

Grounds for Recommended Revisions to NAOSMM Constitutions & Bylaws 2026

Suggested revisions to the NAOSMM Constitution and Bylaws were brought before the membership at the meeting in Richmond, VA in July of 2025. These reflected the ability to conduct business outside of the Annual Meeting (henceforth known as Annual Business Meeting). Changes included the addition of “Special meetings” and the ability to conduct electronic voting. Some changes to the Constitution were ratified. However, there was confusion during the ratification process and it is not clear that all of the proposed changes to the Bylaws were voted on. Therefore, in order to ensure all revisions are officially approved these items have been included in the current documents for your review and ratification in 2026. Also being revisited is a Constitutional change regarding the minimum number of days of required notice before a Special meeting can be held, this would be reduced to fourteen days to accommodate pressing matters that need to be addressed in a timely manner. While this was addressed at last years’ meeting, we have conflicting versions and we are not sure what was ultimately approved. Therefore, we are bringing it forward again.

Some additional recommended changes are also being presented for your consideration and approval. These include changes to the Constitution for the addition of a Student Membership Level. This new level of membership would be created for interested students to gain exposure to the NAOSMM and the benefits such an organization can provide. The anticipated benefit would be an increase in future regular membership and increased attendance at conferences. There are further recommended changes to Article 1, Membership

Proposals for changes to the By Laws for 2026 include many updates to **Articles I and II**. In addition to adding the Student Membership Level, all membership tiers were clarified and reformatted to clearly outline their specific benefits.

Articles III and IV recommend wording changes such as “Annual Business Meeting”, and “online” replaced with “electronic”. Also in Article IV, Section 1 change the 30 day requirement to “specified date”.

Additional language was proposed in **Article V Committees** in order to define the expectations of committee chairs and committee members.

Revisit from 2025. The recommendation to remove the requirement for the treasurer to be bonded was removed from the Constitution in 2025. However the related recommendation to add **Article VI Fiscal Responsibility, Section 1** regarding crime insurance was proposed last year but was not voted on.

Article VIII Amendment of By Laws change 4/5 to 5/6 to reflect the change in board officers from 5 to 6.

Revisions not specifically listed above, but detailed below, include minor edits to correct typos, to use gender-neutral language and other formatting and renumbering edits. The full list of recommended changes follow.

Suggested revisions for Constitution

1. **Article I, Section 1.** Because we have proposed the addition of Student Membership, this article must be updated to reflect the addition of that membership category.
2. **Article IV, Section 2.** This section was added in 2025. The section was approved, but one copy of the proposed changes said 15 days, and another copy said 30 days. After discussion we are proposing “a minimum of 14 days.”

Suggested revisions for By-Laws

1. **Article I.** Changes in formatting required due to the addition of student membership and also for consistency in formatting.
2. **Article I Section 1.** We propose a slight change to the wording for Regular membership definition. If we include the words “laboratory operations” and add “teaching”, this will broaden our potential membership base to help NAOSMM grow, and appeal to industry and other professions. This would help potential members better self-identify with the definition of Regular membership.
3. **Article I Section 1a.** We want to specify that sales reps are also not eligible for Associate, Lifetime, or Student membership (in addition to not being eligible for Regular membership).
4. **Article I Section 2b.** Updated the wording to match Section 1a, regarding sales reps not being eligible.
5. **Article I, Section 3.** This is a whole new section. We would like to add Student Membership with the given criteria. Student members may serve on committees, participate in the listserv, attend conferences and webinars. This will increase our member base and hopefully they will re-join NAOSMM as Regular members once they enter the workforce.
6. **Article I, Section 3, 4, 5, and 6.** Change to Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 if Student Member is added as the new Section 3.
7. **Article I, Section 4c.** Add to specify that Honorary members are not eligible for NAOSMM vendor discounts.
8. **Article I, Section 5a.** Clarify Lifetime membership. As specified in Regular Membership, if you are retired you may continue to be a Regular member. This also allows members to retain voting privileges, if desired. Also, by retaining regular membership a person may achieve Lifetime membership if retiring with less than 10 years of membership.
9. **Article I, Section 5b.** “Retirement” would need to change to “Retired” to match 5a.

10. **Article I, Section 5b i. and ii.** We would like to better clarify that this is an and/or. This has been misunderstood or misinterpreted in the past.
11. **Article I, Section 5d, 5e, and 5f.** Further clarifying what Lifetime members are not eligible for. Adding that Lifetime membership may be suspended or put on pause if someone obtained Lifetime status, but later changed to no longer meet the criteria.
12. **Article II, Section 1.** Combine all of the membership types for which dues are established by the Board.
13. **Article II, Section 4.** Combine all of the membership types which have no dues. Change this to Section 2 since it would immediately follow a combined Section 1.
14. **Article II, Section 6.** This would need to be renumbered to Section 3 if the above changes are approved.
15. **Article III.** Change to the title to Annual “Business” Meeting, since this is the term our membership is familiar with. The following are placed where we want to update from “Annual Meeting” to “Annual Business Meeting”
 - a. **Article III, Section 4**
 - b. **Article IV, Section 1**
 - c. **Article IV, Section 2**
 - d. **Article VII, Section 1**
 - e. **CONSTITUTION Article III, Section 4**
16. **Article III, Section 3.** We added “special meeting” because we can do online meetings now. We added “and/or casting electronic ballots” because members may cast a ballot even if they are not attending in person. This was proposed in 2025, but not officially voted on.
17. **Article IV, Section 1.** Change the need to submit your letter for candidacy 30 days prior to the conference to a deadline specified by the board.
18. **Article IV, Section 3.** Changes reflecting in person and electronic voting. This was proposed in 2025, but not officially voted on.
19. **Article V, Section 1.** Added language regarding expectations for Committee Chairs and Chair removal if necessary. This matches the wording for removal of Board members.
20. **Article VI, Section 1.** Bonding is no longer the current practice or is it practicable. Instead NAOSMM carries crime insurance to protect NAOSMM from both internal and external threats. This insurance also covers all of the board officers and not just the treasurer. The requirement that NAOSMM carry crime insurance is more appropriately placed in the Bylaws section on Fiscal Responsibility. Hence the **recommendation for this addition to the Bylaws, Article VI Fiscal Responsibility. Section 1. “NAOSMM shall carry Crime Insurance protecting NASOMM from internal and external threats”** Proposed in 2025.
21. **Article VI Section 2.** This used to be Section 1. This needs to be re-numbered to Section 2 since we added the previous statement as Section 1.
22. **Article VIII, Section 1.** Need to change the ratio to match the current number of Board of Directors.