Constitution and Bylaws Of The
West Virginia State Medical Association

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. - TITLE AND DEFINITION

The name and title of this organization shall be the West Virginia State Medical Association.

ARTICLE II. - PURPOSES

The purposes of this Association shall be to federate and bring into one compact organization the entire medical profession of the State of West Virginia and to unite with similar associations or societies of other states to form the American Medical Association; to extend medical knowledge and advance medical science; to promote the public health; to maintain the highest standards of medical education; to secure the enactment and enforcement of just medical laws; to promote the general welfare of the profession; and to enlighten and direct public opinion in regard to Medicine in West Virginia, and to promote the time honored commitment of the profession to the prevention and cure of disease and in improving the quality of life in the State.

ARTICLE III. - COMPONENT SOCIETIES

Component societies shall be chartered by this Association.

ARTICLE IV. - COMPOSITION

This Association shall consist of active, retired, resident, and student members and others, as shall be provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V. - HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The House of Delegates is the legislative and the policy-making body of the Association composed of elected representatives and others as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI. - COUNCIL

The Council shall consist of the elected Councilors from each component society and from the Medical Association Resident, Medical Association Student and Young Physicians’ section as provided in the Bylaws; the immediate Past President, who shall serve as Chairman; and his or her immediate predecessor who shall serve as a Senior Councilor-at-Large for one (1) year and thereafter as a Junior Councilor-at-Large for one (1) year, and the President, the President Elect, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates, West Virginia State Medical Association delegates to the American Medical Association, the Chair of the Legislative Committee, and the President of the West Virginia State Medical Association Alliance. Members of Council present shall constitute a quorum. Their duties and responsibilities shall be as defined in the Bylaws.
ARTICLE VII. - SECTIONS

The House of Delegates may provide for a division of the scientific work of the Association into appropriate sections, and for the organization of such sections as will promote the best interests of the profession, these to be composed exclusively of members of component societies, or as may be prescribed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII. - MEETINGS AND SESSIONS

The Association shall hold an annual meeting, consisting of daily sessions which shall be open only to registered members and guests as prescribed in the Bylaws.

The Association shall hold such other meetings as deemed necessary or as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX. - OFFICERS

The officers of this Association shall be a President, a President Elect, who shall automatically succeed to the office of President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Speaker of the House of Delegates and a Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates, Councilors to be elected, as provided in the Bylaws, the Chair of the Council, who shall be the retiring president, and his or her two immediate predecessors, who shall be the Councilors-at-Large. The officers’ qualifications, terms and duties of office shall be provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE X. - FUNDS AND EXPENSES

Funds shall be raised by an annual per capita assessment of dues from members of the Association.

Funds may also be raised in any other manner approved by the Council or House of Delegates as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI. - REFERENDUM

A general meeting of the Association may, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, order a general referendum on any question pending before the House of Delegates, and when so ordered the House of Delegates shall submit such question to the members of the Association who may vote by mail or in person. The action of the majority of the members of the Association shall determine the question and be binding upon the House of Delegates.

The House of Delegates may, by a two-thirds vote of its members, submit any question before it to a general referendum, and the result shall be binding on the House of Delegates. It may also, by a like vote, refer any question, including the election of officers or any number of them, to the general meeting of the Association, a majority vote of the membership determining the result.
ARTICLE XII. - THE SEAL

The Association shall have a common seal which shall be entrusted to the care of the Executive Director.

ARTICLE XIII. - AMENDMENTS

The House of Delegates may amend any article of this Constitution by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at any annual session, provided that such amendment shall have been presented in open meeting at the previous annual session, and that it shall have been published in the WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL JOURNAL, at least two (2) months prior to the next annual meeting, or sent officially to each component society.

BYLAWS

CHAPTER I. - MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. Membership with full privileges in this Association shall be effected by certification through and membership in a component society, or Resident or Medical Student Section. Applications for membership are subject to review and approval by the Council of the West Virginia State Medical Association.

Sec. 2. Eligibility for full membership in the Association shall be limited to doctors of medicine or osteopathy licensed to practice in West Virginia who are members of a component medical society of the West Virginia State Medical Association; doctors of medicine and/or osteopathy licensed to practice in West Virginia, who are unable to affiliate with a component society by reason of special circumstance or hardship, whose application shall be subject to review and approval by the Council of the West Virginia State Medical Association; residents who are licensed to practice medicine in West Virginia, or who are serving an internship/residency training programs approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, or the Committee on Post-Doctoral training of the American Osteopathic Association or their successors prior to meeting requirements for licensure; and students enrolled in accredited schools of medicine in West Virginia granting Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy degrees, provided further, that the academic status of each medical student applicant for membership shall be certified by the dean of his/her medical school.

Sec. 3. Active members shall be those physicians who are engaged in the practice of medicine, and the practice of osteopathy as stipulated in Section 2 of this Chapter, in the State of West Virginia, including those who are temporarily absent by reason of serving a residency or absent for a tour of duty with the Armed Services.

Sec. 4. Retired members shall be those physicians who have retired from active practice of medicine and, upon written request, received Council approval.

Retired members shall, following Council approval, be exempt from the payment of dues or assessments and physicians excused by Council may be exempt from the payment of dues to alleviate financial hardship or because of forced retirement from medical practice due to physical disability. Council shall establish appropriate standards and procedures for granting all dues exemptions. These physicians shall have the privilege of the floor in
any open session of the Association, but shall not have the right to make or second
motions, to vote, or to hold any elective office in this Association, except that they may
hold elective or appointive committee membership.

Sec. 5. Student members shall be those persons enrolled in accredited schools of
medicine in West Virginia granting Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy degrees
and who fulfill the membership requirements set forth in these Bylaws.

Sec. 6. Resident members shall be those persons who are licensed to practice
medicine in West Virginia, or who are serving in internship/residency training programs
approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, or the
Committee on Post-Doctoral Training of the American Osteopathic Association or their
successors prior to meeting requirements for licensure and who fulfill the membership
requirements set forth in these Bylaws.

Sec. 7. Associate members shall be those individuals, firms, corporations, or
partnerships who, while not doctors of medicine or osteopathy licensed to practice in
West Virginia, have interests allied to the medical professions.

Applications for associate membership shall be in writing to the President of the
Association and shall constitute acceptance of the Constitution and Bylaws of the
Association.

The applicant for such associate membership shall be sponsored by another member
with full privileges and in good standing or by the Executive Director. The application
shall contain the name of such sponsor.

Such applications for associate membership shall be referred by the President to the
Council of the West Virginia State Medical Association, who shall investigate the
applicant and shall vote on each applicant as to whether the applicant may become an
associate member of the Association. If the applicant receives three (3) negative votes,
the application shall be rejected. In case an applicant is rejected, the same applicant
shall not reapply for associate membership until the expiration of six (6) months from the
time the application was rejected. All communications made to the Council of the West
Virginia State Medical Association concerning any applicant and the proceedings of the
Council of the West Virginia State Medical Association thereon shall be regarded as
confidential; and the names of rejected applicants shall not appear in the minutes of the
Association.

Associate members shall have neither a vote nor be eligible to hold office.

Sec. 8. The principles of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association shall
govern the conduct of members in their relations to each other and to the public.

Sec. 9. Dues shall be payable annually on January first. Dues in each membership
category shall be fixed by action of the Council or House of Delegates. Dues may be
waived for active members temporarily incapacitated. Any member whose dues have
not been paid by April first shall be held to be delinquent and shall be automatically
dropped from membership. Such members cannot be reinstated except by action of the
Council.
If dues are paid after June thirtieth by new members, only one-half (½) the amount of the fixed annual dues shall be collected from such members.

Sec. 10. Each member in attendance at an annual session shall register and indicate the component society or section of which he or she is a member. When his or her membership status has been verified, he or she shall receive a badge which shall be evidence of his or her right to all privileges of membership at that session. No member shall take part in any of the proceedings of an annual session until he or she has complied with the provisions of this Section.

Sec. 11. Non-members of this Association, resident in West Virginia, shall not take part in the deliberations of this Association, except when invited to do so or specifically authorized in the Constitution or Bylaws.

CHAPTER II. - ANNUAL MEETING

Sec. 1. The Association shall hold a meeting each year at such place and such date as may be selected by the Council.

Sec. 2. Special meetings of either the Association or the House of Delegates shall be called by the President on petition of twenty (20) delegates or fifty (50) members, representative of fifty (50) percent of the component societies.

Sec. 3. All registered members may attend and participate in the proceedings and discussions of the general scientific meetings and of the several sections. The general meetings shall be presided over by the Speaker of the House of Delegates or Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates.

CHAPTER III. - HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Sec. 1. The House of Delegates shall meet annually at such time and place as may be fixed by the Council of the Association.

Sec. 2. The House of Delegates shall consist of (1) delegates elected by the component societies; (2) delegates elected by Resident Physician and Medical Student Sections; and (3) the President, President Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Chair of the Council, Senior and Junior Councilors-at-Large, Speaker of the House of Delegates and Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates, and Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the American Medical Association.

Sec. 3. Each component society shall be entitled to elect and send to the House of Delegates each year one (1) delegate who shall be an officer of the society, and one (1) additional delegate for every twenty (20) members or fraction thereof. A corresponding number of alternates shall be elected each year by each component society. Resident Physician and Medical Student Sections shall be entitled to send to the House of Delegates one (1) delegate and alternate each year, chosen according to constitutions, by-laws or other organizational principles adopted by those sections. Roster of Delegates and Alternates must be submitted to the Association offices in a timely manner for approval of credentials. In case any of the regularly elected delegates or alternates are not present at an annual meeting, the members of the component societies, or Resident Physician or Medical Student Sections, to which they belong shall elect a delegate or
delegates pro temp. Credentialing must be accomplished prior to the opening of each
session of the House of Delegates.

Sec. 4. The Delegates present shall constitute a quorum and only members of the Hou-
se who are present shall have the right to vote.

Sec. 5. The deliberations of the House of Delegates shall be governed by the Robert's
Rules of Order.

Sec. 6. The House shall consider resolutions during the annual session. Resolutions
must be submitted 30 days prior to the first session and may not be voted on until the
next session, except by 2/3 consent vote of the House. Late resolutions require
unanimous consent to be considered and must be submitted prior to 1st Session of the
House.

Sec. 7. The House of Delegates shall, upon application, provide and issue charters to
county societies organized in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.

Sec. 8. Upon request, the House of Delegates shall organize the physicians of two (2)
or more counties into component societies.

Sec. 9. The House shall have authority to appoint committees for special purposes
from among members of the Association who are not members of the House of
Delegates.

Sec. 10. The House of Delegates shall meet in open session, to which any member
may be admitted. In closed session, attendance shall be restricted to members of the
Association with full privileges, its legal counsel and members of the Association's office
staff. In any session only delegates and authorized official personnel shall have the
privilege of the floor, except by unanimous consent.

Sec. 11. Actions of the House of Delegates shall be published in THE WEST VIRGINIA
MEDICAL JOURNAL.

CHAPTER IV. - ELECTIONS

Sec. 1. All elections shall be by written ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall be
necessary to elect. If there is no majority, the candidate with the least number of votes
is dropped, and the balloting shall continue. If there is but one (1) candidate for the
office under consideration the presiding officer may direct a voice vote.

Sec. 2. The officers of this Association and delegates and alternate delegates to the
American Medical Association shall be nominated in the method prescribed in that
section of the Bylaws relative to the duties of the Committee on Nominations, and the
election shall be held immediately prior to the final session of the House of Delegates at
each annual meeting.

Sec. 3. To be counted as a valid ballot, the number of votes made must be equal to the
number of positions to be filled.
CHAPTER V. - TERMS OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The officers, except hold-over Councilors and Councilors-at-Large shall be elected annually. The term of the elected officers, except members of the Council and the Speaker and Vice-Speaker, shall be for the period of one year beginning with the installation of the President at an interim meeting. The term of the Speaker and Vice-Speaker shall be for a period of two years. All these officers shall serve until their successors are elected and take office.

The term of office of Councilors shall be for a period of two (2) years beginning with the installation of the incoming President and ending on the last day of the interim meeting which occurs closest in time after the completion of two years service, with Councilors to be elected by the House of Delegates.

Sec. 2. The retiring President shall be Chairman of the Council for the year following his or her term of office, and shall then serve another two (2) years as Councilor-at-Large. Thereafter he or she shall be eligible for election to any office of the Association except President or President-Elect.

Sec. 3. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Council.

CHAPTER VI. - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The President shall address the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, and participate, with the right to vote in sessions of the House of Delegates. He shall deliver an annual address at such time as may be arranged, and shall perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage may require.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Treasurer or in the Council, the President shall be empowered to fill the vacancy by appointment until the next annual meeting.

Sec. 2. The President Elect and Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of the President's duties. In the event of the death, resignation, incapacitation, or removal from office of the President, the President Elect shall succeed the President in office and shall serve for the remainder of the term of his or her immediate predecessor.

The President Elect shall be installed as President at an interim meeting.

Sec. 3. The Treasurer shall be financial overseer of this Association. The Treasurer shall report financial conditions routinely to the President and the Chair of the Council. Early in the Association's fiscal year, the accounts of the Association shall be audited by a certified public accountant for the previous fiscal year. The Executive Director shall be the custodian of the funds and securities of the Association.

Sec. 4. The Speaker of the House of Delegates shall preside at the meetings of the House of Delegates and shall perform such duties as custom and parliamentary usage require, and may address the House of Delegates at the opening meeting of all conventions but such address shall be limited to matters of conduct and procedure in the House. The Speaker is entitled to vote when the vote is by ballot. Otherwise, the Speaker has the right to vote only in the case of a tie.
Sec. 5. The Vice Speaker shall officiate for the speaker in the latter’s absence or at the request of the Speaker. In the event of a vacancy in an office of the Speaker, the Vice Speaker shall officiate during the unexpired term. The Vice Speaker shall be entitled to vote when the vote is by ballot. Otherwise, when officiating for the speaker or when filling a vacancy in the office of the Speaker, the Vice Speaker shall have the right to vote only in the case of a tie.

CHAPTER VII. - THE COUNCIL

Sec. 1. The Council shall meet at the call of the Chair—at each annual meeting, and as often as necessary to transact the general business and other affairs of the Association, or on petition of five (5) members of that body. For purposes of determining the existence of a quorum at a special meeting, and for purposes of voting on any business of the Council conducted at such special meeting, a Councilor shall be included in such determination or vote if present at the special meeting either in person or by means of a telephone conference call or similar electronic communication by means of which all persons participating in the special meeting can hear and speak to each other. The location of any such special meeting shall be deemed to be the place specified in the notice of such special meeting, or, if no location was specified, the place from which the telephone conference call or other means of electronic communication originates.

The Council shall be the executive body of the House of Delegates, and between meetings shall exercise all the powers conferred on the House of Delegates by this Constitution and Bylaws. The Chair of the Council shall submit an annual report of its activities to the House of Delegates.

In the event of the absence of the Chairman of the Council at any meeting, the President shall serve as acting chairman. Should the President also be absent, then an acting chairman shall be elected by the members of the Council present.

Sec. 2. Each Councilor shall serve as organizer, advisor and representative in his or her component society.

Sec. 3. The Council shall select an Executive Director who shall carry out all duties assigned to him by these Bylaws or by competent authority. The Executive Director shall have the responsibility to employ, or discharge, personnel needed to achieve the objectives of this Association.

Sec. 4. The Council shall be empowered to retain general legal counsel for the Association.

Sec. 5. Each component society shall have a minimum of one (1) Councilor and shall be listed in alphabetical order and so numbered.

1 - Boone County Medical Society;
2 - Brooke County Medical Society;
3 - Cabell County Medical Society;
4 - Central West Virginia Medical Society;
5 - Eastern Panhandle Medical Society;
6 - Fayette County Medical Society;
7 - Greenbrier Valley Medical Society;
Sec. 6. During the annual meeting of the House of Delegates held in an even-numbered year, there shall be elected Councilors from each even-numbered component society to serve for two (2) years; and during the annual meeting of the House of Delegates held in an odd-numbered year, there shall be elected Councilors from each odd-numbered component society to serve for two (2) years. Each component society which has from one (1) to one hundred (100) members shall be entitled to one (1) Councilor. For each additional one hundred (100) members or fraction thereof a component society shall be entitled to one (1) additional Councilor. Each Society shall also submit the name of an alternate councilor to act as its representative in the absence of one or more of its councilors. An AMA alternate delegate shall also serve as an alternate councilor in the absence of an AMA delegate. The alternate councilor’s right to vote shall only be in the absence of one or more of his or her component society’s councilors.

In computing the membership base for determination of the number of Councilors to which a component society may be entitled, medical student members and resident members shall be counted in the component society where they declare their residency.

Sec. 7. The Medical Association resident section, the Medical Association medical student section and the Medical Association young physicians’ section shall each have one (1) councilor and one (1) alternate councilor. Each councilor shall be elected at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates to serve for two (2) years. Each section shall also submit the name of an alternate to act as its representative in the absence of its councilors.

Sec. 8. The Council shall have the authority to suggest possible nominees for appointment to any state regulatory, administrative or consultative board, commission or com-
mittee, when such nominations are requested by competent authority or are required by statute.

Sec. 9. The Chair of the Legislative Committee shall be a member of council with the right to vote.

Sec. 10. In addition to the officers and elected Councilors, the President of the West Virginia State Medical Association Alliance shall be a member of the Council with the right to vote.

Sec. 11. The Council shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all proceedings to take disciplinary action against a member or associate member of the Association, subject to any limitations in the Constitution and Bylaws. Such jurisdiction shall include the power to censure, impose probation, suspend, expel or otherwise discipline a member or associate member of the Association. All proceedings of the Commission shall be held in accordance with due process but the proceedings need not follow the W.Va. Rules of Civil Procedure or Rules of Evidence.

CHAPTER VIII. - COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. There shall be an Executive Committee of this Association, composed of the Speaker and Vice-speaker of House, and Chair of Legislative Committee, the three (3) immediate Past Presidents, the President, President Elect, Vice President, Treasurer and the Executive Director ex officio, with the President serving as Chair, whose duties shall be as follows:

(a) Prior to January 1 of each year, the Executive Committee shall set up an annual budget for consideration and approval by the Council.

(b) The Executive Committee shall set the agenda for the Council meetings, and shall make recommendations to the Council in regard to any pertinent matters, shall fulfill such other duties as may be delegated to it by the House of Delegates or the Council and shall take such other actions as may become necessary, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, to protect the interests of the Association and its members, when the elements of time prevent the calling of a special meeting of the Council or the House of Delegates.

Sec. 2. The Council shall have authority from time to time to appoint, fix the duties of, and abolish such standing committees and commissions as it deems necessary or desirable to assist it in carrying on the Association’s activities in the fields of business and scientific meetings, medical education and hospitals, legislation, medical services, communications and public service, and governmental medical services.

The chair and members of such committees shall be appointed by the Council upon recommendation of the Council Chair. The chairman of the Council shall appoint at least one (1) Council member to each standing committee. The Council member shall be a voting member of the committee. The Councilor shall be expected to attend committee meetings, participate in committee activities, and interpret to the Council the committee’s recommendations that come before it via special reports.
The President may appoint temporary ad hoc committees to perform specified functions. All such committees shall expire at the end of the term of the President by whom appointed.

Standing committees shall send special reports to the Council for action on matters concerning the West Virginia State Medical Association policy or requiring the expenditure of Association funds, and shall submit committee minutes to the Council for information. Each standing committee shall submit an annual summary of its activities, without recommendations, to the House of Delegates.

No committee or commission shall have power or authority to fix or determine Association policy or to commit the Association to any course of action, such powers being expressly reserved to the House of Delegates and the Council, except when immediate action by the Executive Committee as authorized in Section 1 (b) of this Chapter, becomes necessary to protect the interests of the Association and its members, in which case decisions of the Executive Committee shall be authorized.

Sec. 3. The Committee on Nominations shall consist of five (5) councilors chosen by the Executive Committee from component society Councilors, and the Junior Councilor-at-Large, who shall serve as Chair. The Committee shall consider and recommend to the House of Delegates, prior to the election of officers in its final session, its nominees for the office of President Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Speaker of the House of Delegates, Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates and the AMA Delegate and Alternate. Nothing in this Section shall serve to prevent any nominations from the floor for these respective offices.

Sec. 4. The Committee on Resolutions shall receive and consider all resolutions prepared for presentation in the House of Delegates at an annual or special meeting. Such resolutions must be in the hands of the Executive Director at least 30 days before the meeting at which they are to be presented; otherwise, 2/3 consent vote of the House of Delegates shall be required for presentation. The Committee shall, in open session, afford any member with full privileges the opportunity of testifying for or against any resolution duly presented, and, in closed session, may recommend adoption, referral, amendment or disapproval, or may report a substitute resolution to the House of Delegates.

Sec. 5. The Finance Committee shall consist of four (4) members of the Association with full privileges, appointed by Council and who possess some expertise in financial matters, and the Treasurer, who shall serve as Chair. One (1) of the four members shall be the Association Vice President. The term of office for the other three (3) members of the Committee shall be for two (2) years and shall be eligible for reelection. The members shall be appointed initially two (2) for two (2) year terms, and one (1) for a one (1) year term, and each year thereafter, be appointed for two (2) year terms. The finance committee shall oversee the finances of the Association; assist in budget preparation and review the annual audit.

Sec. 6. The Scientific and Educational Sessions Committee shall consist of no more than twelve (12) members of the association with full privileges and no less than eight (8) members of the association with full privileges, and three ex officio members appointed by the president and approved by the House of Delegates. The ex officio members of the Committee with the right to vote shall be the current speaker of the
house, the president-elect, and the president of the WVSMA Alliance. The term of office
for the members of the Committee shall be for four years, with eligibility for reelection.
Initially, three members each shall be elected for a four, three, two and one-year term
and, thereafter, the members shall be elected for four-year terms. Duties and
responsibilities of the Committee shall be to plan scientific and educational sessions in
regard to the program content, format and site and in accordance with the requirements
of the WVSMA Essentials, Guidelines and Standards for Commercial Support and
Enduring Materials. The Chairperson of the committee shall be elected by a majority of
the members of the Committee.

CHAPTER X - SECTIONS

Sec. 1. The objectives of sections are to (a) form closer professional relations among
physicians practicing in particular specialty areas; and among residents and students;
(b) foster among physicians members of particular specialties, and among residents and
students, educational and other activities directed toward better patient care; and (c)
assist hospital medical staffs in confronting concerns in the health care environment.

Sec. 2. Each section shall elect its own officers according to procedures and/or
Constitution and Bylaws mechanisms it adopts. It shall advise the Executive Director of
the West Virginia State Medical Association of the results of each election within ten (10)
days of such an election; and shall take other steps necessary to ensure that a current
roster of officers is on file with the Executive Director.

Sec. 3. There is hereby authorized, within the membership framework of the West
Virginia State Medical Association, establishment of Young Physician, Resident
Physician, Medical Student, and Hospital Medical Staff Sections to (a) provide for direct
participation of resident and medical students in educational, business and other
activities of the Association; (b) establish effective lines of communication among young
physicians, physicians-to-be, and their more senior colleagues; and (c) provide a forum
to discuss the needs and concerns of physician members of hospital medical staffs.
Each such section shall develop its own constitution and by-laws or other organizational
procedures and elect its officers, under provisions of Section 3 of this Chapter; provided,
however, that such a constitution, by-laws or revisions and amendments shall not be
inconsistent with the principles or organization of the West Virginia State Medical
Association, and shall be subject to approval by the Association’s Council.

The Resident Physician and Medical Student Sections each shall be entitled to elect one
(1) delegate and one (1) alternate to the Association’s House of Delegates each year.
Each section shall report to the Association’s Executive Director by October 1 of each
year the names of its delegate and alternate.

CHAPTER XI. - COMPONENT SOCIETIES

Sec. 1. All component medical societies now affiliated with this Association or those
which may hereafter be organized in this State, which have adopted principles of
organization not in conflict with this Constitution and Bylaws, may, on application,
receive a charter from and become component parts of this Association. Subsequent
revisions or amendments of these principles shall be submitted to the Council for review.
Sec. 2. Charters shall be issued only on the approval of the House of Delegates and shall be signed by the President. The House of Delegates shall have authority, after a hearing, to revoke the charter of any component society, the actions of which are in conflict with the letter or spirit of this Constitution and Bylaws.

Two (2) or more component societies shall have the right to merge into one (1) society provided such action is agreed to by a vote of the majority of the members of the societies affected. In the event of a merger under this section, the charter or charters of the societies losing identity as such shall be surrendered to the House of Delegates.

Sec. 3. Only one (1) component medical society shall be chartered in any one county.

Sec. 4. Each component society shall be the judge of the qualifications of its own members, but, as such societies are the only portals to membership in this Association and to the American Medical Association, every licensed physician shall be eligible to apply for membership.

Sec. 5. When a member in good standing in a component society moves to another county in this State, his membership may be transferred to the component society in the area to which the member has moved, provided the transfer is approved by such society.

Sec. 6. A physician living in one county may hold his membership in a contiguous county medical society whose meetings are most convenient for him to attend. Any physician who resides in a county having no county medical organization may apply for membership in a contiguous county medical society, and upon election, continue such membership until his or her own county is organized.

Sec. 7. Each component society shall have general direction of the affairs of the profession in its area, and its influence shall be constantly exerted for bettering the science and art of Medicine through its organizational efforts.

Sec. 8. The secretary or treasurer of each component society shall remit promptly to the Executive Director of the Association dues of members as collected. An alternative method of dues collection may be authorized by the Council. The secretary shall notify the Executive Director of any change in the officers of the society, and shall also notify him promptly concerning the death or removal from the county of any member of this society.

CHAPTER XII. - AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any annual session by a majority vote of the House of Delegates present at that session. The amendment must be proposed during the first session and may not be acted upon until the second session. If any amendments conflict with any of the provisions of the Constitution, they shall not be effective until such time as the Constitution has been amended to conform.

Sec. 2. Whenever an amendment to the Bylaws has been enacted, the Executive Director shall notify the secretary of each component society, and the secretary of the Resident physician, medical Student, Young Physician and Hospital Medical Staff Sections, within sixty (60) days after it has become effective. It shall be incumbent upon
each component society and Resident Physician, Medical Student, Young Physician and Hospital Medical Staff Sections, to make such changes in their constitutions and by-laws as will bring about conformity to the change in the Bylaws of the West Virginia State Medical Association.

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