

Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity  
SVOSH Chapter Constitution

**PREAMBLE**

We, the students at the University of Houston, College of Optometry, in order to represent ourselves to the University and the community; to provide services to the community both in the U.S. and internationally; to promote better vision and eye care, do hereby establish this constitution for the Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, University of Houston Chapter.

**ARTICLE I: CHAPTER NAME**

The name of the organization shall be Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH).

**ARTICLE II: DESCRIPTION**

I. SVOSH is a charitable organization of vision care professionals, students, and lay people dedicated to people of the world who cannot obtain or afford eye care or eye wear. All members volunteer their services.

II. SVOSH shall be incorporated and obtain 501 (c) (3) IRS tax exemption and comply with all State and National laws.

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

I. Definition: Any person who has interest in the visual welfare of people in need of vision care may become a member of this organization by providing name, addresses, and phone number along with annual dues to the Secretary/Treasurer. The chapter reserves the right to reject a member or applicant.

II. Any member shall have the right to the following:

- A. Attend and vote at meetings
- B. Participate in an SVOSH mission as per availability
- C. Receive customary communications from officers, including notice of meeting times and places.
- D. No capital stock or monetary worth is a part of membership rights.

**ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS TITLE/RESPONSIBILITY/TERM**

I. The officers of this organization shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and shall collectively be referred to as the Executive Board.

II. PRESIDENT shall serve a term of office for one calendar year, preside over general meetings and the meetings of the Executive Board, shall be directly responsible for the relationships of this organization, shall issue checks signed by either himself/herself or the Treasurer, shall approve all non-budget expenditures, and shall assume the power of temporary appointment.

III. VICE PRESIDENT shall be directly responsible for working with the President and shall preside over all meetings upon the absence of the President.

IV. TREASURER shall keep a complete and accurate amount of all receipts and expenditures of SVOSH, shall disburse money upon vouchers with duly authorized signatures, shall issue checks signed by him or herself or the President and shall submit all records and receipts of income and expenditures for compilation by an independent Certified Public Accounting Firm or an acceptable third party selected by the Executive Board or verification.

V. SECRETARY shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings, shall notify all members of the time and place of meetings, and shall publish an agenda for the meeting three days in advance.

#### VI. ELIGIBILITY

A. All officers and representatives shall be enrolled in the University of Houston College of Optometry and pursuing an O.D. degree.

B. All officers must have at least a minimum of 2.00 overall GPA or better and not be on probation.

C. All officers must agree to allow the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions at the College of Optometry verify whether they meet these criteria each semester.

D. Failure to comply with these criteria will result in loss of office.

VII. TERM: The term of office shall be from calendar year January 1 to January 1.

VIII. Provisions for removal of an officer: Officers can be removed from office from two-thirds voting of SVOSH members.

### **ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS**

#### I. Elections

A. The election of officers shall be held before the first day of the spring semester.

B. The newly elected officers shall assume office beginning the first day of the spring semester.

#### II. Procedures for voting

A. Each candidate for an officer position shall be nominated during an election meeting.

B. Each eligible member is qualified to run for the position of officer.

C. Officers shall be elected by gaining votes from the majority of voting members.

D. In order to hold an election, two-thirds of the membership must be present.

#### III. Procedures for filling vacancies

A. All vacant officer positions shall be filled by appointment by the President and be approved by the other officers.

### **ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS**

I. The President shall be responsible for calling a meeting at least once during each thirty days

for the fall and spring semester. Special meetings may be called any time by the President.

II. Two-thirds of the total membership at general meetings shall constitute a quorum. Issues to be voted on require a quorum.

#### **ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES**

I. The committees shall consist of Vision Screening, Public Relations, Trip Planning, and Fundraising committees. All committee members shall be selected on a voluntary basis.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: MISSIONS**

Conducting vision care missions is the work and purpose of the SVOSH Chapter. Missions are meant to provide primary eye care and eye wear to people who can neither afford nor obtain such care. Missions are primarily foreign, but may be domestic.

#### **ARTICLE IX: LIABILITY**

The members or officers of this SVOSH Chapter shall not be liable for any debts or obligations of the corporation. Inasmuch as all missions are voluntary, the Officers of this SVOSH Chapter are not liable for loss, unemployment due to disability, injury or death that may befall a volunteer.

#### **ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION**

I. Dissolution may be initiated under written signatures of the President and Secretary/Treasurer if active membership falls below three members.

II. After all financial obligations are met, all remaining property and funds shall be turned over to VOSH/International. No member shall receive proceeds resulting from Chapter dissolution.

#### **ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS**

Anti-Hazing Clause:

This organization will not initiate, participate in, or be witness to any act that inflicts or intends to inflict physical or mental harm or discomfort or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s).

Non-Discrimination Clause:

As a Registered Student Organization at the University of Houston we adhere to the University of Houston's Non-Discrimination Policy. The University of Houston is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution. The university provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status except where such distinction is required by law. Additionally, the System prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.