

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

The ASCLS Board of Directors is recommending the following changes to the ASCLS Bylaws.

Words with ~~strike~~throughs are deletions. Words that are underlined are additions.

Amendment 1: Amend the voting process for candidates for National elective positions to allow voting by all eligible members of ASCLS.

Rationale: Currently, voting for national candidates is accomplished by representative delegates to the ASCLS House of Delegates (HOD) at the Annual Meeting. Delegates to the HOD are elected/selected by their constituent Society and elections are held at the annual meeting prior to the opening of the House of Delegates. This amendment would open voting directly to all eligible members of ASCLS (eligible members consist of all members of ASCLS except for Community and Honorary members). Reasons for this change are:

- Transparency – opening voting of candidates to all members would provide more transparency to the members.
- Enfranchisement – this would increase the engagement of all members and make members feel they are a larger part of ASCLS by having a say in the election of ASCLS leaders – All members have a Vote.
- Involvement – this could inspire members to become more involved. If they are included in voting, they might take a more active interest in the candidates and being part of ASCLS and even run for office or become a more active participant at all levels.
- Flexibility – amending the process would allow more flexibility in the JAM scheduling – if voting takes place prior to meeting at JAM, candidate presentations would be done prior to JAM similar to the process used in 2024. This could change the focus on opening days and allow more flexibility in the overall meeting schedule.
- NOTE: The proposed change only applies to voting for the candidates; this does not change the structure of the House of Delegates. The HOD still has the same authority and function, this just opens the voting of candidates to all eligible members.

ARTICLE III — MEMBERSHIP

C. Rights and Privileges

Developing Professional members are entitled to ~~serve as voting members of the House of Delegates when serving as official delegates from a constituent society,~~ vote and to have all other rights and privileges of the Society with the exception of holding elective positions as otherwise defined in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV -- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

B. Composition

The number of voting directors shall be sixteen (16) -- the President, President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Past President, and ten (10) Directors elected by ~~the House of Delegates~~ eligible members in a manner prescribed by the Board of Directors of the Society. There shall be one (1) voting Developing Professional Director elected by the Developing Professional Forum of the Society and one (1) Ascending Professional Director elected by the Ascending Professional Forum of the Society.

A board member may be eligible for re-election, except the Ascending Professional Director, but may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. ~~The House of Delegates~~ Eligible members shall elect by majority vote the appropriate number of directors each year. ~~at its annual session.~~

G. Vacancies

Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors may be filled by vote of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting, the new director to serve until ~~the House of Delegates elects a successor at its next annual session~~ a successor is elected prior to the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE V -- HOUSE OF DELEGATES

A. Authority

There shall be a House of Delegates of the Society, which shall have authority within the Society regarding ~~election of the officers and members of the Board of Directors and of elective committees;~~ adoption and amendment of the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation according to the laws of the state of incorporation; approval of professional practice standards and scope and direction for the Society and the profession; hearing appeals and rendering final decisions; and to review the annual audit; except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

B. Meetings

An annual session of the House of Delegates shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Directors may determine for the purpose of ~~electing officers, directors and elected members of the Nominations Committee and the Judicial Committee, and for the transaction of such other~~ transacting business as may come under the authority of the House of Delegates, as specified under Section A of this Article.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

B. Election of Officers

~~The House of Delegates, at its annual session,~~ Prior to the annual meeting, eligible members shall elect by a majority ~~vote~~ of the votes cast a President-elect annually and a Secretary/Treasurer triennially.

Vacancies in these offices may be filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors, except that in the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the President-elect shall become President for the remainder of that term and for the succeeding year. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President-elect, ~~at the next~~ prior to the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, both a President-elect and President shall be elected by a vote of eligible members.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

A. Nominations Committee There shall be a Nominations Committee ~~of the House of Delegates~~, consisting of not more than ten (10) members, who shall be elected by ~~the House of Delegates~~ a vote of the eligible members.

The Nominations Committee shall be responsible for presenting ~~to the House of Delegates at its succeeding annual session~~ to the membership, nominations for those positions to be filled by election prior to the annual meeting.

B. Judicial Committee

There shall be a Judicial Committee of the Society, consisting of five (5) members elected by majority vote of ~~the House of Delegates~~ eligible members.

Amendment 2: Replacing the requirement for Majority vote for Directors and Elective Committee members with Plurality vote.

Rationale:

- When the Society amended the makeup of the ASCLS Board of Directors to include Directors-at-Large rather than Region Directors, this resulted in more candidates running for a set number of openings.
- When the Directors were selected from specific regions, there were rarely more than 2 individuals competing for each regional open seat.
- As was seen in the 2024 election, we had 9 candidates running for 5 open seats.
- With the current requirement set at a 'win' being a majority of the vote as defined by >50% of the vote, this resulted in multiple runoff ballots.
- Changing the requirement from majority to plurality (most votes wins the seat), the chances of runoff ballots are greatly reduced.

A **majority voting system** is an electoral system in which the winner of an election is the candidate that received more than half (50%) of the votes cast.

A **plurality voting system** is an electoral system in which the winner of an election is the candidate that received the highest number of votes. The candidate need not win an outright majority to be elected.

Replace 'majority' with 'plurality' in the following Articles: Article IV.B and Article VII.B

***Proviso:** If Amendment #1 passes, then the wording in Amendment #2 referring to the House of Delegates will be corrected by the ASCLS Bylaws Committee to reflect the new wording in Amendment #1.