

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE**

**Academy of Leisure Sciences and
the American Leisure Academy**

August 5, 2013

This is an agreement between “*The Academy of Leisure Sciences*”, hereinafter called ALS and the “*American Leisure Academy*”, hereinafter called ALA.

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MOU is to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each party as they relate to the future of the ALA within the ALS.

In particular, this MOU is intended to invite the members of the ALA to join the ALS as general members through a memo of membership transfer. As such, the new ALS members will be eligible for all the benefits and privileges of ALS membership. Once the transfer of ALA members is completed, the ALA will cease to exist as a stand-alone association.

This transfer of members from the ALA to the ALS will strengthen the ALS mission, which is to...

...bring together people from diverse backgrounds who share a mutual interest in better understanding the roles of leisure in life, including various contexts of recreation, park, tourism, outdoor adventure, health, therapy, and sport.

II. BACKGROUND

The ALS was founded in 1980 to honor scholars who had made significant contributions, through their research and writings, to the field of leisure sciences. In 2011, the ALS voted to reconstitute itself and open its membership to scholars, educators, and practitioners. Although ALS will continue its practice of nominating and electing Fellows based on lifetime achievement, henceforth we will facilitate academic and administrative mentorship and professional networking; continuing education; and research, teaching, and service-related programs. Membership is open to all interested in the scholarship of leisure, and all are invited to take responsibility for the Academy’s growth and development by volunteering to serve on its committees, stand for its governing offices, and otherwise help create the academy’s future.

Started in 1997, the American Leisure Academy (ALA) serves as a forum for the promotion and advancement of the quality of life of individuals through leisure and recreation, and acknowledges the contributions of educators, practitioners, and others credited with advancing leisure and recreation. Specifically, its objectives shall be: (1) to advance knowledge related to leisure and leisure service delivery systems; (2) to serve as an interdisciplinary forum for the scholarly exchange of ideas; and (3) to establish affiliations with professional societies, associations, civic action groups, governmental and nongovernmental bodies that share the commitment to the purpose of the ALA.

III. ALS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU

ALS shall undertake the following activities:

- a. Accept the members of the ALA in the year of joining without additional membership fees. In subsequent years, all members of the ALS will pay membership dues as appropriate to their membership status.
- b. Reference the action of the ALA joining the ALS within all media through which ALS history is made available. See Section IV.b of this MOU.

- c. Maintain and make available an electronic version of the *Papers of the American Leisure Academy* on the ALS website.
- d. Initiate an ALS/ALA Challenge Grant program whereby members will be challenged to match the existing funds of ALA (~\$8000). Challenge Grant donations will be so designated and added to the ALS Future Scholars Endowment Fund. ALA matching funds will be transferred to the Future Scholars Fund annually. The Challenge Grant program will cease three (3) years after this signing of this MOU. See Section IV.d of this MOU.
- e. ALS will work with the ALA board to develop a task force comprised of three members, two members who are both ALS and ALA fellows and one additional ALS representative to forward the names of current ALA members for consideration for ALS Fellow status according to the procedures of the ALS Nominating Committee and the bylaws established by ALS. This task force expires two years from the signing of this MOU.

IV. ALA RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU

ALA shall undertake the following activities:

- a. Submit a letter to transfer the ALA membership to the ALS as general members, identifying those ALA members who wish to join the ALS within two months of this agreement.
- b. Provide written documentation (~500 words) referencing the history of the ALA to be included within the ALS history in all media through which ALS history is made available.
- c. Provide an electronic version of the *Papers of the American Leisure Academy* to be posted on the ALS website.
- d. As per Section III.d of this MOU, ALA will transfer matching funds to ALS on an annual basis.
- e. The board of ALA will work with ALS to develop a task force as per item III.e in this MOU.
- f. At the appropriate time, discontinue all operations of the ALA, including but not limited to, disabling the ALA website, destroying any remaining ALA letterhead and business relationships save those retained for historical informational purposes, ceasing to hold annual meetings, and refraining from publishing papers or presentations under the auspices of the ALA. Many of these activities may continue within the structure and under the sponsorship of the ALS.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

This MOU shall be in effect upon the signatures of the authorized officials of the ALS and the ALA.

The members of the ALS and the members of the ALA indicate agreement with this MOU by the signatures of their respective representatives.



ALS Representative



Date



ALA Representative

Date