall not have an additional casting vote.
- 23.10 With regard to the election of the members of the Committee, any members unable to be present to vote in person at such a meeting may lodge their votes on a prescribed form with the Association at or prior to the Annual General Meeting and all such votes shall be deemed to be cast at such meeting, and the result of such voting shall be declared thereat.
- 23.11 Save for the exceptions listed herein and hereunder, voting for any proposal at the aforesaid meetings shall be decided by a majority vote by a show of hands.

#### 24.FINANCE

- 24.1 Proper accounts shall be kept of money or other property received, expended, or alienated by the Association.
- 24.2 These accounts shall be open to inspection by members.
- 24.3 All cheques or withdrawal slips drawn on the account of the Association shall be signed by any two persons who shall have been duly nominated by the Executive Committee. The same signatories shall be responsible for investments on behalf of the Association.
- 24.4 Proper books and accounts shall be kept and maintained either in written or printed form in the English language correctly showing the affairs of the Association and the particulars usually shown in books of like nature.
- 24.5 All accounts shall be administered by the Treasurer.
- 24.6 All monies shall be banked as soon as practicable after receipt thereof.
- 24.7 Cheques shall be crossed "not transferable" except those in payment of wages, allowances and/or petty cash recoupments.
- 24.8 The Executive Committee shall determine the amount of petty cash that shall be kept as and when it deems appropriate.



- 24.9 All expenditure shall be approved or ratified by the Executive Committee at a Committee meeting.
- 24.10 As soon as practicable after the end of each financial year the Treasurer shall cause to be prepared a set of financial statements comprised of the following documents: a balance sheet; an income statement; and a cash-flow statement.
- 24.11 All such statements shall be examined by an Auditor or Accountant who shall compile a report as regards his/her findings.
- 24.12 The financial statements and the report thereon will be presented at the Annual General Meeting for approval by the members.
- 24.13 The Executive Committee shall be authorised to undertake expenditure to allow for the day-to-day administration of the Association.

## 25. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL CHAPTERS

- 25.1 The Executive Committee may authorize the establishment of Regional Chapters of the Association in any area of the Republic of South Africa. In authorizing the establishment of such Chapters, the Executive Committee shall take into consideration, inter alia, the viability and membership of such Chapters.
- 25.2 The structure, composition, functions, and liaison with the Executive Committee will be regulated by an amendment of the Association's Constitution by the addition of an addendum to it.

## 26. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 26.1 The Association may be dissolved, or the constitution thereof amended if at least two thirds of the members present and voting at the General Meeting of members convened for the purpose of considering such matter are in favour of such amendment or dissolution. Not less than thirty (30) day's notice shall be given of such a meeting, and a notice convening the meeting shall clearly state all details in connection with the question of dissolution of the Association or the details of the proposed amendment of the constitution of the Association;
- 26.2 If upon the dissolution of the Association there remain any assets whatsoever after the satisfaction of all the debts and liabilities, such



assets shall not be paid to or distributed among its members but shall be transferred to any other therapeutic or health organization within the Republic of South Africa which has similar objectives to those of the Association, as may be decided at that meeting.

## 27. NOTICES

- 27.1 All notices, requisitions and prescribed forms and other documents incidental thereto, as referred to in this constitution shall be sent by registered post to the addressee's last known address. The date of posting of notice will be deemed the first day for the purposes of the computation of any time limits.

## 28. OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

- 28.1 No member of the Association shall make any statement on behalf of the Association without the written consent of the Executive Committee.