Mr. Speaker, the Reference Committee on Constitution and Bylaws considers proposed amendments to the AOA’s governing documents. The following amendments were duly published within the time frames set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws for consideration, and posted in the manner required. The proposed amendments to the AOA Constitution were given a first reading at the July 2018 House of Delegates.

CONSENT AGENDA – FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Mr. Speaker, I present the following Consent Agenda, and the Committee recommends that it be APPROVED:

H-500 AMENDMENT TO THE AOA CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS – BUREAU OF EMERGING LEADERS AND NEW PHYSICIAN IN PRACTICE

H-502 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AOA BOARD OF TRUSTEES, COMPOSITION OF

H-503 AOA BOARD OF TRUSTEES – PUBLIC MEMBER POSITION

H-504 AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES VOTING RULES

H-505 AOA RULES AND GUIDELINES ON PHYSICIANS’ PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT (H506-A/14)

And I so move.

H-501 - AMENDMENT TO THE AOA CONSTITUTION – CHANGE TO TERM LIMIT FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Speaker, I present for consideration Resolution No. H-503, and the Committee recommends that it be DISAPPROVED. To begin discussion, I move to approve the Resolution.

Explanatory Statement: The Committee believes that the proposed nine-year term limit would not provide sufficient time to ensure proper maturation of Trustees before ascending to the position of
President-elect and President. The additional three years under the current term limit allows for time needed to develop the breadth of expertise and leadership competence.

And I so move.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes the Committee’s report. I would like to thank the members of the Committee.

Committee Members:
Linda Delo, DO - **Chair**
Elizabeth Palmarozzi, DO - **Vice chair**
Brian Loveless, DO
Saif-Eldin Farag, DO
Kevin Beyer, DO
Hetal Patel, DO
Dennis J. Dowling, DO
Sue Moore-Riesbeck, DO
Richard E. Johnson, DO
Catherine Nelson, DO
Dianna Glessner, DO
Michael E. Dietz, DO

**STAFF**
Josh Prober, JD
WHEREAS, the proposed amendments were presented to the July 2018 House of Delegates for its first reading; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the AOA House of Delegates approve the following amendments to the American Osteopathic Association Constitution & Bylaws:

AOA Constitution

Article VIII – Board of Trustees and Executive Committee - Section 1 D
Pages 2-3 - Lines 41-8

D. ONE POSTDOCTORAL TRAINEE, TO INCLUDE INTERN, RESIDENT, OR A FELLOW, member elected by the House of Delegates to serve for one year. Candidates for the intern/resident POSTDOCTORAL TRAINEE position shall be enrolled in an ACGME OR AOA-approved internship, residency or, if enrolled in an ACGME-approved residency shall have applied for an AOA approval of the ACGME-Approved residency FELLOWSHIP. Candidates for the intern/resident POSTDOCTORAL TRAINEE position shall be nominated by the council of interns and residents BUREAU OF EMERGING LEADERS. CANDIDATES SHOULD BE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING OF THE AOA.

AOA Bylaws

Article V – House of Delegates – Section 1 – Certification of Delegates and Alternates – Part B – Specialty Colleges

Page 9 - Lines 41-42

Each AOA recognized specialty college shall elect one delegate and at least one alternate to the AOA House of Delegates in a manner prescribed in its constitution and Bylaws. No specialty college delegate or alternate shall also be a member of the divisional society’s delegation to CONCURRENTLY SERVE AS A DELEGATE FOR A DIVISIONAL SOCIETY AT the AOA’s House of Delegates. The Secretary of each specialty college shall certify the name of its
delegate and alternate to the Chief Executive Officer of the AOA at least 30 days prior to the first day of the annual meeting of the AOA House of Delegates. Each delegate and alternate must be a member in good standing of this association and his specialty college.

Article V - House of Delegates - Section 11 - Representation of Osteopathic Physicians In Postdoctoral Training TRAINEES AND/OR NEW PHYSICIANS IN PRACTICE

Section 11 - Representation of Osteopathic Physicians In Postdoctoral Training TRAINEES AND/OR NEW PHYSICIANS IN PRACTICE

Osteopathic physicians in postdoctoral training TRAINEES AND/OR NEW PHYSICIANS IN PRACTICE may be represented in the House of Delegates by two individuals who, at the time of the annual meeting, shall be enrolled in postdoctoral training programs OR CURRENTLY A NEW PHYSICIAN IN PRACTICE AS DEFINED BY THE ASSOCIATION. The two individuals and their alternates shall be selected by vote of the AOA’s Council of Interns and Residents BUREAU OF EMERGING LEADERS (BEL). The delegates (and alternate delegates) selected by the Council of Interns and Residents BEL shall serve as the representatives of osteopathic physicians in postdoctoral training TRAINEES AND NEW PHYSICIANS IN PRACTICE. AND THESE DELEGATES shall not also be members of a divisional society or specialty college delegation to the AOA’s INDIVIDUALS SERVING AS A BEL DELEGATE SHALL NOT CONCURRENTLY SERVE AS A DELEGATE FOR ANY OTHER GROUP AT THE AOA House of Delegates. The chair of the Council of Interns and Residents CHAIR OF THE BEL shall certify the names of its delegates and alternate delegates to the Chief Executive Officer of the AOA in writing or by electronic communication at least 30 days prior to the first day of the annual meeting of the AOA House of Delegates. Each delegate and alternate must be a member in good standing of this Association.

ACTION TAKEN **APPROVED**

DATE **July 27, 2019**
AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name
The name of this Association shall be the American Osteopathic Association.

Article II - Objectives
The objectives of this Association shall be to promote the public health, to encourage scientific
research, and to maintain and improve high standards of Osteopathic medical education.

Article III - Divisional Societies
This Association shall be a federation of divisional societies organized within state or foreign country
boundaries, or within the uniformed services of the United States, which may be chartered by this
Association as provided by the Bylaws, and all such organizations or divisions now a constituent part
of the American Osteopathic Association are declared to be chartered as federated units of this
Association.

Article IV - Affiliated Organizations
Affiliated organizations may be organized in conformity with the Bylaws of the Association.

Article V - Membership
The membership of this Association shall consist of Osteopathic physicians and of such others as
have met the requirements prescribed by the Bylaws of the American Osteopathic Association.

Article VI - House of Delegates
The House of Delegates shall be the legislative body of the Association, shall exercise the delegated
powers of the divisional societies in the affairs of this Association, and shall perform such other
functions as are set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 1-Composition
The House of Delegates shall consist of delegates elected by the divisional societies and other
authorized units, the elected officers and trustees of the Association and of such other members as
may be provided for in the Bylaws.

A. Divisional Societies and Uniformed Services Society Four hundred seventy-three delegate positions
shall be allocated among the divisional societies for each of the states and the District of Columbia
and the affiliated organization that represents osteopathic physicians serving in the uniformed
services as follows: each divisional society and the uniformed services affiliate shall be entitled to
one delegate and one alternate delegate. The remaining delegate positions shall be allocated among
divisional societies and the uniformed services affiliate based on the proportion of members of this
association who are located in the state represented by that divisional society or, in the case of the
uniformed services divisional society, the proportion of members of this association currently
serving on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States. The allocation of additional
delegates shall be recalculated each year.

B. Student Council Representation in Divisional Societies Divisional societies shall be awarded one
additional delegate as a student council representative for each college of osteopathic medicine
accredited by this Association and located in the state represented by that divisional society, such student delegate to be elected according to the Bylaws of the American Osteopathic Association.

C. Specialty Affiliates Each AOA recognized Specialty College shall be represented by one delegate to be selected as provided in the bylaws of the American Osteopathic Association.

Section 2-Presiding Officer
The presiding officer of the House of Delegates shall be the Speaker and, in his absence or at his request, the Vice Speaker shall preside.

Article VII – Officers
Section 1-Elected Officers
The elected officers of this Association shall be the President, President-Elect, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and Third Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall be a person who has had previous experience as a member of the Board of Trustees. The officers shall be elected annually by the House of Delegates for a term of one year, or until their successors are elected and installed. The President-Elect shall automatically succeed to the presidency upon his installation, during the annual meeting of the House of Delegates following his election to the office of President-Elect. In the case of the inability upon the part of the president to serve during the term of office for which he/she has been elected, and therefore the office becomes vacant, the President-Elect shall become president for the unexpired portion of the term and continue in that office for the term in which the President-Elect was originally elected. In such case, if the President-Elect is unable to serve for the full unexpired term of the president's office, then the responsibility of filling the office of President shall devolve upon the Board of Trustees.

Section 2-Administrative Officers
The administrative officers shall be Chief Executive Officer, a Controller, a General Counsel, and an Editor who shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees and employed to serve for such term as the Board shall define. The duties of these officers shall be those usual to such officers in their respective offices and such others as are set forth in the Bylaws. The Chief Executive Officer shall be the Secretary of the Association.

Article VIII - Board of Trustees and Executive Committee
Section 1-Board of Trustees
The Board of Trustees shall be the administrative and executive body of the association and perform such other duties as are provided by the bylaws. The Board of Trustees of this association shall consist of twenty-nine members.

A. Seven elected officers: The President, President-Elect, The Past Presidents for the preceding two years, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Third Vice-President;

B. Eighteen at-large trustees, six of whom shall be elected annually by the house of delegates to serve for three years;

C. One new physician in practice member elected by the House of Delegates to serve for one year. Candidates for the new physician in practice position shall be osteopathic physicians who have completed their postdoctoral training within the past five years or received the DO degree within the previous ten years shall be nominated by the council of new physicians in practice;
D. ONE POSTDOCTORAL TRAINEE, TO INCLUDE INTERN, RESIDENT, OR A FELLOW, member elected by the House of Delegates to serve for one year. Candidates for the intern/resident POSTDOCTORAL TRAINEE position shall be enrolled in an ACGME OR AOA-approved internship, residency or, if enrolled in an ACGME-approved residency shall have applied for an AOA approval of the ACGME Approved residency FELLOWSHIP. Candidates for the intern/resident POSTDOCTORAL TRAINEE position shall be nominated by the council of interns and residents BUREAU OF EMERGING LEADERS. CANDIDATES SHOULD BE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING OF THE AOA.

E. One student member elected by the House of Delegates to serve for one year. Candidates for the student position shall be nominated, in altering years, by the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) and the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA); and

F. One public member elected by the House of Delegates to serve for a three-year term, with a one-term limit. Candidates for the public member position shall not be physicians and shall be nominated by the committee on administrative personnel.

Section 2-Executive Committee
The Executive Committee of this Association shall consist of the President, President-elect, Past Presidents for the preceding two years, the chairs of the Departments of Affiliate Affairs, Business Affairs, Governmental Affairs, Professional Affairs, Research, Quality and Public Health, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Department of Educational Affairs.

Section 3-Term Limit
For all trustees, with the exception of the President, President-Elect and the Past Presidents for the preceding two years, the aggregate terms of Office of Trustees shall be limited to twelve (12) years, with the exception that a trustee may complete the term in which twelve (12) years or more of service is completed. Time served as a student member, intern/resident POSTDOCTORAL TRAINEE member, or as new physician in practice member shall not be included in calculating the twelve years of service.

Article IX - Amendments
This Constitution may be amended by the House of Delegates at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the total number of delegates accredited for voting, provided that such amendments shall have been presented to the House and filed with the Chief Executive Officer at a previous annual meeting, who shall cause them to be distributed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to each divisional and specialty society entitled to and voting representatives to the house of delegates, posted on the AOA’s website, and published in the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association not less than two months or more than four months prior to the meeting at which they are to be acted upon.

Article X - Gender Disclaimer
The American Osteopathic Association is open to persons of both sexes and does not discriminate against any persons because of sex; therefore, the wording herein importing the masculine or feminine gender includes the other gender and imports no such discrimination.
BYLAWS

Article I - Divisional, District and Affiliated Societies

Section 1-Divisional Societies
Any state, territorial, provincial or foreign osteopathic organization, or an organization of osteopathic physicians serving in the uniformed services of the United States, which may desire to become a divisional society of the American Osteopathic Association and be chartered as a divisional society of this Association, shall apply on a prescribed form, submit evidence that its constitution, Bylaws, and Code of Ethics generally conform to those of this Association, and maintain an organizational structure which shall generally conform to that of this Association.

Upon such application, the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Trustees shall investigate and, finding satisfactory proof, shall recommend to the House of Delegates that a charter be issued. The Association shall not issue such a charter to more than one divisional society in a given area.

Section 2-District Societies
Divisional societies may, within their own areas, organize district societies whose relationship to the divisional society shall in all respects conform to that existing between the division and this Association.

Section 3-Affiliated Organizations
Upon application from any organization for a charter as an affiliated organization, the Board of Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer shall investigate such organization and, upon satisfactory proof of a general agreement in policy and governing rules with those of this Association, shall recommend to the House of Delegates the issuance of such a charter. The Association shall not issue a charter to any organization, which duplicates the function or prerogatives of any presently affiliated organization. All organizations which have as their membership osteopathic physicians in good standing with the AOA, whether holding a current charter of affiliation or not, shall have as a medium of communication all publications of the AOA.

Section 4-Amendments to Governing Documents
Any amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Ethics, and other governing documents, by whatever name called, of such a divisional society or affiliated organization shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association, who shall review such amendments to determine whether, with the proposed amendments, the Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Ethics, or other governing documents would continue to conform generally to those of this Association and, with respect to the divisional society only, whether the organizational structure would continue to conform generally to those of this Association. Until such proposed amendments are given written approval of the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association, the divisional society or affiliated organization shall continue to operate under its previously approved Constitution, Bylaws, or other governing documents.

Article II – Membership

Section 1-Classification
The members of this Association shall be classified as follows:
  a. Regular Members
  b. Honorary Life Members
  c. Life Members
  d. Associate Members
  e. Student Members
f. Honorary Members

g. International Physician Members

h. Allied Members

Section 2-Membership Requirements

a. Applicants for Regular Membership

An applicant for regular membership in this Association shall be a graduate of a college of osteopathic medicine approved by the American Osteopathic Association and shall be eligible for licensure as an osteopathic physician and/or surgeon or shall be in a training program, which is a prerequisite for his licensure.

Application shall be made on the prescribed form and shall be accompanied by payment of the appropriate dues amount.

Unless specifically noted, an applicant whose completed application and payment of appropriate dues has been received and processed shall be enrolled as a regular member. An applicant whose membership in this Association has previously been withdrawn for reasons other than failure to meet CME requirements or non-payment of dues, or who has previously been convicted of a felony offense or whose license to practice has at any time been revoked, shall be further required to obtain the endorsement of the secretary of the divisional society in the state, province, or foreign country in which the applicant resides (or the endorsement of the secretary of the uniformed services divisional society in the case of applicants currently serving in the uniformed services of the United States), or, lacking this endorsement, an applicant who is in good standing in his community shall provide letters of recommendation from three members of the Association and provide a personal written statement as to why membership in the Association should be extended or restored. Such information and application shall be carefully reviewed by the Committee on Membership, which shall make an appropriate recommendation for reinstatement to the Board of Trustees.

An applicant whose license to practice is revoked or suspended, or who is currently serving a sentence for conviction of a felony offense, shall not be considered eligible for membership in this Association.

b. Honorary Life Member

Honorary life membership shall be conferred on each president upon conclusion of his term of office.

Such honorary life membership shall not exempt the holder thereof from the maintenance of regular membership in his divisional society or from assessments levied by this Association.

Honorary life membership may also be conferred by the Board of Trustees on a regular member who has been in good standing for 25 consecutive years immediately preceding, and who has rendered outstanding service to the profession at either the state or national level, or who is recommended for such a membership by official action of his divisional society and the Committee on Membership.

Such honorary life members shall have the privileges and duties of regular members including the payment of assessments levied by the Association, but shall not be required to pay dues.

c. Life Member

Life membership may be granted to any regular member who has reached the age of 70 years, or who has completed 50 years of osteopathic practice, whichever comes first, and who has been in good standing for 25 consecutive years immediately preceding. The Committee on Membership may waive this requirement on individual consideration. Such members shall have the privileges and duties of regular members, but shall not be required to pay dues or assessments beginning the year in which the age of 70 is attained.
Life membership may also be granted by the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee on recommendation of his divisional society, to any regular member who has become permanently totally disabled. Such members shall have the privileges and duties of regular members, but shall not be required to pay dues or assessments.

d. Associate Member

By specific action of the Board of Trustees, or its Executive Committee, associate memberships may be granted to the following:

Graduates of accredited schools of medicine, dentistry or podiatry holding teaching, research or administrative positions in AOA accredited healthcare facilities and colleges or who practice jointly with regular members of this Association;

Doctors of philosophy or education and other nondoctoral personnel holding teaching, research or administrative positions in AOA accredited healthcare facilities or colleges; administrative employees of this Association, affiliated organizations and divisional societies; and any other professionals as determined by the Board of Trustees, excepting osteopathic physicians and students in colleges of osteopathic medicine.

Such associate members shall be required to pay dues and assessments as determined by these Bylaws. They shall receive a complimentary online subscription to the Association's publications and shall be eligible for such benefits as are periodically established by the Board of Trustees.

Associate members shall not be eligible for membership in the House of Delegates or the Board of Trustees, or to hold any elective offices of this Association. Special listing in the *AOA Yearbook and Directory of the Osteopathic Profession* shall be provided.

e. Student Member

Student membership status shall be granted to each undergraduate student in an approved college of osteopathic medicine.

At such time as a student member graduates from his osteopathic college, he shall automatically become enrolled as a regular member of the Association. Each student member shall receive such publications and other literature, except the *AOA Yearbook and Directory*, as may be directed by the Board of Trustees or the House of Delegates.

f. Honorary Member

By specific action of the Board of Trustees, honorary membership may be granted to individuals, not eligible for any other category of membership, who support the goals and objectives of this Association. Such honorary members shall not be required to pay dues or assessments. They shall receive complimentary copies of the Association's publications and such other services as authorized by the Board of Trustees. Honorary members shall not be eligible for membership in the House of Delegates or the Board of Trustees, or hold any elective offices of this Association. Special listing in the *AOA Yearbook and Directory* shall be provided.

Such membership, when conferred, shall remain in full force and effect unless revoked by action of the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association.

g. International Physician Members

By specific action of the Board of Trustees, or its Executive Committee, international membership may be granted to the following allopathic physicians who are:

Graduates of schools of medicine located outside of the United States on an official list of schools recognized by the AOA, and holding a license for unlimited scope of medical practice including the
authority to prescribe without limitation in their country of practice, and these allopathic physicians reside and practice outside of the United States and who support the goals and objectives of the AOA and the AOA Code of Ethics

Such International Physician Members will be required to pay dues and assessments as determined by these Bylaws. They shall receive a complimentary subscription to the Association’s publications and shall be eligible for such benefits as are periodically established by the Board of Trustees.

International Physician Members shall not be eligible for membership in the House of Delegates or the Board of Trustees, or to hold any elective offices of this Association. Special listing in the AOA Yearbook and Directory shall be provided.

b. Allied Member

By specific action of the Committee on Membership, allied membership may be granted to those licensed allied healthcare providers who are currently employed, with an active member of the AOA, contribute to the practice of that member, are not eligible for any other category of membership and who support the goals and objectives of this Association.

Such allied members shall be required to pay dues and assessments as determined by these Bylaws. They shall be eligible for such benefits as may periodically be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Allied members shall not be eligible for membership in the House of Delegates or the Board of Trustees, or to hold any elective offices of this Association. Special listing in the AOA Yearbook and Directory will be provided.

By specific action of the Committee on Membership, allied membership may be granted to allopathic physicians holding an MD degree and licensed to practice in the United States who support the AOA mission and subscribe to its Code of Ethics.

Individuals who have received their training and/or degree in osteopathic medicine from a school that is not accredited by the AOA Bureau of Professional Education are not eligible for membership in the AOA.

Section 3 - Disciplinary Action

The membership of any member of the Association who, in the opinion of the Executive Committee of the Association, purposely and persistently violates the established policy of the Association or who seeks to undermine the unity of the osteopathic profession or of any of its divisional societies or affiliated organizations may be revoked, suspended, or placed on probation by action of the Executive Committee of the Association upon the recommendation of the Committee on Membership, after the member has been given notice and an opportunity to be heard before such action is taken. Any individual whose membership has been so revoked, suspended, or placed on probation shall have the right of appeal to the Board of Trustees of the AOA at its next regular meeting, requesting a review of the action of the Executive Committee, and the Board of Trustees, on review, may in its discretion take such action in regard thereto as it deems appropriate.

Section 4 - Continuing Medical Education

Regular members shall be required to satisfy Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements. The CME requirements shall be determined and administered by the Board of Trustees. Members who do not meet the CME requirement are subject to such disciplinary action as is determined to be appropriate by the Board of Trustees, including revocation of membership, suspension, censure or probation.

Article III - Dues and Assessments
Section 1 - Payment of Dues
The annual dues of regular members of the Association shall be payable in advance on or before 1 June, the beginning of the fiscal year.

A member whose dues shall remain unpaid for three months shall become suspended. He may be reinstated upon payment of dues and assessments provided such payments are received prior to the end of the current fiscal year, or, if later, by applying as a new member.

Section 2 - Dues Rates

a. Members
The annual dues of all members of the Association (except for allied members discussed in section 2c and student members discussed in section 2d, below) shall be determined by the House of Delegates and administered by the Board of Trustees.

b. Hardship Cases
Upon recommendation of the Committee on Membership, the Board of Trustees, or its Executive Committee, may remit a part or all of the annual dues of a member in good standing who, because of physical disability, maintain a limited practice or no practice. For just cause, properly authenticated, similar action may be taken by the Board of Trustees, or its Executive Committee, in regard to regular members not otherwise specifically covered by other provisions of this Article.

c. Allied Members
The annual dues rates for allied members shall be determined and administered by the Board of Trustees.

d. Student Rate
Student members shall not be liable for dues or any assessment.

e. International Physician Members
The annual dues rates for International Physician Members shall be determined and administered by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3 - Assessments
To meet emergencies the Board of Trustees may levy such assessments as may be necessary, provided that the total of such assessments in any one-year shall not exceed the amount of the annual dues. Failure to pay such assessments shall incur the same penalty as failure to pay dues. Those dropped from membership for nonpayment of dues during the fiscal year in which an assessment is levied shall be required to pay the assessment prior to reapplying for membership.

Section 4 - Refunding Dues
No dues will be refunded if a membership is terminated for cause or because of resignation.

Article IV - Code of Ethics

Section 1
The House of Delegates shall establish a Code of Ethics for the information and guidance of the members. Members of the Association, in their daily conduct, shall comply with the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Code shall cover duties of physicians to patients, duties of physicians to other physicians and to the profession at large, and responsibilities of physicians to the public. The House of Delegates shall not adopt any provisions of the Code of Ethics, which may be in conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Association.
Section 2
The Code of Ethics may be amended by the House of Delegates at any annual meeting by two-thirds vote of the total number of delegates accredited for voting, provided a copy of the proposed amendment is deposited with the Chief Executive Officer at least 90 days before the annual meeting at which it is to be voted upon.

It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive Officer to have the proposed amendment distributed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to each divisional and specialty society entitled to send voting representatives to the House of Delegates, posted on the AOA’s website, and published in The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association not later than one month before the annual meeting at which the amendment is scheduled for consideration.

The American Osteopathic Association has formulated this Code to guide its member physicians in their professional lives. The standards presented are designed to address the osteopathic physician’s ethical and professional responsibilities to patients, to society, to the AOA, to others involved in healthcare and to self.

Further, the American Osteopathic Association has adopted the position that physicians should play a major role in the development and instruction of medical ethics.

Article V - House of Delegates

Section 1-Certification of Delegates and Alternates

a. Divisional Societies

The Chief Executive Officer of this Association shall furnish to the secretary of each divisional society, 75 days before the first day of the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, a statement of the number of regular members of this Association located in the area represented by that divisional society or, in the case of the uniformed services divisional society, the number of regular members of this Association currently serving in the uniformed services of the United States.

Based on that statement, each divisional society shall select, in a manner prescribed by its Constitution and Bylaws, the number of delegates (and their alternates) to the House of Delegates of this Association to which it is entitled under the provisions of the Constitution of the American Osteopathic Association. Delegates and alternates must be regular or student members in good standing of this Association and of the divisional societies, which they represent. Delegates (and their alternates) shall serve during the annual meeting of the House of Delegates and during the interim between annual meetings or until their successors are elected. The secretary of each divisional society shall certify its delegates and alternates to the Chief Executive Officer of this Association in writing at least 30 days prior to the first day of the annual meeting of the House of Delegates.

In the event that any state, provincial or foreign osteopathic association does not become a chartered divisional society, the regular members of this Association in that jurisdiction, at a regularly called meeting, may elect or appoint one delegate (and alternate) as their representative in the House, and such delegate (and alternate) shall be accredited in the same manner and have the same privileges as those of a divisional society.

b. Specialty Colleges

Each AOA recognized specialty college shall select one delegate and at least one alternate to the AOA House of Delegates in a manner prescribed in its constitution and Bylaws. No specialty college delegate or alternate shall also be a member of the divisional society’s delegation to CONCURRENTLY SERVE AS A DELEGATE FOR A DIVISIONAL SOCIETY AT the AOA’s House of Delegates.
The Secretary of each specialty college shall certify the name of its delegate and alternate to the Chief Executive Officer of the AOA at least 30 days prior to the first day of the annual meeting of the AOA House of Delegates. Each delegate and alternate must be a member in good standing of this association and his specialty college.

Section 2-Voting
Each delegate shall have one vote in the House, except when one-fourth of the members present shall call for the yeas and nays on any question; the Chief Executive Officer shall, before any other motion can be made, call the roll by divisional societies and enter the yeas and nays in the record. In recording such vote each divisional society shall be given one vote for each 20 regular members of the American Osteopathic Association located in the area represented by that divisional society (or in the case of the uniformed services divisional society, one vote for each 20 regular members of the American Osteopathic Association currently serving in the uniformed services of the United States), as certified to 75 days before the annual meeting of the House of Delegates under the requirements of Section 1 of this Article, and such votes may be cast by any one of the delegation then seated or divided among the various members of the delegation as the delegation in caucus shall decide.

Section 3-Committee on Credentials
The Committee on Credentials shall consist of three or more members appointed by the President and it shall be the duty of the Committee to receive and validate the credentials of the delegates to the House and to report all delegates entitled to be seated in the House. The Chief Executive Officer shall furnish the Credentials Committee a list showing the number of delegates to which each divisional society is entitled. In case any organization has selected more than its legal representation, the Chief Executive Officer shall drop surplus names from the list, beginning at the bottom, and shall notify the divisional society of his action.

Section 4-Seating of Delegates
A delegate having been seated shall remain the accredited delegate throughout the meeting. In the event that an accredited delegate has failed to qualify and assume his seat when the House convenes on the second day of the meeting, his accredited alternate may be seated. If a delegate, having been seated, finds himself unable to be present on account of physical disability or other cause acceptable to the House, his alternate may be seated for that roll call period and shall continue as delegate until the previously seated delegate shall return for duty at a subsequent roll call. In that case the alternate delegate who has been seated may, by direction of the House, be dropped from the roll and the previously seated delegate shall return to his seat in the House.

Section 5-Annual Meeting
The annual meeting of the House of Delegates shall be held during June, July or August, and separate from the annual convention or clinical assembly of the Association, upon call of the President. Special sessions of the House of Delegates may be called by the President. The delegates shall be given at least two weeks notice and the object or objects shall be stated in the call of such special meeting.

Section 6-Presiding Officer
The Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be its presiding officer. The Vice Speaker shall preside over the House of Delegates in the absence of or at the request of the Speaker and assume all duties of the Speaker.

Section 7-New Business
No new business shall be introduced on the last day of the meeting of the House of Delegates except by a two-thirds consent of those members present, provided two-thirds of the seated
Section 8 - Quorum

One-half of the accredited delegates of the House shall constitute a quorum.

Section 9 - Governing Rules

The meetings of the House of Delegates and of all other bodies of this Association shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, except in such instances as are specifically provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association or in the order of business which may be adopted from time to time. The order of business and any special rules adopted at the beginning of the meeting shall govern the procedure unless unanimously suspended.

Section 10 - Representation of Student Councils

The student council of each accredited college of osteopathic medicine and each branch campus may be represented in the House of Delegates by its president (and such president's alternate elected by such student council) as a member of the delegation of the divisional society representing the state in which such college of osteopathic medicine and branch campus is located. Each such student delegate shall be accredited in the same manner and have the same privileges as the other members of the divisional society delegation; however, the chief administrative officer of each accredited college of osteopathic medicine and each branch campus shall certify the student council president and alternate to the Chief Executive Officer of this Association in writing or by electronic communication at least 30 days prior to the first day of the annual meeting of the House of Delegates and such Chief Executive Officer shall forthwith similarly certify each student council president and alternate to the secretary of the appropriate divisional society.

Section 11 - Representation of Osteopathic Physicians in Postdoctoral Training (Trainees and/or New Physicians in Practice)

Osteopathic physicians in postdoctoral training (trainees and/or new physicians in practice) may be represented in the House of Delegates by two individuals who, at the time of the annual meeting, shall be enrolled in postdoctoral training programs or currently a new physician in practice as defined by the Association. The two individuals and their alternates shall be selected by vote of the AOA's Council of Interns and Residents (BEL). The delegates (and alternate delegates) selected by the Council of Interns and Residents (BEL) shall serve as the representatives of osteopathic physicians in postdoctoral training (trainees and new physicians in practice), and these delegates shall not also be members of a divisional society or specialty college delegation to the AOA's individuals serving as a BEL delegate shall not concurrently serve as a delegate for any other group at the AOA House of Delegates. The chair of the Council of Interns and Residents (BEL) shall certify the names of its delegates and alternate delegates to the Chief Executive Officer of the AOA in writing or by electronic communication at least 30 days prior to the first day of the annual meeting of the AOA House of Delegates. Each delegate and alternate must be a member in good standing of this Association.

Section 12 - Representation of Student Osteopathic Medical Association

The Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) may be represented in the House of Delegates by one member of the SOMA Board selected by vote of the SOMA Board (or such SOMA member's alternate, who shall also be a member of the SOMA Board selected by the SOMA Board). No SOMA delegate or alternate shall also be a member of a divisional society's delegation representing the state in which such SOMA Board member's osteopathic college is located. The SOMA delegate shall be accredited in the same manner and have the same privileges as the other members of the divisional
Article VI—Elections

Section 1—Qualifications
Except where positions are designated as public members, membership in both the AOA and a
divisional society shall be a requisite for qualification for any officer or for any member of any
department, division, bureau or committee of the Association, however selected, if the incumbent
shall be an osteopathic physician.

Section 2—Nominations
Nomination of all officers and trustees of this Association, and nomination of the Speaker and Vice
Speaker of the House of Delegates, excepting nomination of those otherwise provided for in the
Constitution, shall be a regular order of business in the House of Delegates at the annual meeting of
the House. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately preceding the balloting.
Nominating speeches shall not exceed two minutes.

Section 3—Method of Election
Election of such officers and trustees as are elected by the House of Delegates shall take place during
the last day of the annual meeting. All elections shall be by ballot except as hereinafter provided in this
section and a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect. In recording such vote, each
divisional society shall be given one vote for each 20 regular members of the American Osteopathic
Association located in the area or serving in the uniformed services of the United States represented by
that division, and such votes may be cast by any one of the delegation then seated or divided among
the various members of the delegation as the delegation in caucus shall decide. If there shall be but one
nominee for a given office or trusteeship it shall be the duty of the secretary to cast the elective ballot
for that nominee. The Speaker and Vice Speaker of the House shall be elected to serve for one year or
until their successors are elected and installed.

Section 4—Installation
The officers who have served throughout that meeting shall complete all business of the annual
meeting so far as is practicable. The officers-elect shall be installed as the final order of business and
shall assume the authority of their respective offices upon adjournment of the meeting.

Article VII—Board of Trustees

Section 1—Duties
The Board of Trustees shall:

a. Direct the management of the affairs of the Association between annual meetings. It shall
meet coincident with the annual meeting of the House of Delegates and at other times on call
of the President, shall make all arrangements for the annual meetings, shall appoint all
standing and special committees not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws, and may fill by
appointment any vacancy occurring in its own membership or any other elective office until
the time of the next meeting of the House of Delegates. A quorum of the Board shall be a
majority of the members thereof.

b. Appoint a Chief Executive Officer, a Controller, a General Counsel, and an Editor, and shall
fix the amount of their salaries and the length of their terms of office. It shall fix the duties of
the Chief Executive Officer, Controller, General Counsel, Editor and all other officials,
committees, departments and bureaus necessary to the proper execution of the policies of the
Association and not fixed by these Bylaws.

c. Have the responsibility of management of the finances of the Association and shall authorize and supervise, the House of Delegates concurring, all expenditures thereof. It shall appoint a certified public accountant to audit the financial records of the Association and certify to the accuracy of the statement of financial condition of the Association to be reported at the annual meetings.

No appropriation shall be made by the House of Delegates except upon recommendation of the Bureau of Finance approved by the Board of Trustees, and all resolutions, motions or otherwise, having for their purpose the appropriation of funds, shall first be referred without discussion to the Bureau of Finance of the Board of Trustees. An adverse ruling on such motions may be overruled by a three-fourths vote of the House of Delegates.

d. Provide for the publication of an official journal of the Association and such other publications as are deemed necessary or shall be directed by the House of Delegates.

c. Maintain and revise the Administrative Guide annually. The general purpose of this manual shall be to provide a handy reference book of concise statements of the duties of all officials, committees, departments, bureaus and employees of the Association, to the end that there shall be no conflict of jurisdiction or duplication of effort. Copies of such Guide shall be furnished to each divisional society and affiliated organization as well as officers of the American Osteopathic Association and other groups or individuals as directed by the Board of Trustees of the Association.

f. Establish such departments, committees, bureaus, councils, and commissions, and authorize the president’s creation of such task forces, as shall be necessary to further the policies of the Association and determined by the House of Delegates and shall determine the duties and powers of such departments, committees, bureaus, councils, commissions and task forces.

g. Approve from its own membership, based on the President’s appointment, the chairs of the departments. The department chairs shall direct the activities of their respective departments. However, the public member of the board shall not be eligible to serve as a department chair. The Board shall also approve, based on the President’s appointment, the members of the various committees, bureaus, councils, commissions and task forces under the departments.

h. Decide finally all questions of an ethical or judicial character. It shall have investigated by the Committee on Ethics all charges or complaints of violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, or of grossly unprofessional conduct of any member. The Board shall have the power to censure, place on probation for not exceeding a three-year period, suspend for not exceeding a three-year period or expel a member, as the findings warrant. A member may be cited to appear before it by the Board of Trustees or the Committee on Ethics to answer charges or complaints of unethical or unprofessional conduct. Upon the final conviction of any member of an offense amounting to a felony under the law applicable thereto, or the final revocation of, or suspension of, his license to practice in a state on the grounds of having committed a violation of a disciplinary provision of the licensing law by a duly constituted state licensing agency, or the voluntary surrender of his license while under charges of having committed said violation, such member shall automatically be deemed expelled from membership in this Association; a conviction shall be deemed final for the purposes hereof when affirmed by an appellate tribunal of final jurisdiction or upon expiration of the period allowed for appeal. The Committee on Membership shall be granted the authority to restore to membership a
doctor whose license was revoked, and later retroactively reinstated by his licensing board.

If, because of a breach of the Code of Ethics, a member shall have been suspended, or expelled from a divisional society or affiliated organization by proper action of such divisional society or affiliated organization, the Board of Trustees of this Association shall review the record of such decision. The decision may first be referred to the Committee on Ethics for recommendations. If the Board shall concur in the action of the divisional society or affiliated organization, such member shall be suspended for the same period of time or expelled from this Association upon the same basis as in the decision of the divisional society or affiliated organization. The Board is authorized to adopt and amend from time to time, in the manner directed by the Board, a Guide for Administrative Procedure regulating the procedure applicable to matters involving violations of the Code of Ethics.

Section 2--Appeal
A minority of one-third or more members of the Board of Trustees present at any session may appeal to the House of Delegates from the decision of the majority on any question at the current meeting.

Section 3--Executive Committee
The Executive Committee shall transact the business of the Board of Trustees between meetings.

Section 4--By-Mail Vote
Between meetings of the Board of Trustees and of the Executive Committee, a by-mail vote, or vote by other means of electronic communications, on any urgent matter may be taken of the members of the Board of Trustees, or Executive Committee, if a consent in writing setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all of the trustees or members of the Executive Committee entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof, any such vote to be entered into the records at the next meeting of the Board.

Section 5--Indemnification
Each trustee, officer, and employee of this Association now or hereafter in office and his heirs, executors, and administrators, and each trustee, officer, and employee of this Association and his heirs, executors, and administrators who now acts, or shall hereafter act at the request of this Association as employee, trustee, director, or officer of another corporate entity controlled by this Association, shall be indemnified by this Association against all costs, expenses, judgments, fines, and amounts or liability therefore, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon him in connection with or resulting from any action, suit, proceeding, or claim to which he may be made a party, or in which he may be or become involved by reason of his acts of omission or commission, or alleged acts of omission or commission as such trustee, officer, or employee, or, subject to the subsequent provisions of the section, any settlement thereof, whether or not he continues to be such trustee, officer, or employee at the time of incurring such costs, expenses, judgments, fines or amounts, provided that such indemnification shall not apply with respect to any matters as to which such trustee, officer, or employee shall be finally adjudged in such action, suit, or proceeding to have been individually guilty of misconduct, misfeasance, or malfeasance in the performance of his duty as such trustee, officer, or employee. The indemnification herein provided shall, with respect to any settlement of any such suit, action, proceeding, or claim, include reimbursement of any amounts paid and expenses reasonably incurred in settling any such suit, action, proceeding, or claim, when the Board of Trustees has determined that such settlement and reimbursement appear to be for the best interests of this Association. Such determination shall be made (1) by the Board of Trustees or by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of trustees who were not parties to such action, suit, or proceeding, or (2) if such a quorum is not obtainable (or, even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested trustees so directs)
by independent legal counsel in a written opinion. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in
addition to and not exclusive of any and all other rights as to which any such trustee, officer, or
employee may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, or otherwise.

Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit, or proceeding may be paid by the
Association in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit, or proceeding as authorized by
the Board of Trustees or Executive Committee in the manner heretofore provided, upon receipt of a
written undertaking by or on behalf of the trustee, officer, or employee to repay such amount unless
it shall ultimately be determined that he is entitled to be indemnified by the Association as authorized
in this section.

The Board of Trustees may authorize the Association to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of
any person who is or was a trustee or employee of the Association or is or was serving at the request
of the Association as a trustee, director, officer, employee, or agent of another corporate entity
controlled by the Association against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such
capacity, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the Association would have the authority
or power to indemnify him against such liability under the provisions of this section.

Article VIII--Duties of Officers

Section 1--President
The President shall be the chairman of the Board of Trustees and of the Executive Committee and
shall perform the duties usually pertaining to his office. He shall nominate, subject to approval by the
Board of Trustees, all appointive officers, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws and in accordance
with the directives contained in the Administrative Guide or as established by the Board of Trustees
or the House of Delegates.

Section 2--President-elect
The President-elect shall perform the duties of the office of the President in the absence of or at the
request of the President.

Section 3--Vice-Presidents
The Vice-Presidents, in the order of their designation and in the absence or at the request of the
President and President-elect, shall perform the duties of the office of the President.

Section 4--Speaker/Vice-Speaker of the House of Delegates
The Speaker or the Vice-Speaker of the House of Delegates shall perform such duties as custom and
parliamentary usage require. The Speaker shall appoint reference committees of the House to perform
functions for which they are created subject to the approval of the House. He shall have such other
privileges and duties as may be assigned to him by the House of Delegates, which privileges and duties
shall not be in conflict with the privileges and duties assigned by the Constitution and Bylaws to other
officers of the Association. The Vice-Speaker of the House of Delegates shall assume the duties of the
Speaker in his absence or at his request.

Section 5--Chief Executive Officer
The Chief Executive Officer shall:

a. Be the chief administrative officer of the Association and of the central office. He shall be
the executive and recording secretary of the Association. He shall counsel with the other
administrative officers and with the heads of departments in the central office to produce
the greatest possible cooperation and efficiency in the conduct of the affairs of the
Association under the President and the Board of Trustees. He shall cooperate with the
chairmen of various agencies of the Association in the execution of the policies of the
Association as outlined by the House of Delegates. It shall be his duty to coordinate the
work performed by the various departments, bureaus, and committees of the Association.

b. Direct the joint activities of the Association and the divisional societies as provided by the
Bylaws, and may select one or more of the trustees or like officers of the divisional societies,
to assist him in this work in their respective areas.

c. Be responsible for the correspondence of the Association and shall keep accurate record of the
proceedings of the House of Delegates and the Board of Trustees. d. Be responsible for the
supervision of assistance to the divisional societies in all matters according to the policies laid
down by the Association and for the supervision of the execution of plans of the Association
with regard to colleges, affiliated organizations and campaigns.

d. Keep on file an accurate record of all transactions of his office, which shall at any time be
subject to examination by the President or the Board of Trustees, shall make an annual report
to the House of Delegates and Board, and shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by
the Board not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association.

e. Be the statistical officer of the Association, and shall have charge of the archives, including
legal, historical and scientific records of value to the Association.

f. Be authorized to provide such assistance as is necessary for the proper conduct of the
central office, subject to the directives of the Board of Trustees, and at the expiration of his
term shall deliver to his successor all property and papers pertaining to his office. He shall
file bond with such surety company and in such amount as the Board of Trustees shall
determine.

Section 6--Controller

The Controller shall:

a. Have charge of the funds and assets of the Association, cooperate with the Chief Executive
Officer and Editor under the direction of the Board of Trustees, and disburse such funds
only in the manner prescribed by the Board of Trustees.

b. Be responsible for the collection of dues and assessments as provided in these Bylaws; shall
cooperate with like officers of the divisional societies and may delegate them to assist him in
their respective societies.

c. Keep on file accurate records of the transactions of his office, which shall at all times be
subject to examination by the Board of Trustees. He shall prepare reports quarterly for the
Board of Trustees and annually for the House of Delegates and the Board, and at the
expiration of his employment; he shall deliver to his successors or to the Board, or their
assigned agent, all monies, records and other property of the Association subject to his
jurisdiction. He shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board
consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.

d. Be provided with such assistance as is necessary to the proper conduct of his office, subject to
the directives of the Board of Trustees through the Chief Executive Officer. He shall file
bond with such surety company and in such sum as the Board of Trustees may determine.

Section 7--General Counsel

The General Counsel shall:

a. Be the chief legal officer of the Association, responsible for oversight and management of all
legal services provided to the Association, its trustees, officers and staff to ensure protection
of the Association’s legal rights and maintenance of its operations consistent with the limits
established by law.

b. Provide legal advice and guidance to the trustees, officers, and staff, bureaus, councils, task
forces, commissions and committees of the Association on the legal implications of matters
relevant to the Association, including compliance with federal, state, and local laws and
regulations applicable to a tax-exempt, not-for-profit membership organization and adherence
to internal organizational policies and procedures.

c. Draft and review contracts and other legal documents, policies and procedures; research
pertinent to legal issues; prepare written and oral opinions and position statements on issues
identified by the Association’s trustees, officers, staff, bureaus, councils, task forces,
commissions and committees;

d. Represent or coordinate the representation of the Association in judicial and administrative
proceedings; and

e. Select and retain outside counsel, as required, to obtain legal opinions or to handle claims
and litigation. Supervises legal work of other Association attorneys and outside counsel.

Section 8--Editor

The Editor shall:

a. Have the editorial direction, in accordance with the established policies of the Board of
Trustees and House of Delegates, of The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association, other
periodical publications of the Association and of the AOA Yearbook and Directory, under the
general supervision of the Chief Executive Officer, and shall cooperate with all departments
of the central office.

b. Be provided with such assistance as is necessary to the proper conduct of his office, subject
to the directives of the Board of Trustees through the Chief Executive Officer.

Article IX--Departments, Bureaus, and Committees

The Board of Trustees and House of Delegates, consistent with the powers given to it by these
Bylaws, shall establish and determine the duties of departments, bureaus, councils, commissions,
committees, and task forces necessary to further the policies of the Association. The Association’s
departments shall include the Departments of Affiliated Affairs, Business Affairs, Educational Affairs,
Governmental Affairs, Professional Affairs, and Research, Quality & Public Health. The activities of
all departments, bureaus and committees shall, so far as possible, be executed in close cooperation
with the Chief Executive Officer. Upon the expiration of the terms of office of chairs and members of
the departments, bureaus, or committees, all records of the same shall be delivered by the chairs to the
Chief Executive Officer. All employed staff of departments, bureaus, and committees in the offices
shall be under the jurisdiction of the Chief Executive Officer.

Article X--Conventions and Meetings

Whenever referred to in this Constitution and Bylaws, the words annual meeting shall refer to the
annual meetings of the Board of Trustees or of the House of Delegates, respectively, and the words
annual convention or clinical assembly shall refer to the annual clinical assembly of the Association.

Section 1--Annual Clinical Assembly

The annual clinical assembly shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the Board
of Trustees, provided, however, such action may be changed by the House of Delegates by a two-
thirds vote of the total number of delegates accredited for voting.

**Section 2--Annual Meetings**

The annual meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the Board of Trustees, provided, however, such action may be changed by the House of Delegates by a two-thirds vote of the total number of delegates accredited for voting.

**Article XI—Amendments**

**Section 1--Bylaws**

These Bylaws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the House of Delegates by a two-thirds vote of the total number of delegates accredited for voting, provided that the amendment shall have been filed with the Chief Executive Officer at least two months before the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted upon. Upon receiving a copy of the amendment, it shall be the duty of the Chief Executive Officer to cause it to be distributed by first class mail, postage paid, to each divisional and specialty society entitled to send voting representatives to the House of Delegates, posted on the AOA’s website, and published in *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* at least one month before the meeting. The Board of Trustees may revise the proposed amendment if necessary to secure conformity to this Constitution and Bylaws and shall then refer it to the House for final action not later than the day prior to the end of the meeting.

**Section 2--Articles of Incorporation**

The Articles of Incorporation of this Association may be amended by the adoption of a resolution by the Board of Trustees setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that the amendment be submitted to a vote at a meeting of the House of Delegates, which may be either an annual or a special meeting. Written or printed notice setting forth the proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be effected thereby shall be posted on the AOA’s website and delivered not less than five nor more than 40 days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the President, or the Chief Executive Officer, or the officers or persons calling the meeting, to each delegate entitled to vote at such meeting. Written or printed notice shall include the printing of the amendment in the electronic and/or printed issue of *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* published not less than five days or more than 40 days before the date of the meeting. The proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receiving at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by the total number of delegates accredited for voting.

**Article XII--Gender Disclaimer**

The American Osteopathic Association is open to persons of both sexes and does not discriminate against any person because of sex; therefore, the wording herein importing the masculine or feminine gender includes the other gender and imports no such discrimination.
WHEREAS, the AOA Board of Trustees in July 2017 approved a resolution calling for a reduction of the term limit for service on the Board of Trustees from 12 years to 9 years; and

WHEREAS, changing the term limit requires an amendment to the AOA Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment were presented to the July 2018 House of Delegates for its first reading; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amendment to the AOA Constitution be approved:

Old material crossed out (crossed out) | New material in CAPS

Article VIII—Board of Trustees and Executive Committee
Section 3—Term Limit
For all trustees ELECTED PRIOR TO JULY 2019, with the exception of the President, President-Elect and the Past Presidents for the preceding two years, the aggregate terms of the Office of Trustees shall be limited to twelve (12) years, with the exception that a trustee may complete the term in which twelve (12) years or more of service is completed. FOR ALL TRUSTEES ELECTED IN OR AFTER JULY 2019, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT-ELECT, AND THE PAST PRESIDENTS FOR THE PRECEDING TWO YEARS, THE AGGREGATE TERMS OF OFFICE OF TRUSTEES SHALL BE LIMITED TO NINE (9) YEARS, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT A TRUSTEE MAY COMPLETE THE TERM IN WHICH NINE (9) YEARS OR MORE OF SERVICE IS COMPLETED. Time served as a student member, intern/resident member, or as new physician in practice member shall not be included in calculating the twelve years of service ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

HOD Reference Committee Explanatory Statement:
The Committee believes that the proposed nine-year term limit would not provide sufficient time to ensure proper maturation of Trustees before ascending to the position of President-elect and President. The additional three years under the current term limit allows for time needed to develop the breadth of expertise and leadership competence.

ACTION TAKEN DISAPPROVED

DATE July 27, 2019
WHEREAS, the AOA Board of Trustees in July 2017 approved a resolution calling for the elimination of the position of Vice Chair of the Department of Educational Affairs, to be effective in July 2020, following significant completion of the transition to a single accreditation system; and

WHEREAS, the defined composition of the Executive Committee of the American Osteopathic Board of Trustees includes the Vice Chair of the Department of Educational Affairs; and

WHEREAS, there will no longer be a Vice Chair of the Department of Educational Affairs in July 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has approved the following amendment to the AOA Constitution for consideration of the AOA’s House of Delegates in July 2019; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment were presented to the July 2018 House of Delegates for its first reading; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amendment to the AOA Constitution be approved:

AOA Constitution

Article VIII—Board of Trustees and Executive Committee
Section 2—Executive Committee
The Executive Committee of this Association shall consist of the President, President-elect, Past Presidents for the preceding two years, the chairs of the Departments of Affiliate Affairs RELATIONS, Business Affairs, EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS, Governmental Affairs, Professional Affairs, AND Research, Quality, and Public Health, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Department of Educational Affairs.

ACTION TAKEN APPROVED

DATE July 27, 2019
WHEREAS, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) has not filled the public member position on the Board of Trustees since the position was first authorized by the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the AOA recognizes the value of a public member on those bureaus, councils and committees that are directly involved in public functions, such as accreditation and certification; and

WHEREAS, there are public members on the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation and the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists; and

WHEREAS, the AOA’s Board of Trustees engages in certain private organizational decisions regarding the future of the osteopathic profession; and

WHEREAS, the AOA Board of Trustees will retain the ability to invite appropriate experts and other resources to join its discussions when such input is desired, without formally designating such individuals as a public member; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment were presented to the July 2018 House of Delegates for its first reading; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the AOA eliminate the public member position from the Board of Trustees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following amendment to the AOA Constitution and the AOA Bylaws be approved:

AOA Constitution

Article VIII - Board of Trustees and Executive Committee
Section 1-Board of Trustees
The Board of Trustees shall be the administrative and executive body of the association and perform such other duties as are provided by the bylaws. The Board of Trustees of this association shall consist of TWENTY-EIGHT twenty-nine members.

A. Seven elected officers: The President, President-Elect, The Past Presidents for the preceding two years, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Third Vice-President;

B. Eighteen at-large trustees, six of whom shall be elected annually by the House of Delegates to serve for three years;
C. One new physician in practice member elected by the House of Delegates to serve for one year. Candidates for the new physician in practice position shall be osteopathic physicians who have completed their postdoctoral training within the past five years or received the DO degree within the previous ten years shall be nominated by the council of new physicians in practice;

D. One intern/resident member elected by the house of delegate to serve for one year. Candidates for the intern/resident position shall be enrolled in an AOA-approved internship or residency or, if enrolled in an ACGME-approved residency shall have applied for an AOA approval of the ACGME-Approved residency. Candidates for the intern/resident position shall be nominated by the council of interns and residents; AND

E. One student member elected by the House of Delegates to serve for one year. Candidates for the student position shall be nominated, in altering years, by the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) and the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA); and

F. One public member elected by the House of Delegates to serve for a three-year term, with a one-term limit. Candidates for the public member position shall not be physicians and shall be nominated by the committee on administrative personnel

AOA Bylaws

Article VII - Board of Trustees
Section 1-Duties
The Board of Trustees shall:

g. Approve from its own membership, based on the President’s appointment, the chairs of the departments. The department chairs shall direct the activities of their respective departments. However, the public member of the board shall not be eligible to serve as a department chair.

The Board shall also approve, based on the President’s appointment, the members of the various committees, bureaus, councils, commissions and task forces under the departments.

ACTION TAKEN APPROVED

DATE July 27, 2019
RESOLVED, that the following proposed amendments to the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Bylaws will provide for all voting of the AOA House of Delegates to be one vote per delegate system; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following amendment to the AOA Bylaws be approved:

Old material crossed out (crossed out) | New material in CAPS

AOA Bylaws

Article V – House of Delegates
Section 2-Voting
Each delegate shall have one vote in the House, except when one-fourth of the members present shall call for the yeas and nays on any question, the Chief Executive Officer shall, before any other motion can be made, call the roll by divisional societies and enter the yeas and nays in the record. In recording such vote each divisional society shall be given one vote for each 20 regular members of the American Osteopathic Association located in the area represented by that divisional society (or in the case of the uniformed services divisional society, one vote for each 20 regular members of the American Osteopathic Association currently serving in the uniformed services of the United States), as certified to 75 days before the annual meeting of the House of Delegates under the requirements of Section 1 of this Article, and such votes may be cast by any one of the delegation then seated or divided among the various members of the delegation as the delegation in caucus shall decide.

Article VI - Elections
Section 3-Method of Election
Election of such officers and trustees as are elected by the House of Delegates shall take place during the last day of the annual meeting. All elections shall be by ballot except as hereinafter provided in this section and a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect. In recording such vote, each divisional society shall be given one vote for each 20 regular members of the American Osteopathic Association located in the area or serving in the uniformed services of the United States represented by that division, and such votes may be cast by any one of the delegation then seated or divided among the various members of the delegation as the delegation in caucus shall decide. If there shall be but one nominee for a given office or trusteeship it shall be the duty of the secretary to cast the elective ballot for that nominee. The Speaker and Vice Speaker of the House shall be elected to serve for one year or until their successors are elected and installed.

ACTION TAKEN APPROVED

DATE July 27, 2019
RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Membership and Ethics Subcommittee recommend that the following policy be REAFFIRMED:

H506-A/14  AOA RULES AND GUIDELINES ON PHYSICIANS’ PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) supports the AOA Rules and Guidelines on Physicians’ Professional Conduct and recognizes that it is a separate and distinct document from the AOA’s Code of Ethics. 2014

American Osteopathic Association:
Rules and Guidelines on Physicians’ Professional Conduct

Professionalism and Physician Responsibilities

Professionalism is a core competency expected of all physicians. Physicians are among the most highly educated and trained professionals in our society and should enjoy the respect of their peers and the community. Society expects them to perform various roles. As healthcare providers, they diagnose and treat patients; as advisors, they provide patients with an understanding of their health status and the potential consequences of decisions regarding treatment and lifestyles; as advocates, physicians communicate with patients, their caregivers, and their health insurers the needs of the patient; and as counselors, they listen to their patients and discuss their condition with family members and others involved in health-care decision-making. Physicians are entrusted by their patients and their patients’ families with private and confidential information, much of which is related to healthcare, but frequently includes other personal details.

Osteopathic physicians, in order to enjoy the continued respect and trust of society, recognize the responsibilities and obligations they bear and in order to maintain their status as professionals, must act accordingly. Medical ethics includes many tenets that should guide osteopathic physicians in their professional and personal activities. Although ethics and professionalism encompass broad concepts, some of the recognized elements are:

- Non-maleficence – first, do no harm
- Acting as a positive role-model
- Displaying respect in interactions with others
- Legal and ethical behavior
- Appropriate management of potential conflicts of interest
- Beneficence – a physician should act in the best interest of the patient/altruism/placing the needs of the patient first
- Autonomy – the patient has the right to refuse or choose their treatment
• Dignity – the patient (and the medical professional involved with their care) has the right to dignity, truthfulness and honesty
• Participation in self-evaluation programs and acceptance of constructive criticism from others.

The AOA’s Code of Ethics offers rules to guide physicians in their interactions as physicians with their patients, with society, and with the AOA. This document is intended to supplement the Code of Ethics by providing rules and guidance for physicians’ conduct as professionals in the broader context beyond the traditional role in the delivery of care. Some of the Rules and Guidelines are mandatory (i.e., "shall" or "shall not"), while others are permissive (i.e., "may," “should,” “should not” or “may not”) and recognize a physician’s discretion to assess the specific context and situation and exercise professional judgment.

Finally, the Rules and Guidelines are designed by the AOA to provide guidance to physicians in appropriate professional behavior and to provide a structure for regulating conduct. Any assessment of a physician’s conduct must be made with due consideration to the facts and circumstances that existed at the time of the conduct in question and recognize that a physician may have had to act based upon uncertain or incomplete information. The Rules and Guidelines are not intended to be a basis for civil liability. Rather, perceived failure of a physician to comply with an obligation or prohibition imposed by the Code of Ethics or these Rules and Guidelines is a basis for invoking the AOA’s disciplinary process through the Bureau of Membership’s Subcommittee on Ethics.

1. A physician’s conduct shall be consistent with the requirements of the law, whether providing medical/professional service to patients or in conducting business and personal affairs.
2. Physicians should use their status as professionals only for legitimate purposes and not to take advantage of economic or social opportunities or to harass or intimidate others.
3. A physician has an obligation to pursue a patient’s best interests and to be an advocate for the patient. In so doing, physicians shall conduct themselves in a civil manner. When appropriate, physicians should disclose and resolve any conflict of interest that might influence decisions regarding care.
4. Patients may come from any of a broad spectrum of cultures and beliefs. Physicians should conduct themselves with appropriate respect for their patients’ social and cultural needs and provide necessary care without regard to gender, race, color, religion, creed, age, marital status, national origin, mental or physical disability, political belief or affiliation, veteran status, gender identity or sexual orientation.
5. Physicians are allowed limited autonomy to govern conduct within their own profession through participation on state licensing boards, hospital credentialing committees and in peer review processes. Physicians should fully participate in self-regulation by setting, maintaining, and enforcing appropriate practice standards. Regulations and rules with respect to healthcare delivery shall be developed with the best interests of patient care in mind rather than advancing private interests or protecting friends or colleagues from adverse action.
6. Physicians are responsible for observance of the Code of Ethics and these Rules and Guidelines on Professional Conduct. While compliance depends primarily upon understanding of and voluntary compliance with these obligations, physicians should also make efforts to secure their observance by other physicians through expression of formal or informal peer opinion or, when necessary, invocation of disciplinary proceedings. Where a protected peer review process is available, adverse events and medical errors should be fully disclosed.
7. Physicians should be aware of disparities in medical care within the United States and internationally. Where possible, physicians should assist those less fortunate in securing access to appropriate medical care.
ACTION TAKEN  APPROVED

DATE  July 27, 2019