

1 **Constitution and Bylaws Of The**
2 **West Virginia State Medical Association**

3
4 **CONSTITUTION**

5
6 **ARTICLE I. - TITLE AND DEFINITION**

7
8 The name and title of this organization shall be the West Virginia State Medical
9 Association.

10
11 **ARTICLE II. - PURPOSES**

12
13 The purposes of this Association shall be to federate and bring into one compact
14 organization the entire medical profession of the State of West Virginia and to unite with
15 similar associations or societies of other states to form the American Medical
16 Association; to extend medical knowledge and advance medical science; to promote the
17 public health; to maintain the highest standards of medical education; to secure the
18 enactment and enforcement of just medical laws; to promote the general welfare of the
19 profession; and to enlighten and direct public opinion in regard to Medicine in West
20 Virginia, and to promote the time honored commitment of the profession to the
21 prevention and cure of disease and in improving the quality of life in the State.

22
23 **ARTICLE III. - COMPONENT SOCIETIES**

24
25 Component societies shall be chartered by this Association.

26
27 **ARTICLE IV. - COMPOSITION**

28
29 This Association shall consist of active, retired, resident, and student members and
30 others, as shall be provided in the Bylaws.

31
32 **ARTICLE V. - HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

33
34 The House of Delegates is the legislative and the policy-making body of the Association
35 composed of elected representatives and others as provided in the Bylaws.

36
37 **ARTICLE VI. - COUNCIL**

38
39 The Council shall consist of the elected Councilors from each component society and
40 from the Medical Association Resident, Medical Association Student and Young
41 Physicians' section as provided in the Bylaws; the immediate Past President, who shall
42 serve as Chairman; and his or her immediate predecessor who shall serve as a Senior
43 Councilor-at-Large for one (1) year and thereafter as a Junior Councilor-at-Large for one
44 (1) year, and the President, the President Elect, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the
45 Speaker of the House of Delegates, Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates, West
46 Virginia State Medical Association delegates to the American Medical Association, the
47 Chair of the Legislative Committee, and the President of the West Virginia State Medical
48 Association Alliance. Members of Council present shall constitute a quorum. Their
49 duties and responsibilities shall be as defined in the Bylaws.

1 **ARTICLE VII. - SECTIONS**

2
3 The House of Delegates may provide for a division of the scientific work of the
4 Association into appropriate sections, and for the organization of such sections as will
5 promote the best interests of the profession, these to be composed exclusively of
6 members of component societies, or as may be prescribed in the Bylaws.

7
8 **ARTICLE VIII. - MEETINGS AND SESSIONS**

9
10 The Association shall hold an annual meeting, consisting of daily sessions which shall
11 be open only to registered members and guests as prescribed in the Bylaws.

12
13 The Association shall hold such other meetings as deemed necessary or as provided in
14 the Bylaws.

15
16 **ARTICLE IX. - OFFICERS**

17
18 The officers of this Association shall be a President, a President Elect, who shall
19 automatically succeed to the office of President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a
20 Speaker of the House of Delegates and a Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates,
21 Councilors to be elected, as provided in the Bylaws, the Chair of the Council, who shall
22 be the retiring president, and his or her two immediate predecessors, who shall be the
23 Councilors-at-Large. The officers' qualifications, terms and duties of office shall be
24 provided in the Bylaws.

25
26 **ARTICLE X. - FUNDS AND EXPENSES**

27
28 Funds shall be raised by an annual per capita assessment of dues from members of the
29 Association.

30
31 Funds may also be raised in any other manner approved by the Council or House of
32 Delegates as provided in the Bylaws.

33
34 **ARTICLE XI. - REFERENDUM**

35
36 A general meeting of the Association may, by a two-thirds vote of the members present,
37 order a general referendum on any question pending before the House of Delegates,
38 and when so ordered the House of Delegates shall submit such question to the
39 members of the Association who may vote by mail or in person. The action of the
40 majority of the members of the Association shall determine the question and be binding
41 upon the House of Delegates.

42
43 The House of Delegates may, by a two-thirds vote of its members, submit any question
44 before it to a general referendum, and the result shall be binding on the House of
45 Delegates. It may also, by a like vote, refer any question, including the election of
46 officers or any number of them, to the general meeting of the Association, a majority
47 vote of the membership determining the result.

48
49 **ARTICLE XII. - THE SEAL**

50
51 The Association shall have a common seal which shall be entrusted to the care of the
52 Executive Director.

1 **ARTICLE XIII. - AMENDMENTS**
2

3 The House of Delegates may amend any article of this Constitution by a two-thirds vote
4 of the delegates present at any annual session, provided that such amendment shall
5 have been presented in open meeting at the previous annual session, and that it shall
6 have been published in the WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL JOURNAL, at least two (2)
7 months prior to the next annual meeting or sent officially to each component society.
8

9 **BYLAWS**

10 **CHAPTER I. - MEMBERSHIP**

11 Sec. 1. Applications for membership are subject to review and approval by the
12 Executive Committee of the West Virginia State Medical Association.

13 Sec. 2. Eligibility for full membership in the Association shall be limited to doctors of
14 medicine or osteopathic medicine licensed to practice in West Virginia; residents who
15 are licensed to practice medicine in West Virginia, or who are serving an
16 internship/residency training programs approved by the Accreditation Council for
17 Graduate Medical Education, or the Committee on Post Doctoral training of the
18 American Osteopathic Association or their successors prior to meeting requirements
19 for licensure; and students enrolled in accredited schools of medicine in West Virginia
20 granting Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees.
21

22 Sec. 3. Active members shall be those physicians who are engaged in the practice of
23 medicine, and the practice of osteopathic medicine as stipulated in Section 2 of this
24 Chapter, in the State of West Virginia, including those who are temporarily absent by
25 reason of serving a residency or absent for a tour of duty with the Armed Services.
26

27 Sec. 4. Retired members shall be those physicians who have retired from active
28 practice of medicine and, upon written request, received Executive Committee approval.
29

30 Retired members shall, following Executive Committee approval, be exempt from the
31 payment of dues or assessments and physicians excused by Executive Committee may
32 be exempt from the payment of dues to alleviate financial hardship or because of forced
33 retirement from medical practice due to physical disability. Executive Committee shall
34 establish appropriate standards and procedures for granting all dues exemptions. These
35 physicians shall have the privilege of the floor in any open session of the Association,
36 but shall not have the right to make or second motions, to vote, or to hold any
37 elective office in this Association, except that they may hold elective or appointive
38 committee membership.
39

40 Sec. 5. Student members shall be those persons enrolled in accredited schools of
41 medicine in West Virginia granting Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathic
42 Medicine degrees and who fulfill the membership requirements set forth in these
43 Bylaws.
44

45 Sec. 6. Resident members shall be those persons who are licensed to practice
46 medicine in West Virginia, or who are serving in internship/residency training programs
47 approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, or the
48 Committee on Post-Doctoral Training of the American Osteopathic Association or their
49 successors prior to meeting requirements for licensure and who fulfill the membership
50 requirements set forth in these Bylaws.
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53

1
2 Sec. 7. Associate members shall be those individuals, firms, corporations, or
3 partnerships who, while not doctors of medicine or osteopathic medicine
4 licensed to practice in West Virginia, have interests allied to the medical professions.
5 Applications for associate membership shall be in writing to the Executive Director of the
6 Association and shall constitute acceptance of the Constitution and Bylaws of the
7 Association.
8

9 The applicant for such associate membership shall be sponsored by another member
10 with full privileges and in good standing or by the Executive Director. The application
11 shall contain the name of such sponsor.
12

13 Such applications for associate membership shall be referred by the President to the
14 Executive Committee of the West Virginia State Medical Association, who shall
15 investigate the applicant and shall vote on each applicant as to whether the applicant
16 may become an associate member of the Association.
17

18 Associate members shall have neither a vote nor be eligible to hold office.
19

20 Sec. 8. Licensed Physician Assistants seeking association membership shall be granted
21 membership with the rights and privileges of an Associate Member.
22

23 Sec. 9. The principles of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association shall
24 govern the conduct of members in their relations to each other and to the public.
25

26 Sec. 10. Dues shall be payable annually. Dues in each membership
27 category shall be fixed by action of the Executive Committee. Dues may be waived for
28 active members temporarily incapacitated. Any member whose dues have not been
29 paid within thirty days of anniversary date shall be held to be
30 delinquent and shall be automatically dropped from membership. Such members
31 cannot be reinstated except by action of the Executive Committee.
32

33 Sec. 11. Each member in attendance at an annual session shall register and indicate
34 the component society or section of which he or she is a member. When his or her
35 membership status has been verified, he or she shall receive a badge which shall be
36 evidence of his or her right to all privileges of membership at that session. No member
37 shall take part in any of the proceedings of an annual session until he or she has
38 complied with the provisions of this Section.
39

40 Sec. 12. Non-members of this Association, resident in West Virginia, shall not take part
41 in the deliberations of this Association, except when invited to do so or specifically
42 authorized in the Constitution or Bylaws.
43

44 45 46 **CHAPTER II. - ANNUAL MEETING** 47

48 Sec. 1. The Association shall hold a meeting each year at such place and such date as
49 may be selected by the Executive Committee.
50

51 Sec. 2. Special meetings of either the Association or the House of Delegates shall be
52 called by the President, or on petition of twenty (20) delegates or fifty (50) members. The
53 association shall give proper notice via electronic means.

1
2 Sec. 3. All registered members may attend and participate in the proceedings and
3 discussions of the general scientific meetings and of the several sections. The general
4 meetings shall be presided over by the Speaker of the House of Delegates or Vice
5 Speaker of the House of Delegates.
6

7 **CHAPTER III. - HOUSE OF DELEGATES**
8

9 Sec. 1. The House of Delegates shall meet annually at such time and place as may be
10 fixed by the Executive Committee of the Association.
11

12 Sec. 2. The House of Delegates shall consist of (1) delegates elected by the
13 component societies; (2) delegates elected by Resident Physician and Medical Student
14 Sections; and (3) the President, President Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Chair of the
15 Council, Senior and Junior Councilors-at-Large, Speaker of the House of Delegates and
16 Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates, and Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the
17 American Medical Association.
18

19 Sec. 3. Each component society shall be entitled to elect and send to the House of
20 Delegates each year one (1) delegate who shall be an officer of the society, and one (1)
21 additional delegate for every twenty (20) members or fraction thereof. A corresponding
22 number of alternates shall be elected each year by each component society. Resident
23 Physician and Medical Student Sections shall be entitled to send to the House of
24 Delegates one (1) delegate and alternate each year, chosen according to constitutions,
25 bylaws or other organizational principles adopted by those sections. Roster of
26 Delegates and Alternates must be submitted to the Association offices in a timely
27 manner for approval of credentials. In case any of the regularly elected delegates or
28 alternates are not present at an annual meeting, the members of the component
29 societies, or Resident Physician or Medical Student Sections, to which they belong shall
30 elect a delegate or delegates pro temp. Credentialing must be accomplished prior to
31 the opening of each session of the House of Delegates.
32

33 Sec. 4. The Delegates present shall constitute a quorum and only members of the
34 House who are present shall have the right to vote.
35

36 Sec. 5. The deliberations of the House of Delegates shall be governed by the Robert's
37 Rules of Order.
38

39 Sec. 6. The House shall consider resolutions during the annual session. Resolutions
40 must be submitted 30 days prior to the first session and may not be voted on until the
41 next session, except by 2/3 consent vote of the House. Late resolutions require
42 unanimous consent to be considered and must be submitted prior to 1st Session of the
43 House.
44

45 Sec. 7. The House of Delegates may, upon application, provide and issue charters to
46 county societies organized in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.
47

48 Sec. 8. Upon request, the House of Delegates may organize the physicians of two (2)
49 or more counties into component societies.
50

51 Sec. 9. The House shall have authority to appoint committees for special purposes
52 from among members of the Association who are not members of the House of
53 Delegates.

1
2 Sec. 10. The House of Delegates shall meet in open session, to which any member
3 may be admitted. In closed session, attendance shall be restricted to members of the
4 Association with full privileges, its legal counsel and members of the Association's office
5 staff. In any session only delegates and authorized official personnel shall have the
6 privilege of the floor, except by unanimous consent.
7

8 Sec. 11. Actions of the House of Delegates shall be published in THE WEST VIRGINIA
9 MEDICAL JOURNAL.

10
11 **CHAPTER IV. - ELECTIONS**
12

13 Sec. 1. All elections may be by electronic ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall
14 be necessary to elect.
15

16 Sec. 2. The officers of this Association and delegates and alternate delegates to the
17 American Medical Association shall be nominated in the method prescribed in that
18 section of the Bylaws relative to the duties of the Committee on Nominations, and the
19 election shall be open for the thirty (30) days prior to the start of the annual meeting.
20

21 **CHAPTER V. - TERMS OF OFFICERS**
22

23 Sec. 1. The officers, except hold-over Councilors and Councilors-at-Large shall be
24 elected annually. The term of the elected officers, except members of the Council and
25 the Speaker and Vice-Speaker, shall be for the period of one year beginning with the
26 installation of the President. The term of the Speaker and Vice-Speaker shall be for a
27 period of two years. All these officers shall serve until their successors take the oath
28 of office.
29

30 The term of office of Councilors shall be for a period of two (2) years.
31

32 Sec. 2. The retiring President shall be Chairman of the Council for the year following his
33 or her term of office, and shall then serve another two (2) years as Councilor-at-Large.
34 Thereafter he or she shall be eligible for election to any office of the Association except
35 President or President-Elect.
36

37 Sec. 3. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.
38

39 **CHAPTER VI. - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**
40

41 Sec. 1. The President shall address the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, and
42 participate, with the right to vote in sessions of the House of Delegates. He or she shall
43 deliver an annual address at such time as may be arranged, and shall perform such
44 other duties as custom and parliamentary usage may require.
45

46 In the event of a vacancy in the office of Treasurer or in the Council, the President shall
47 be empowered to fill the vacancy by appointment until the next annual meeting.
48

49 Sec. 2. The President Elect and Vice President shall assist the President in the dis-
50 charge of the President's duties. In the event of the death, resignation, incapacitation, or
51 removal from office of the President, the President Elect shall succeed the President in
52 office and shall serve for the remainder of the term of his or her immediate predecessor,
53 and the term to which he/she was elected.

1
2 The President Elect shall be installed as President at the annual meeting.
3

4 Sec. 3. The Treasurer shall be financial overseer of this Association. The Treasurer
5 shall report financial conditions to the President and the Chair of the Council. The
6 accounts of the Association shall be audited by a certified public accountant for the
7 previous fiscal year. The Executive Director shall be the trustee of the funds and
8 securities of the Association.
9

10 Sec. 4. The Speaker of the House of Delegates shall preside at the meetings of the
11 House of Delegates and shall perform such duties as custom and parliamentary usage
12 require, and may address the House of Delegates at the opening meeting of all
13 conventions, but such address shall be limited to matters of conduct and procedure in
14 the House. The Speaker has the right to vote only in the case of a tie.
15

16 Sec. 5. The Vice Speaker shall officiate for the speaker in the latter's absence or at the
17 request of the Speaker. In the event of a vacancy in an office of the Speaker, the Vice
18 Speaker shall officiate during the unexpired term. When officiating for the speaker or
19 when filling a vacancy in the office of the Speaker, the Vice Speaker shall have the right
20 to vote only in the case of a tie.
21

22 **CHAPTER VII. - THE COUNCIL**

23

24 Sec. 1. The Council shall meet at the call of the Chair at each annual meeting, and as
25 often as necessary to transact the general business and other affairs of the Association,
26 or on written petition of five (5) members of that body. For purposes of determining the
27 existence of a quorum at a special meeting, and for purposes of voting on any business
28 of the Council conducted at such special meeting, a Councilor shall be included in such
29 determination or vote if present at the special meeting either in person or by means of a
30 telephone conference call or similar electronic communication by means of which all
31 persons participating in the special meeting can hear and speak to each other. The
32 location of any such special meeting shall be deemed to be the place specified in the
33 notice of such special meeting, or, if no location was specified, the place from which the
34 telephone conference call or other means of electronic communication originates.
35

36 The Council shall be the executive body of the House of Delegates, and between
37 meetings shall exercise all the powers conferred on the House of Delegates by this
38 Constitution and Bylaws.
39

40 In the event of the absence of the Chairman of the Council at any meeting, the President
41 shall serve as acting chairman. Should the President also be absent, then an acting
42 chairman shall be elected by the members of the Council present.
43

44 Sec. 2. Each Councilor shall serve as organizer, advisor and representative in his or
45 her component society.
46

47 Sec. 3. In the event of a conflict, the Council shall be empowered to retain general legal
48 counsel for the Association.
49

50 Sec. 4. Each component society shall have a minimum of one (1) Councilor and shall
51 be listed in alphabetical order and so numbered.
52

53 1 - Boone County Medical Society;

- 1 2 - Cabell County Medical Society;
- 2 3 - Central West Virginia Medical Society;
- 3 4 - Eastern Panhandle Medical Society;
- 4 5 - Greenbrier Valley Medical Society;
- 5 6 - Hancock County Medical Society;
- 6 7 - Kanawha Medical Society;
- 7 8 - Mason County Medical Society;
- 8 9 - Monongalia County Medical Society;
- 9 10 - Ohio County Medical Society;
- 10 11 - Parkersburg Academy of Medicine;
- 11 12 - Raleigh County Medical Society;

12
13 Sec. 6. During the annual meeting of the House of Delegates held in an even-
14 numbered year, there shall be elected Councilors from each even-numbered component
15 society to serve for two (2) years; and during the annual meeting of the House of
16 Delegates held in an odd-numbered year, there shall be elected Councilors from each
17 odd-numbered component society to serve for two (2) years. Each component society
18 which has from one (1) to one hundred (100) members shall be entitled to one (1)
19 Councilor. For each additional one hundred (100) members or fraction thereof a
20 component society shall be entitled to one (1) additional Councilor. Each Society shall
21 also submit the name of an alternate councilor to act as its representative in the absence
22 of one or more of its councilors. An AMA alternate delegate shall also serve as an
23 alternate councilor in the absence of an AMA delegate. The alternate councilor's right to
24 vote shall only be in the absence of one or more of his or her component society's
25 councilors.

26
27 In computing the membership base for determination of the number of Councilors to
28 which a component society may be entitled, medical student members and resident
29 members shall be counted in the component society where they declare their residency.

30
31 Sec. 7. The Medical Association resident section, the Medical Association medical
32 student section and the Medical Association young physicians' section shall each have
33 one (1) councilor and one (1) alternate councilor. Each councilor shall be elected at the
34 annual meeting of the House of Delegates to serve for two (2) years. Each section shall
35 also submit the name of an alternate to act as its representative in the absence of its
36 councilors.

37
38 Sec. 8. The Chair of the Legislative Committee shall be a member of council with the
39 right to vote.

40
41 Sec. 9. The Council shall have jurisdiction over all proceedings to take
42 disciplinary action against a member or associate member of the Association, subject to
43 any limitations in the Constitution and Bylaws. Such jurisdiction shall include the power
44 to censure, impose probation, suspend, expel or otherwise discipline a member or
45 associate member of the Association. All proceedings of the Council shall be held in
46 accordance with due process but the proceedings need not follow the W.Va. Rules of
47 Civil Procedure or Rules of Evidence.

48
49 **CHAPTER VIII. - COMMITTEES**

50
51 Sec. 1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Association, composed of the
52 Speaker and Vice-speaker of House, and Chair of Legislative Committee, the three (3)
53 immediate Past Presidents, the President, President- Elect, Vice President, Treasurer

1 and the Executive Director ex officio, with the President serving as Chair, whose duties
2 shall be as follows:

3
4 (a) Prior to January 1 of each year, the Executive Committee shall establish an annual
5 budget.

6
7 (b) The Executive Committee shall set the agenda for the Council meetings, and shall
8 make recommendations to the Council in regard to any pertinent matters, shall fulfill
9 such other duties as may be delegated to it by the House of Delegates or the Council
10 and shall take such other actions as may become necessary, in the opinion of the
11 Executive Committee, to protect the interests of the Association and its members.

12
13 (c) The Executive Committee shall select an Executive Director who shall carry out all
14 duties assigned to him or her by these Bylaws or by competent authority. The Executive
15 Director shall have the responsibility to employ, or discharge, personnel needed to
16 achieve the objectives of this Association.

17
18 Sec. 2. The Executive Committee shall have authority from time to time to appoint, fix
19 the duties of, and abolish such standing committees and commissions as it deems
20 necessary or desirable to assist it in carrying on the Association's activities.

21
22 The President may appoint temporary ad hoc committees to perform specified functions.
23 All such committees shall expire at the end of the term of the President by whom
24 appointed.

25
26 Standing committees shall send special reports to the Council for action on matters
27 concerning the West Virginia State Medical Association policy or requiring the
28 expenditure of Association funds, and shall submit committee minutes to the Council for
29 information.

30
31 No committee or commission shall have power or authority to fix or determine
32 Association policy or to commit the Association to any course of action, such powers
33 being expressly reserved to the House of Delegates and the Council, except when
34 immediate action by the Executive Committee as authorized in Section 1 (b) of this
35 Chapter, becomes necessary to protect the interests of the Association and its
36 members, in which case decisions of the Executive Committee shall be authorized.

37
38 Sec. 3. The Committee on Nominations shall consist of five (5) members chosen by
39 the President, and the Junior Councilor- at-Large, who shall serve as Chair. The
40 Committee shall consider and recommend to the House of Delegates, prior to the
41 election of officers in its final session, its nominees for the office of President Elect,
42 Vice President, Treasurer, Speaker of the House of Delegates, Vice Speaker of the
43 House of Delegates and the AMA Delegate and Alternate. Nothing in this Section shall
44 serve to prevent any nominations from the floor for these respective offices.

45
46 Sec. 4. The Committee on Resolutions shall receive and consider all resolutions
47 prepared for presentation in the House of Delegates at an annual or special meeting.
48 Such resolutions must be in the hands of the Executive Director at least 30 days before
49 the meeting at which they are to be presented; otherwise, 2/3 consent vote of the
50 House of Delegates shall be required for presentation. The Committee shall, in open
51 session, afford any member with full privileges the opportunity of testifying for or
52 against any resolution duly presented, and, in closed session, may recommend
53 adoption, referral, amendment or disapproval, or may report a substitute resolution to

1 the House of Delegates.
2

3 Sec. 5. The Finance Committee shall consist of four (4) members of the Association
4 with full privileges, appointed by the President and who possess some expertise in
5 financial matters, and the Treasurer, who shall serve as Chair. One (1) of the four
6 members shall be the Association Vice President. The term of office for the other three
7 (3) members of the Committee shall be for two (2) years and shall be eligible for
8 reelection.

9
10
11 The members shall be appointed initially two (2) for two (2) year terms, and one (1) for a
12 one (1) year term, and each year thereafter, be appointed for two (2) year terms.
13 The finance committee shall oversee the finances of the Association; assist in budget
14 preparation and review the annual audit.
15

16 Sec. 6. The Scientific and Educational Sessions Committee shall consist of five (5)
17 members of the association; the chair of which will be the President-Elect. The
18 remaining four (4) members will be appointed by the President. Duties and
19 responsibilities of the Committee shall be to plan scientific and educational sessions in
20 regard to the program content, format and site and in accordance with the requirements
21 of the WV SMA Essentials, Guidelines and Standards for Commercial Support and
22 enduring Materials.
23

24 **CHAPTER X - SECTIONS**

25
26 Sec. 1. The objectives of sections are to (a) form closer professional relations among
27 physicians practicing in particular specialty areas; and among residents and students;
28 (b) foster among physicians members of particular specialties, and among residents and
29 students, educational and other activities directed toward better patient care; and (c)
30 assist hospital medical staffs in confronting concerns in the health care environment.
31

32 Sec. 2. Each section shall elect its own officers according to procedures and/or
33 Constitution and Bylaws mechanisms it adopts. It shall advise the Executive Director of
34 the West Virginia State Medical Association of the results of each election within ten (10)
35 days of such an election; and shall take other steps necessary to ensure that a current
36 roster of officers is on file with the Executive Director.
37

38 Sec. 3. There is hereby authorized, within the membership framework of the West
39 Virginia State Medical Association, establishment of Young Physician, Resident
40 Physician, Medical Student, and Hospital Medical Staff Sections to (a) provide for direct
41 participation of resident and medical students in educational, business and other
42 activities of the Association; (b) establish effective lines of communication among young
43 physicians, physicians-to-be, and their more senior colleagues; and (c) provide a forum
44 to discuss the needs and concerns of physician members of hospital medical staffs.
45 Each such section shall develop its own constitution and by-laws or other organizational
46 procedures and elect its officers, under provisions of Section 3 of this Chapter; provided,
47 however, that such a constitution, by-laws or revisions and amendments shall not be
48 inconsistent with the principles or organization of the West Virginia State Medical
49 Association, and shall be subject to approval by the Association's Council.
50

51 The Resident Physician and Medical Student Sections each shall be entitled to elect one
52 (1) delegate and one (1) alternate to the Association's House of Delegates each year.
53 Each section shall report to the Association's Executive Director by October 1 of each
54 year the names of its delegate and alternate.

1
2 **CHAPTER XI. - COMPONENT SOCIETIES**
3

4 Sec. 1. All component medical societies now affiliated with this Association or those
5 which may hereafter be organized in this State, which have adopted principles of
6 organization not in conflict with this Constitution and Bylaws, may, on application,
7 receive a charter from and become component parts of this Association. Subsequent
8 revisions or amendments of these principles shall be submitted to the Executive
9 Committee for review.

10
11 Sec. 2. Charters shall be issued only on the approval of the House of Delegates and
12 shall be signed by the President. The House of Delegates shall have authority, after a
13 hearing, to revoke the charter of any component society, the actions of which are in
14 conflict with the letter or spirit of this Constitution and Bylaws.

15
16 Two (2) or more component societies shall have the right to merge into one (1) society
17 provided such action is agreed to by a vote of the majority of the members of the
18 societies affected. In the event of a merger under this section, the charter or charters of
19 the societies losing identity as such shall be surrendered to the House of Delegates.

20
21 Sec. 3. Only one (1) component medical society shall be chartered in any one county.
22

23 Sec. 4. Each component society shall be the judge of the qualifications of its own
24 members, but, as such societies are the only portals to membership in this Association
25 and to the American Medical Association, every licensed physician shall be eligible to
26 apply for membership.
27

28 Sec. 5. When a member in good standing in a component society moves to another
29 county in this State, his or her membership may be transferred to the component society
30 in the area to which the member has moved, provided the transfer is approved by such
31 society.
32

33 Sec. 6. A physician living in one county may hold his or her membership in a contiguous
34 county medical society whose meetings are most convenient for him or her to attend.
35 Any physician who resides in a county having no county medical organization may apply
36 for membership in a contiguous county medical society, and upon election, continue
37 such membership until his or her own county is organized.
38

39 Sec. 7. Each component society shall have general direction of the affairs of the
40 profession in its area, and its influence shall be constantly exerted for bettering the
41 science and art of Medicine through its organizational efforts.
42

43 Sec. 8. The secretary or treasurer of each component society shall remit promptly to
44 the Executive Director of the Association dues of members as collected. An alternative
45 method of dues collection may be authorized by the Executive Committee. The
46 secretary shall notify the Executive Director of any change in the officers of the society,
47 and shall also notify him or her promptly concerning the death or removal from the
48 county of any member of this society.
49

50 **CHAPTER XII. - AMENDMENTS**
51

52 Sec. 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any annual session by a majority vote of
53 the House of Delegates present at that session. The amendment must be proposed

1 during the first session and may not be acted upon until the second session. If any
2 amendments conflict with any of the provisions of the Constitution, they shall not be
3 effective until such time as the Constitution has been amended to conform.
4

5 Sec. 2. Whenever an amendment to the Bylaws has been enacted, the Executive
6 Director shall notify the secretary of each component society, and the secretary of the
7 Resident physician, medical Student, Young Physician and Hospital Medical Staff
8 Sections, within sixty (60) days after it has become effective. It shall be incumbent upon
9 each component society and Resident Physician, Medical Student, Young Physician and
10 Hospital Medical Staff Sections, to make such changes in their constitutions and by-laws
11 as will bring about conformity to the change in the Bylaws of the West Virginia State
12 Medical Association.
13

14 Revised 4/1/00

15 Revised 1/28/04

16 Revised 2/11/06

17 Revised 8/25/19

