

CHARTER  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATION FOR THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT  
OF THE  
AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

**ARTICLE 1 - NAME**

The organization's name shall be the Association for the Healthcare Environment (hereinafter "AHE") of the American Hospital Association (AHA).

**ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE**

AHE's mission is to advance the vision of the AHA, a society of healthy communities, where all individuals reach their highest potential for health by advancing the health of individuals and communities.

Specifically, AHE strives to advance the growth and development of the professionals responsible for caring for the patient and resident care environment across all care settings by providing education, leadership, and advocacy to professionals in hospitals, health systems, and related organizations that are accountable to the community and committed to health improvement.

AHE, and the professionals they represent, provide a primary professional, technical, and administrative resource from which the AHA receives guidance and representation in formulating policy, determining membership programs, and fulfilling its advocacy role in influencing the public, legislation, and regulations.

**ARTICLE 3 – AUTHORITY**

AHE functions as a Professional Membership Group (PMG) of the AHA operating in accordance with the PMG Division's Standing Procedures (SP) and AHE's Policies.

Although the AHA Board of Trustees retains ultimate authority and responsibility for the PMGs, AHA has empowered PMG leadership to act on behalf of AHA in carrying out the mission and objectives of the PMG. The PMG is not a separate legal entity and must operate in a manner consistent with AHA's policies. The elected PMG Board defines the constituency to be served and sets overall directions for the PMG.

**ARTICLE 4 – MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to professionals whose job responsibilities include healthcare environmental services or who have demonstrated a bonafide interest in the field of healthcare environmental services and who agree to support the mission, vision and code of professional responsibility of AHE.

**ARTICLE 5 – DUES**

Annual dues of AHE shall be established by the AHE Board according to the policies set forth by AHE.

#### **ARTICLE 6– MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

AHE shall meet at least annually for the transaction of the affairs of the AHE.

#### **ARTICLE 7 – AHE BOARD**

The Board shall be composed of AHE members. Eligibility, composition, term, nomination, selection, and meeting frequency shall be according to the policies set forth by AHE.

The AHE Board shall have the authority to conduct the affairs of AHE and to act on behalf of AHE on issues related to healthcare environmental services.

The Board shall have the power to develop plans, objectives, and purposes for AHE; approve and revise all rules and regulations for the operation of AHE; establish ad hoc committees consistent with the objectives of AHE; review and approve the recommendations of committees; provide for the conduct of AHE's annual meeting; and maintain fiscal responsibility. The actions of the Board shall conform to the regulations of the AHA.

#### **ARTICLE 8 - OFFICERS**

An AHE member shall be chosen to serve as the president of AHE who shall act as chair of the Board and shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The nomination and selection process, duties, term, and continued eligibility to serve as president shall be according to the policies established by AHE.

#### **ARTICLE 9 - CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

All elected and appointed representatives of AHE, as defined by policies set forth by the Board, shall comply with all conflict of interest provisions of AHE and the AHA.

All elected and appointed representatives of AHE shall exercise the utmost good faith in all transactions relating to their duties in AHE. In their dealings with and on behalf of AHE, they are held to a strict rule of honest and fair dealing with AHE. They shall not use their position, or knowledge gained there from, so that a conflict might arise between AHE's interest and that of the individual. All acts of board members shall be for the benefit of AHE in any dealing that may affect AHE adversely. The board member shall not accept any favor or gratuity that might influence their actions affecting AHE or its members.

#### **ARTICLE 10 - COMMITTEES**

There shall be standing committees of AHE according to the guidelines established by AHE. The president of AHE may appoint, from time to time, additional committees and/or ad hoc task forces for purposes compatible with the objectives of AHE.

**ARTICLE 11 - CHAPTER AFFILIATIONS**

AHE may allow for the affiliation of local, state, or international chapters. Such affiliation shall be further defined in the PMG Division's Standing Procedures

**ARTICLE 12 - CHARTER AMENDMENT**

This charter may be amended by mutual agreement of the AHE Board and the Vice President of the PMG Division of the AHA

1<sup>st</sup> Draft 3/22/17

2<sup>nd</sup> Draft 4/21/17

3<sup>rd</sup> Draft 5/20/17

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