

Proposed bylaws amendments to be voted on at the February 8, 2019 General Assembly meeting

Changes are in red.

Section 3.2 Membership Categories

7. Honored Lifetime Membership may be bestowed by majority vote of the General Assembly, hereafter referred to as the GA, upon any person who has made a significant, sustained, or outstanding contribution to the Society or the science of astronomy. An Honored Lifetime Member is not required to pay dues to the Society but does have all the privileges of membership granted to other classes of members. **Members given Honorary status in the past are now considered to be Honored Lifetime members and have all the privileges of membership.**
8. **The term “member in good standing” shall be construed to mean any member whose dues, at the current time, are paid in full and who is in compliance with the Code of Conduct defined in Section 3.6.**

Section 3.5 Benefits of Membership

1. **Junior members of the Society shall each have one vote in the GA and shall be eligible to serve on committees. Household members between the ages of 10 and 17 shall be afforded the same privileges as Junior members.** All other members, including Honored Lifetime members **and adults who are part of a Household membership,** shall have one vote in the GA and shall be eligible to serve on committees and to hold elected and appointed office.
2. Each member of the Society shall be entitled to access all sections of the Society’s website.
3. Each member of the Society shall be entitled to the use of the facilities and equipment owned or operated by the Society, subject to availability, and provided the member has been trained and certified as a qualified operator of said facilities and equipment.
4. Each member of the Society shall be entitled to host guests at any Society sponsored event, or at private events involving Society owned or operated facilities or equipment, provided that the Society member assumes full responsibilities for the conduct of the hosted guests at the event.

Section 4.3 Nomination of Candidates for Elected Office

The Nominating Committee shall actively solicit nominations for all elected officer positions and shall submit a preliminary slate of candidates to the EC at their March

meeting as specified in Section 8.8. **This preliminary slate will be posted immediately to the Society website.** Additional self- and member-nominations may be subsequently submitted by email to the Chair of the Nominating Committee **at least** 14 days prior to the scheduled GA election meeting, **after which no further nominations will be accepted.** **The final slate will then be posted to the Society website, and all candidates will be highly encouraged to provide a brief statement of interests and qualifications for the intended office which shall be published on the website for review by members.**

Section 7.2 Special Committees

1. **Nominating Committee:** As specified in the Administrative Calendar, Section 8.8, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee to solicit members to run for office. The Nominating Committee shall consist of no fewer than three Society members, two of whom may be currently elected officers, excluding the President and Vice-President. If a member of the Nominating Committee subsequently wishes to stand for an elective office, he or she must resign from the Nominating Committee and be replaced with a new member appointed by the President. **The Nominating Committee shall serve until the adjournment of the Election Meeting as specified in Section 8.8**

Section 8.3 cites Section 4.1.d, which doesn't exist. It should say 4.1.4.

Section 8.7 Mandatory Communications

1. A mandatory communication is any information required by these Bylaws to be communicated to the members prior to official action by the GA.
2. Mandatory communications shall include:
 - a. Proposed annual budgets.
 - b. **Slates of candidates for elected officer positions.**
 - c. Proposed amendments to these Bylaws.
 - d. Notice of change of dates or locations of GA and EC meetings.
3. Mandatory communications shall be distributed to the members via the Society's website or email. Hard copies of mandatory communications will be sent via U.S. Mail only upon special request to the Secretary.

Section 8.8 Administrative Calendar and Fiscal Year

The official administrative calendar shall be defined in two parts:

- Fiscal Year: September 1-August 31 (for purpose of budgeting and financial accounting)
- Officer Year: June 1-May 31 (for purpose of electing officers and transfer of administrative duties)

Month	Event/Action
January	Nominating Committee appointed.
March	Nominating Committee reports to EC at monthly meeting and posts slate of candidates at least 14 days in advance of April GA meeting.
April	GA quorum determined. Election of officers.

Section 10.1 Election Procedures

Election of officers shall occur at the regular GA meeting specified in the Administrative Calendar, Section 8.8, according to the following procedure:

1. Certification by the Parliamentarian that either the President, or the designated presiding election officer, and a quorum of the GA, as specified in Section 8.3, are present.
2. Election order and presentation of candidates: Voting for officer positions shall be in the following order: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment, Communications, Outreach, and Member Services Chairs, then Members-at-Large. Prior to each vote, candidates for the given office, both the Nominating Committee's solicited list and self- or member-nominated candidates, shall be introduced by the presiding election officer and given the opportunity to briefly address the GA.
3. Election to office in uncontested races shall not require a vote.
4. **When there are two or more candidates for a designated office, or more than six candidates for Member-at-Large, the candidate (or top six candidates) receiving the most votes shall be declared the winner.**

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Section 10.2 Eligibility to Vote

No absentee voting shall be permitted in Society elections. Only members present at the election meeting and in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

1. ~~Absentee ballots for election of officers shall be published on the Society website no less than 21 days prior to the scheduled election, and shall contain a list of offices to be filled, a list of nominees for each office, and spaces for the name of the voting member and the date of submission.~~
2. ~~Members wishing to vote absentee may communicate their voting preferences by email~~

~~directly to the Secretary, or other presiding officer as approved by the EC, no less than 24 hours before the scheduled call to order of the election meeting, either by attachment of a pre-formatted ballot form provided on the website or by stating their voting preferences in the body of the email. In the event of postponement of the planned election meeting, absentee votes will be carried over to the next regular election meeting as defined in Section 10.3.~~

- ~~3. Immediately prior to the start of voting, the Secretary shall determine whether any persons who have submitted absentee ballots are present at the meeting. Any such persons may reclaim their ballots and vote in person.~~

Article 12 Amendments

These bylaws may, with the exception of changes to dues which require majority approval as specified in Section 3.3.6, be amended by a two-thirds majority of the GA in a regular meeting, provided that:

1. The proposed amendment has been reviewed by the Parliamentarian.
2. The proposed amendment has been **publicized through posting on the Society website** to all members of the Society at least 21 calendar days prior to the regular meeting at which the motion to amend **is brought to a vote**.

Article 14 refers to Honorary Members. Since there is no longer such a membership category, it should read Honored Lifetime members.