

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
of the
Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

The name of this organization shall be the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society, Inc. The purpose of the Organization shall be to advance the art and science of Osteopathic Medicine, to secure for it a deserved recognition, and to maintain a professional spirit among its practitioners in the state of Connecticut. This Society shall cooperate actively with the American Osteopathic Association as a Divisional Society, and it accepts and shall endeavor to enforce among its members the code of ethics of the American Osteopathic Association as it may from time to time be established.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Classes of Members

The classes of membership, with the privileges accorded to each, are as follows:

(a) Active Member: Any graduate of an AOA recognized school of osteopathic medicine who is practicing in the state, or any osteopathic physician licensed by the State of Connecticut, who has paid the required dues for that year, is eligible to become an Active Member in the Society, with all the privileges of the Society;

(b) Associate Member: Any licensed physician in another state who meets the requirements for licensure in that state, or any student in an AOA approved school of Osteopathic Medicine, or any licensed physician in the State of Connecticut who is not a graduate of a school of osteopathic medicine, who has paid the required dues for that year, is eligible to become an Associate Member in the Society with all of the privileges of an Active Member, except that the Associate Member will not have the privilege of voting at meetings or ballots of the Society

(c) Life Member: Any Active Member may be granted status as Life Member upon election by the Active Membership in recognition of contribution or service to the profession in the State of Connecticut. Such Life Members shall have all the benefits and privileges of Active Members.

Section 2: Dues/Fiscal Year

An applicant for membership shall file yearly with the Society an application on a form prescribed by the Society together with the current yearly dues (physicians-in-training, students, and Life Members are exempt from dues). The annual dues for each succeeding year shall be set at the Annual Meeting of the Society; dues shall cover the fiscal year commencing July 1 and concluding June 30.

Section 3: Special Provisions

Special assessments may be levied on all Active Members by a vote of two-thirds of those present at an Annual Meeting or a Special Meeting called by the President, provided that specific notice of the proposed special assessment shall be sent to all members at least 30 days prior to such a vote. Failure to pay such special assessments by any member shall constitute grounds for classifying the member as inactive.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 1: The Officers of the Society shall be its Board of Trustees, consisting of nine members and constituted as follows: a President and a Vice-President elected by the Active Members, one representative from each of the District Societies, the Immediate Past President of the Society, and Trustees-at-Large elected by the Active Members to fill out the balance of the Board. All Trustees must be Active Members. (For the purposes of definition, the Immediate Past President shall be the holder of the office of President in the immediately preceding year.) The secretary and treasurer of the Society shall be selected annually from the Board of Trustees by the Board.

Section 2: The President of the Society shall each year appoint a Nominating Committee whose duty it shall be to nominate a candidate for each elective office to be filled at the next election held by the membership. This slate of nominees shall be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society, at which the election of Officers shall take place. Nominations from the floor of the Annual Meeting shall also be accepted, and elections shall be by written ballot. Election of Officers shall be by majority vote of those casting ballots.

In the first election after acceptance of these Bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall also nominate for election at the Annual Meeting the Trustee Representative from each District, provided that such nominee is from the District which he is nominated to represent. Thereafter, the Trustee Representatives from the Districts shall be chosen in the manner prescribed hereinafter in "District Societies."

Section 3: The term of office for each Officer shall be for one year from the close of the Annual Meeting at which he was elected and installed to the adjournment of the next Annual Meeting, unless an Officer is removed for cause as provided for in Section 6 hereunder. There shall be no limitation on the number of terms, consecutive or otherwise, for which an Officer may be elected.

Section 4: The duties of the Officers shall be those normally associated with the offices to which they are elected, except as otherwise provided for in these Bylaws.

Section 5: All Officers shall be indemnified and held harmless for their actions on behalf of the Society by the corporation; the treasurer shall be bonded or insured to an amount deemed reasonable by the Board.

Section 6: In the event that any Officer fails to perform the duties of that office, as determined by the Board of Trustees, the Board shall declare that office vacant. All vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Board, provided that in the event of a vacancy for District Society Representative, the Board shall select a representative from the District involved.

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1: Except as herein provided, all power and authority over the affairs of the Society during the interim between meetings of the Society, except that of modifying any action of the Society membership, shall rest with the Board of Trustees and shall be under the direction of the President as Chairman of the Board.

Section 2: Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at least quarterly, beginning 30 days after the Annual Meeting of the Society. Special meetings may be called by the President and shall be called upon request of a majority of the Board.

Section 3: A quorum of the Board shall be at least five members and shall be required at meetings of the Board.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

Section 1: The Standing Committees of the Society shall be: Medical Economics/Government Relations, Programs/Conventions, Membership/Publications, Education, and Bylaws. These committees shall be appointed by the President within 30 days following the Annual Meeting. The duties of these committees shall be as normally associated with such committees and any other duties assigned by the Board; these committees shall make a report to the Board at each meeting of the Board and shall make an annual report to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2: The President shall appoint all special committees authorized by the Society or the Board of Trustees, or which he may deem expedient.

Section 3: All voting members of standing or special committees shall be Active Members of the Society; ad hoc non-voting members of committees may be appointed to assist with the duties of the committees. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1: The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held in the State of Connecticut on the first Saturday of June. Notice of the meeting and a tentative agenda shall be sent to each member at least 30 days in advance. The agenda of the meeting shall include election of Officers, reports of committees, and approval of the annual budget.

Section 2: Special meetings of the membership may be called by the President or Board of Trustees at any time, and shall be called upon written request of at least 10 Active Members of the Society. Such meetings shall be require at least five days written notice to all members, stating the purpose of the meeting.

Section 3: The quorum requirement for any annual or special meeting shall be twelve Active Members. There will be no proxy or absentee votes allowed at any meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE VII: DISTRICT SOCIETIES

Section 1: There shall be three District Societies with appropriate boundaries determined by the Board of Trustees to reflect equitable distribution of prospective members as follows: West, Central, and East.

Section 2: The District Societies shall meet as required by their own purposes, but shall meet at least once annually no later than 30 days following the Annual Meeting of the Society for the purposes of selecting representatives to the Board of Trustees. The representatives of the District Societies will be chosen in the first election following adoption of these Bylaws as stipulated above in Article III.

ARTICLE VIII: ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Order of Business of any meeting of the Society shall be under the control of the Board of Trustees. Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the Society in all cases in which they apply and are not inconsistent with these Bylaws. The Society shall not be bound by Roberts Rules of Order where it is deemed such rules are inappropriate.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all Active Members present at any Annual or special meeting of the Society, provided the Board of Trustees and Bylaws Committee have had reasonable time to consider the proposed changes before action by the Society, and provided that notice of the meeting to consider the proposed changes is sent to each member not less than five nor more than 30 days prior to the meeting.