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| Section | Bylaws v 2021 | Bylaws v 2025 |
| Name | Northeast Ohio Clinical Nurse Specialist (NEOCNS) Affiliate | Ohio Clinical Nurse Specialist (OHCNS) Affiliate |
| Mission Statement | Enhance and promote the unique, high value contribution of the clinical nurse specialist to the health and well-being of individuals, families, groups, and communities, and to promote and advance the practice of nursing in the Northeast Ohio area. | Advocate for and advance the unique expertise and value the clinical nurse specialist (CNS) contributes to health care through policy, collaboration, and professional development. |
| Vision Statement | Not mentioned | Every CNS is an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) with full scope-of-practice and a transformational innovator leading improvement in healthcare environments, resulting in superior health outcomes for the populations they serve. |
| Regular Member Requirements | Active license to practice as a registered nurse and advanced practice registered nurse license; Masters/doctoral degree in nursing from an accredited program that prepares clinical nurse specialists, or has a masters/doctoral degree in a related area and is practicing as a clinical nurse specialist or is doctorally-prepared and is involved in the education and development of clinical nurse specialists; Paid assessed dues; Entitled to vote, hold office, and chair committees. | Active license to practice as a registered nurse; Masters/post-master’s certificate/doctoral degree in nursing; Paid assessed dues; Entitled to vote, hold office, and chair committees. |
| Student Member Requirements | Active license to practice as a registered nurse; Verification of enrollment as a part-time or full-time student in an accredited masters or doctoral program that prepares clinical nurse specialists or is a clinical nurse specialist enrolled full-time in a doctoral program; May not vote or hold elective office or chair a committee, but may be a voting member of a committee; Pays dues at a reduced rate as established by the Board of Directors. | Active license to practice as a registered nurse; Enrolled as a part-time or full-time student in a masters or doctoral program that prepares CNSs; Not entitled to hold elected office or chair a committee; Pays assessed dues at a reduced rate. |
| Senior/Retired Member Requirements | Retired from professional work career, generally at sixty-five years of age or older; Pays dues at a reduced rate as established by the NEOCNS Affiliate, Board of Directors; May continue to participate on committees; Retains voting rights; May chair committees; May not hold office. | Pays dues at a reduced rate as established by the OHCNS Affiliate, Board of Directors; Entitled to vote, hold office, and chair committees. |
| Honorary Member Requirements | Distinguished service and leadership to the association or unique contributions to advancing clinical nurse specialist practice; Not required to pay dues; Honorary members who are not regular members or senior members will have all membership rights except voting and holding office; Association regular members or senior members given honorary membership will retain all the privileges of membership pertinent to the category of membership. | Not mentioned |
| Associate Member Requirements | Not mentioned | An individual who does not meet the membership requirements for the other membership types but who is interested in learning about and supporting the role of the CNS; Entitled to attend all meetings, and participate in committees/task forces/work groups; Not entitled to vote, hold office, or chair committees/task forces/work groups. |
| Corporate Member Requirements | Health-related corporation or group of individuals engaged in the production of products, sales, and/or services related to clinical nurse specialist practice and is interested in aiding NEOCNS in achieving its goals and contributing financial support; Designated corporate representative shall have the privileges of corporate membership; Privileges include the right to serve on special committees and subcommittees, except as specified in the bylaws; May be invited to participate in programs and provide appropriate exhibits; First right of refusal over non-members to sponsor Association annual or special event activities; May be offered the opportunity to hold membership on the Association's Advisory Panel. | Not mentioned |
| Institutional Member Requirements | Healthcare or educational institutions may become members by enrolling five or more individuals eligible for NEOCNS Affiliate individual membership; Receives benefits specified by the Board of Directors. | Healthcare or educational institutions may become members by enrolling five or more individuals eligible for NACNS, OHCNS individual membership; Receives benefits specified by the Board of Directors. |
| Termination of Membership | Membership terminated automatically at the discretion of the steering committee/board if ineligible for membership or ninety (90) days in default in the payment of any dues or charges; Termination or other disciplinary action imposed for “cause”, which means violation of these Bylaws or any rule or practice of NACNS/NEOCNS; Termination or other discipline effected or imposed only upon the vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors/entire steering committee; Member furnished a full statement of the charges and afforded adequate opportunity for a hearing; Termination may be delayed by the Board of Directors in special circumstances. | Membership terminated automatically at the discretion of the steering committee/board if ineligible for membership or ninety (90) days in default in the payment of any dues or charges; Termination or other disciplinary action imposed for “cause”, which means violation of these Bylaws or any rule or practice of NACNS/OHCNS; Termination or other discipline effected or imposed only upon the vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors/entire steering committee; Member furnished a full statement of the charges and afforded adequate opportunity for a hearing; Termination may be delayed by the Board of Directors in special circumstances. |
| Dues | All member categories, except honorary members, must pay annual dues as required by these bylaws and as established by NEOCNS Affiliate, Board of Directors/Steering Committee members; Dues established by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee members in amounts sufficient to ensure that the Association maintains financial resources to carry out its purposes and activities. | All member categories must pay the dues assessed by OHCNS; Dues assessed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee in amounts sufficient to ensure that OHCNS maintains financial resources to carry out its purposes and activities. |
| Meetings | NEOCNS Affiliate shall meet annually at a time and place/virtually to be determined by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee; Annual business meeting shall be an open meeting to all members in good standing of the NEOCNS Affiliate; Annual meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Conference sponsored by the NEOCNS Affiliate. | NACNS, OHCNS Affiliate shall meet annually at a time and place/virtually to be determined by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee; Annual business meeting shall be an open meeting to all members in good standing of OHCNS. |
| Quorum | Voting membership representing at least 10% of eligible voting members present at any annual business meeting shall constitute a quorum. | Voting membership representing at least 10% of eligible voting members present at any annual business meeting shall constitute a quorum. |
| Board of Directors | Control of the Association vested in Board of Directors/Steering Committee members, at least five (5) in number, consisting of the president, president-elect, immediate past president, secretary, and treasurer; Manage the affairs of the affiliate in conformity with the laws under which the NEOCNS Affiliate is incorporated and the provisions of these bylaws; Meet at least annually; Formulate policies to conduct/transact the general business of NEOCNS Affiliate in the period between annual meetings to further the purposes and goals of NEOCNS Affiliate and to manage, control, and conserve the property and interest of the affiliate; Power to establish fees, create standing and ad hoc committees and define their duties, and to call annual meetings and other meetings of NEOCNS Affiliate not already provided for; Outcome of any action taken will be by a majority vote of those participating as long as a quorum is present. | Board members of the Association consist of a President, President-Elect, immediate past President, Secretary, and Treasurer; Steering Committee consists of volunteers appointed by the Board; Board may appoint other committees, taskforces, workgroups and/or other working entities to mobilize volunteer expertise to meet a need of the organization; Board shall manage the affairs of OHCNS in conformity with the laws under which OHCNS is incorporated and the provisions of these bylaws; Board of Directors/Steering Committee members shall meet at least annually; Formulate policies to conduct/transact the general business of OHCNS in the period between annual meetings to further the purposes and goals of OHCNS and to manage, control, and conserve the property and interest of the affiliate; Power to establish fees, create standing and ad hoc committees and define their duties, and to call annual meetings and other meetings of OHCNS not already provided for; Outcome of any action taken will be by a majority vote of those participating as long as a quorum is present. |
| Removal of Board Member | Board of Directors/Steering Committee member may be removed by the vote of the members present or represented at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present whenever, in their judgment, the best interests of the organization would be served by such removal. | Board of Directors/Steering Committee member may be removed by the vote of the Board; Any active member of the organization has the right to initiate a vote of no confidence against any member of the Board or Steering Committee; Motion for a vote of no confidence must be submitted in writing (may be electronic) to the President and Secretary, clearly stating the reasons for the motion; Upon receipt of a motion for a vote of no confidence, Secretary shall notify all Board members and schedule a Board meeting to discuss the motion within 30 days of receipt; During the scheduled meeting, Board or Steering Committee member against whom the vote of no confidence has been initiated will be given the opportunity to respond to the motion; Board will discuss the motion and conduct a vote; Active members will have the right to vote on the matter; Vote of no confidence conducted by secret ballot; Two-thirds majority of the total active membership required for the motion to pass; If motion passes, Board or Steering Committee member against whom the vote of no confidence was initiated will be immediately removed from their position; If motion does not pass, no further votes of no confidence can be initiated against that Board or Steering Committee member during their current term of office/appointment. |
| Eligibility of Board Members | Each candidate for an Association office or member of the Board of Directors/Steering Committee members in NEOCNS Affiliate shall have been a regular member preferably for at least two consecutive years preceding each election; Person may not simultaneously be a candidate for more than one office or Board position; Immediate past president shall not be eligible for nomination as president-elect during their term; No individual may serve more than 6 continuous years on the Board of Directors or under direction of the remaining Board of Directors/Steering Committee members. | Each candidate for the Board of Directors/Steering Committee members of OHCNS shall have been a member for at least two consecutive years preceding each election; Each candidate for the Board of Directors/Steering Committee members of OHCNS shall reside within Ohio; Person may not simultaneously be a candidate for more than one office or Board position; Immediate past President shall not be eligible for nomination as President-Elect during their term; No individual may serve more than 6 consecutive years on the Board of Directors/Steering Committee. |
| President | Term: One year, or until succeeded by the president-elect; If president resigns or is removed from office, president-elect shall ascend to the Office of president to serve the remainder of the term; If both the office of president and president-elect are vacated by resignation or removal from office, Board of Directors/Steering Committee members shall appoint an interim president to serve the unexpired portion of the president's term; Duties: Chief Executive Officer of NEOCNS Affiliate; Preside at all meetings of the NEOCNS Affiliate and its Board of Directors/Steering Committee members; Ensure rules are properly enforced in all deliberations; Perform other duties as prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the affiliate. | Term: One year, or until succeeded by the President-Elect; If president resigns or is removed from office, President-Elect shall ascend to the Office of President to serve the remainder of the term as Interim President; If both the office of President and President-Elect are vacated by resignation or removal from office, Board of Directors/Steering Committee members shall appoint an interim President to serve the unexpired portion of the President's term; Board may choose to appoint an interim President-Elect or call for a special election for President and/or President-Elect; Duties: Chief Executive Officer of OHCNS; Preside at all meetings of the OHCNS Affiliate and its Board of Directors/Steering Committee members; Ensure rules are properly enforced in all deliberations; Perform other duties as prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the affiliate. |
| President-Elect | Term: One year or until a successor is elected; In the event of a resignation or removal from office a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee to serve until moving into the office of president; Duties: Perform duties as directed by the president. | Term: One year or until a successor is elected; In the event of a resignation or removal from office a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee to serve until moving into the office of President; Duties: Perform duties as directed by the President. |
| Immediate Past President | Duties: Help assure the continuity of the NEOCNS Affiliate mission and purposes; Ex-officio member of the Board of Directors/Steering Committee. | Term: One year; Duties: Help assure the continuity of the OHCNS mission and purposes; Ex-officio member of the Board of Directors/Steering Committee. |
| Secretary | Term: Two years or until a successor is elected; In the event of a resignation or removal from office, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee to serve until the next regularly scheduled election at which time a new Secretary shall be elected to a full term by the membership; Duties: Keep a true record of the proceedings of the meetings of the NEOCNS Affiliate; Convene an ad hoc committee at the direction of the Board that shall review the bylaws prior to the annual conference; Perform other duties as directed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee or as prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the NEOCNS Affiliate. | Term: Two years or until a successor is elected; In the event of a resignation or removal from office, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee to serve until the next regularly scheduled election at which time a new Secretary shall be elected to a full term by the membership; Duties: Keep a true record of the proceedings of the meetings of OHCNS; Convene an ad hoc committee at the direction of the Board that shall review the bylaws prior to the annual conference; Perform other duties as directed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee or as prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by OHCNS. |
| Treasurer | Term: Two years or until a successor is elected; In the event of a resignation or removal from office, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee to serve until the next regularly scheduled election at which time a new Treasurer shall be elected to a full term by the membership; Duties: Maintain the financial records of the NEOCNS Affiliate in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; Responsible for and have full knowledge of all funds, disbursements, and securities of NEOCNS Affiliate; Submit financial reports to the membership; Prepare the annual budget in collaboration with the Board of Directors/Steering Committee; Make recommendations pertaining to changes which may affect the financial status of the affiliate; Under bond upon such terms, conditions, and for such amounts as shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee; Perform other duties as directed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee or as prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association. | Term: Two years or until a successor is elected; In the event of a resignation or removal from office, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee to serve until the next regularly scheduled election at which time a new Treasurer shall be elected to a full term by the membership; Duties: Maintain the financial records of the OHCNS in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; Responsible for and have full knowledge of all funds, disbursements, and securities of OHCNS; Submit financial reports to the membership; Prepare the annual budget in collaboration with the Board of Directors/Steering Committee; Make recommendations pertaining to changes which may affect the financial status of the affiliate; Under bond upon such terms, conditions, and for such amounts as shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee; Perform other duties as directed by the Board of Directors/Steering Committee or as prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association. |
| Timing of Elections | Annually, members of the Association shall elect a president-elect, and in alternating years, a Secretary or Treasurer, unless otherwise voted upon by Board of Directors/Steering Committee. | Annually, members of the Association shall elect a President-Elect, and in alternating years, a Secretary and/or Treasurer, unless otherwise voted upon by Board of Directors/Steering Committee. |
| Nominations | Any member may submit the name(s) of a potential candidate(s) to the Board of Directors/Steering Committee; Board/Steering Committee shall review the qualifications of all applicants and prepare a proposed slate. | Any member may submit the name(s) of a potential candidate(s) to the Board of Directors/Steering Committee; Board/Steering Committee shall review the qualifications of all applicants and prepare a proposed slate. |
| Elections | Elections of the officers and Board of Directors/Steering Committee members shall be by email vote of all regular and senior members from a slate of candidates prepared by the Board/Steering Committee; No write-in votes unless there are fewer than two candidates for the office; Plurality shall elect; In case of tie, choice shall be by lot; Elected officers and directors shall take office at the close of the annual business meeting of the Association following their election; Election results announced through official publications/communication channels of the NEOCNS Affiliate; Ballots kept by the Affiliate for thirty (30) days following the election. | Elections of the officers and Board of Directors/Steering Committee members shall be by electronic vote of all regular and senior members from a slate of candidates prepared by the Board/Steering Committee; No write-in votes unless there are fewer than two candidates for the office; Plurality shall elect; In case of tie, choice shall be by lot; Elected officers and directors shall take office at the close of the annual business meeting of the Association following their election; Election results announced through official publications/communication channels of the OHCNS; Ballots kept by the Affiliate for thirty (30) days following the election. |
| Committees | Only standing committee shall be the Steering/Program Planning Committee; Committee |  |