



Proposed Amendments to the AOA Constitution Second Reading

The following proposed amendments to the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Constitution were presented for **First Reading** at the July 2022 Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates and will be presented for action as a **Second Reading** at the 2023 Annual Meeting, which will occur on July 21–23, 2023. The Interim Chief Executive Officer of the American Osteopathic Association has arranged for their posting on the AOA's website, publication in the on-line edition of the *Journal of Osteopathic Medicine* and distribution to the specialty and divisional societies that will be eligible to send representatives to the AOA's House of Delegates.

All amendments require a two-thirds vote by the House of Delegates for approval.

Article VI - House of Delegates, Section 1B

Composition

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 ~~the Association~~ THE COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION (COCA) and located in the state represented by that divisional society, such student delegate IS to be elected according to the Bylaws of the American Osteopathic Association.

Article VI - House of Delegates, Section 1D

Composition

NEW ADDITION

D. REPRESENTATION OF OSTEOPATHIC POSTDOCTORAL TRAINEES AND NEW PHYSICIANS IN PRACTICE. OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS IN POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING AND NEW PHYSICIANS IN PRACTICE SHALL BE REPRESENTED BY THREE DELEGATES TO BE SELECTED BY THE BUREAU OF EMERGING LEADERS AS PROVIDED IN THE BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION.

Article VII – Officers, Section 2

Administrative Officers

The administrative officers shall be Chief Executive Officer, a ~~controller~~ CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, a General Counsel, and an Editor-IN-CHIEF who shall ALL 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 X - Gender Disclaimer

The American Osteopathic Association is open to ALL persons of ~~both sexes~~ and does not discriminate against any persons because of ~~sex~~; THEIR GENDER IDENTITY; therefore, the wording herein importing the masculine or feminine gender ~~includes the~~ IS INCLUSIVE OF ALL other gender IDENTITIES and imports no such discrimination.



Proposed Amendments to the AOA Constitution First Reading

The following proposed amendments to the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Constitution will be presented for **First Reading** at the July 2022 Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates which will occur on July 15–17, 2022. The Chief Executive Officer of the American Osteopathic Association has arranged for their posting on the AOA’s website, publication in the on-line edition of the *Journal of Osteopathic Medicine* (f/k/a The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association) and distribution to the specialty and divisional societies that will be eligible to send representatives to the AOA’s House of Delegates.

All amendments require a two-thirds vote by the House of Delegates for approval.

Article VII – Officers, Section 2

Administrative Officers

The administrative officers shall be Chief Executive Officer, a Controller¹ AND a General Counsel and ~~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 1C

Board of Trustees

- C. One new physician in practice member elected by the House of Delegates to serve for A one year TERM. Candidates for the new physician in practice position SHALL BE osteopathic physicians who have completed their postdoctoral training within the past five years ~~shall be~~ AND BE nominated by Bureau of Emerging Leaders. Candidates must be members in good standing of the AOA;

Article VIII - Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, Section 1D

Board of Trustees

- 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 postdoctoral trainee position shall be enrolled in an ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (ACGME) ~~or AOA-~~ ~~approved~~ internship, residency or fellowship. Candidates for the postdoctoral trainee position shall be nominated by the Bureau of Emerging Leaders. Candidates should be members in good standing of the AOA; and

Article VIII - Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, Section 1E

Board of Trustees

- 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~~ ALTERNATING years, by the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) and the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA).

¹ The title of Controller to Chief Financial Officer is under review as a second read in 2023.



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 US mail or electronic communication to each divisional SOCIETY and AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION ~~specialty society~~ entitled to and voting representatives to the House of Delegates, posted on the AOA's website, and COMMUNICATED IN AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION ~~published in the on-line edition of *The Journal of Osteopathic Medicine*~~ not less than two months nor more than four months prior to the meeting at which they are to be acted upon.

Article X - Gender Disclaimer²

~~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.~~

² Should this section be approved for removal, all references to 'his' within the Constitution will be adjusted to 'they', 'them', 'theirs' as appropriate.



Proposed Amendments to the AOA Bylaws

The following proposed amendments to the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Bylaws will be presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting, which will occur on July 21–23, 2023. The Interim Chief Executive Officer of the American Osteopathic Association has arranged for their posting on the AOA's website, publication in the on-line edition of the *Journal of Osteopathic Medicine* and distribution to the specialty and divisional societies that will be eligible to send representatives to the AOA's House of Delegates.

All amendments require a two-thirds vote by the House of Delegates for approval.

Article I – Divisional AND District SOCIETIES and Affiliated Societies ORGANIZATIONS, Sections 1 and 3

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 GEOGRAPHICAL area. THE ASSOCIATION ALSO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND THE CHARTER OF ANY DIVISIONAL SOCIETY. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, UPON TWO-THIRDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, MAY SUSPEND A CHARTER FOR A PERIOD OF TIME UNTIL THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES. THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES MAY, BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE, REVOKE A CHARTER.

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 present 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.~~ THE ASSOCIATION ALSO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND THE CHARTER OF ANY AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, UPON TWO-THIRDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, MAY SUSPEND A CHARTER FOR A PERIOD OF TIME UNTIL THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES. THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES MAY, BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE, REVOKE A CHARTER.



Article II Membership, 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~~ ACCREDITED by the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation or a graduate of an allopathic medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or a graduate of a school of medicine located outside of the United States who completed residency training in a program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education and shall be eligible for licensure as an osteopathic or allopathic physician and/or surgeon or shall be in a training program, which is a prerequisite for licensure. Allopathic applicants should have an interest in promoting, advocating for and representing the interests of osteopathic medicine and osteopathic physicians.

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 PROVIDE THE APPLICATION TO AND RECEIVE APPROVAL FROM THE BUREAU OF MEMBERSHIP; SUCH APPROVAL SHALL BE MADE BY THE BUREAU OF MEMBERSHIP IN ITS DISCRETION. ~~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 Bureau of Membership, which shall make an appropriate recommendation for reinstatement to the Board of Trustees.~~

Article II Membership, 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~~ OR 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~~ and the Board of Trustees, on review, may in its discretion take such action in regard thereto as it deems appropriate.



Article II Membership, Section 4

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-Dues

a. Members

The annual dues of all members of the Association (except for allied members discussed in ARTICLE III, Section 1(c) and student members discussed in ARTICLE III, Section 1(d) shall be determined by the House of Delegates. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for administration of dues, including determination of the membership year, the schedule for payment of dues, and the suspension of membership for nonpayment of dues. A suspended member may be reinstated upon payment of dues and assessments, provided such payment is received prior to the end of the membership year.

b. Hardship Cases

~~Upon recommendation of the Committee on BUREAU OF Membership, the Board of Trustees, or its Executive Committee, may APPROVE A POLICY THAT IDENTIFIES CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE AOA WILL remit a part or all of the annual dues of a member in good standing who, DUE TO A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY MAINTAINS A LIMITED PRACTICE OR IS UNABLE TO PRACTICE. because of physical A 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.~~

Section 2-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 3-Refunding Dues

No dues will be refunded if a membership is terminated for cause AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE II, SECTION 3 OR ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1, PART H OF THESE BYLAWS or because of resignation.



Article IV Code of Ethics, 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 electronic communication or first class mail, postage prepaid, to each divisional SOCIETY and ~~specialty society~~ AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION entitled to send voting representatives to the House of Delegates, posted on the AOA's website, and COMMUNICATED IN AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION ~~published in *The Journal of Osteopathic Medicine*~~ not later than one month before the annual meeting at which the amendment is scheduled for consideration.

Article V House of Delegates, 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 ON CREDENTIALS 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 this action.

Article VII Board of Trustees, Section 1h

Duties

h. Decide finally all questions of an ethical or judicial character. It shall have investigated by the BOARD APPEALS AND ETHICS REVIEW 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 BOARD APPEALS AND ETHICS REVIEW 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~~ BUREAU OF 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 BOARD APPEALS AND ETHICS REVIEW 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.

Article VII Board of Trustees, 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 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.~~

~~EACH TRUSTEE, OFFICER, BUREAU MEMBER, COUNCIL MEMBER, COMMITTEE MEMBER, OR EMPLOYEE OF THE ASSOCIATION SHALL BE HELD HARMLESS AND~~



INDEMNIFIED BY THE ASSOCIATION AGAINST ALL CLAIMS AND LIABILITIES AND ALL COSTS AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES AND DEFENSE COSTS, REASONABLY INCURRED OR IMPOSED UPON SUCH PERSON IN CONNECTION WITH OR RESULTING FROM ANY ACTION, SUIT OR PROCEEDING, OR THE SETTLEMENT OR COMPROMISE THEREOF, TO WHICH SUCH PERSON MAY BE MADE A PARTY BY REASON OF ANY ACTION TAKEN OR OMITTED TO BE TAKEN BY SUCH PERSON AS A TRUSTEE, OFFICER, COUNCIL MEMBER, COMMITTEE MEMBER, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, IN GOOD FAITH. THIS RIGHT OF INDEMNIFICATION SHALL INURE TO SUCH PERSON WHETHER OR NOT SUCH PERSON IS A TRUSTEE, OFFICER, BUREAU MEMBER, COUNCIL MEMBER, COMMITTEE MEMBER, OR EMPLOYEE AT THE TIME SUCH LIABILITIES, COSTS OR EXPENSES ARE IMPOSED OR INCURRED AND, IN THE EVENT OF SUCH PERSON'S DEATH, SHALL EXTEND TO SUCH PERSON'S LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES.

TO THE EXTENT AVAILABLE, the Board of Trustees may authorize the Association to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a trustee, OFFICER, BUREAU MEMBER, COUNCIL MEMBER, COMMITTEE MEMBER, 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 9

Section 9 Editor in Chief

~~The Editor in Chief 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 Osteopathic Medicine*, other periodical publications of the Association 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 XI PUBLICATIONS, SECTIONS 1 AND 2

SECTION 1 - SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

THE ASSOCIATION SHALL MAINTAIN A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL, *THE JOURNAL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE*, ALONG WITH ANY OTHER SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY DEEM APPROPRIATE. ANY SUCH PUBLICATIONS SHALL BE OVERSEEN BY AN EDITOR, APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, WHO SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE EDITORIAL DECISIONS OF ANY SUCH PUBLICATIONS.

SECTION 2 – 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 OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE, OTHER PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION 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 THEIR OFFICE, SUBJECT TO THE DIRECTIVES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THROUGH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

Article VIII Duties of Officers, Sections 6f and 7a and 7d

Section 6 – Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Office shall:

- 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 7 - Chief Financial Officer

The Chief Financial Officer SHALL:

- a. Have charge of the funds and assets of the Association, cooperate with the Chief Executive Officer ~~and Editor In Chief~~ under the direction of the Board of Trustees, and disburse such funds only in the manner prescribed by the Board of Trustees.
- 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 AND the Chief Executive Officer. He shall file bond with such surety company and in such sum as the Board of Trustees may determine.~~

Article XI Amendments Section 1 and 2

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 USE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO DISTRIBUTE IT ~~to cause it to be distributed~~ by U.S. mail or electronic mail, to ALL AOA MEMBERS AND each divisional SOCIETY and AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION ~~specialty society~~ entitled to send voting representatives to the House of Delegates, posted on the AOA's website, and published in AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION ~~the on-line in The DO edition of The Journal of Osteopathic Medicine~~ 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 two weeks 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 FURTHER BE PUBLISHED IN AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION AND SENT IN AN OFFICIAL EMAIL COMMUNICATION TO ALL AOA MEMBERS include the printing of the amendment in the electronic and/or printed issue of *The Journal of Osteopathic Medicine* published not less than two weeks 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 all persons and does not discriminate against any person because of their gender identity; therefore, the wording herein importing the masculine or feminine gender is inclusive of all gender identities and imports no such discrimination.~~