



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

AAAOM By-Laws

General Questions

Question: Why did I receive this 2008 Election Package?

Answer: The AAAOM queried the presidents of the various AOM State Associations and Members at-large this past spring about expanding the voice of our membership in the governance of the AAAOM by expanding our current voting options to include electronic voting that would no longer require voting members in good standing to be present at the AAAOM Annual General Meeting (AAAOM-AGM). Greater than 2/3 of those providing feedback were in favor. Due to overwhelming support, the AAAOM wanted to take this to a vote of the membership as soon as possible. Thus, this package was sent under a current Bylaw that allows email and mail-in votes to occur. (*Reference AAAOM Bylaws, Article 5, Section 8.*)

Questions about AAAOM Nominations

Question: I saw nominated candidates listed online that are no longer on the list. Why?

Answer: The AAAOM's nominations process allows for the nomination of others by members of the profession, or by self-nomination. A requirement for all nominations is that those accepted to be placed on the final slate of candidates must be an Individual member in good standing for one (1) year. (*Reference AAAOM Bylaw, Article VII, Section 4.*) Thus, during the nominations period and after nominations had closed, AAAOM staff reviewed all nominees to determine if this qualification was met. Those not meeting this qualification were contacted and asked to join and/or renew such that they would qualify for the 2010 elections. Those that did not meet this qualification were not added to the candidate list and deleted from the online nominee list.

Members nominated by others have the right to decline, and so their names were removed when AAAOM staff received notice of a declined nomination.

Voting Questions

Question: *What constitutes a voting member under the current AAAOM Bylaws?*

Answer: All classifications of voting members are identified under ARTICLE III, MEMBERSHIP, Section III, 3. Categories of Membership-Voting. They are members in-good-standing that include:

- A. Organizational
- B. Individual
 - i. Individual
 - ii. Individual/Joint
- C. Lifetime

Question: *What are the deadlines for voting and how will votes be cast at the upcoming AAAOM Annual General Meeting on October 18, 2008 from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM?*

Answer: The Board of Directors has established September 30, 2008 as the mail-in voting deadline. Votes submitted by postal mail, must be postmarked September 30, 2008. Votes submitted by email, must be sent by 5:00PM PDT on September 30, 2008. Please be advised that once submitted, votes may not be, under any circumstances or exceptions, recanted or changed.

The mail-in votes will be tallied exclusively and confidentially by the AAAOM Election Committee and held secret until after the House of Delegates vote at the AAAOM Annual General Meeting. No other Officer or Board Member shall be privy to or informed of the mail-in vote tally. (*Note: As prescribed by Board policy, no members of the Election Committee are eligible to seek election or re-election to the Board in 2008.*)

The House of Delegate votes to be cast at the AAAOM-AGM will be calculated in the following manner:

- (1) Determining the number of eligible “Joint Members”, that is, AAAOM Individual members in-good-standing with both their respective state association and with the AAAOM.
- (2) Minus (-) the Individual members in-good-standing that successfully cast their ballot by September 30, 2008, via email or mail-in ballot.
- (3) The votes of the remaining Individual members in good standing that are validated as Joint Members will be cast by House of Delegate vote at the Annual General Meeting, minus (-) any voting eligible members present that can be verified to not have cast either a mail-in or email vote. (See below.)
- (4) The Delegate vote could be further reduced by validated proxy votes, as defined under Article VI - MEETINGS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Section 6.A. Voting. An Individual Member in good standing may carry and vote a maximum of 10 (ten) Individual Member Voting Authorizations (IMVA or proxies).

Question: *As a voting individual member, can I vote at the annual meeting rather than by mail-in or email ballot?*

Answer: Yes. Members may still cast their ballot at the 2008 AAAOM-AGM or have their Delegate vote for them there. The Election Committee will be present to 1) validate a member's voting status; and 2) confirm that the member's ballot was not cast previously by the September 30, 2008 mail-in deadline. Copies of these election documents will be on-site to substantiate this confirmation process.

Questions about AAAOM Bylaw Amendments

Question: *Why are there two Bylaws amendments that expand electronic voting?*

Answer: The first is to permit the use of electronic devices by the Individual Members, and the second is to permit the use of electronic devices by the House of Delegates.

Question: *Why were floor nominations removed (Amendment 3)?*

Answer: The AAAOM is establishing a slate of candidates a number of months before the AAAOM-AGM so that the entire membership is afforded the opportunity to carefully consider whom they will cast their vote for. Accepting nominations from the floor during the AGM conflicts with this objective and takes away the opportunity for the non-attending membership to engage in careful discussion and diligence concerning qualifications of nominees.

Question: *Why is the Student Representative being given voting privileges on the Board of Directors?*

Answer: The AAAOM Student Organization (AAAOM-SO) has grown from a low of 300 members in 2005 to a current status of more than 950 members. Students represent the fastest growing member classification, and as future leaders of this profession, the AAAOM Board of Directors believed that a voting seat on the Board was warranted.

Question: *When do these Bylaws amendments take affect?*

Answer: After the House of Delegates cast their respective ballots at the AAAOM-AGM, the Elections Committee will: 1) count the ballots of Individual Members present who did not cast their ballot before the September 30, 2008 mail-in deadline, then 2) add the mail-in ballots cast by the September deadline. If the respective measure passes, the Amendment takes effect at the gavel Close of Business of the 2008 Annual General Meeting.

Questions about the AAAOM Annual General Meeting (October 18, 2008 @ 8:00 AM- 10:00 AM – Chicago Westin North Shore)

Question: *Why is the AGM only two hours?*

Answer: The AAAOM uses its annual International Conference and Exposition as the venue to conduct the necessary Association business that must properly come before the

membership. However, to a much larger degree, the AAAOM wants to make the Conference a place for learning, to catch up with old friends and make new friends, exchange information, resources and ideas as it relates to the status of AOM in the US, and to become better acquainted with those who provide you the products and services needed for your professional endeavors. Of course, having a good time is an essential function of any annual event!

Questions about Changing the AAAOM Annual General Meeting from Fall to spring

Question: Why is the schedule for the AAAOM-AGM changing?

Answer: The AAAOM-AGM is always conducted in collaboration with the AAAOM Expo. Post reunification, the AAAOM conducted a member survey to determine if Expo should retain its Fall (October) schedule, or convert to a Spring schedule. There was resounding member support to convert to a Spring schedule. This transition occurs in 2009, when the AAAOM Expo will be held April 23-26, 2009, at the Capitol Hyatt Regency, Sacramento, CA. The Annual General Meeting will be on Friday evening, April 24, from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Question: How will the April AGM impact the expiring terms of Directors and nominations?

Answer: The Board of Directors, in deciding to convert to the Spring schedule, also decided that those terms that would have expired in October 2009, would be shortened to expire in April 2009. The terms of all Board seats not up for re-election this October will be shortened to expire, as appropriate, in April of the respective year.

Nominations for the seats up for election in April 2009 will open according to the normal timeline in place for the preparation and execution of any AAAOM Annual Event.

Question: Who do I call if I have additional questions?

Answer: We encourage you to read the voting guidelines carefully and ballot as well as these Questions and Answers. If you still have questions, you may email Jeanette Rockers, AAAOM Director and Election Committee Co-Chair, at 303-756-4770, or via email: jrockers@aaaomonline.org. Additional staff contacts are Rebekah Christensen, AAAOM Executive Director, at rchristensen@aaaomonline.org or phone 866-455-7999. Or please feel free to contact Brian Smither, AAAOM Member Services Manager, at info@aaaomonline.org, or by phoning 866-455-7999.

Question: What if I want to change/recant my vote?

Answer: Read the voting guidelines carefully before voting, ask questions if necessary, as once cast, you will not be able to change/recant your vote.

Question: As an individual practitioner member in-good-standing, can I join now, or at the meeting, and cast a vote?

Answer: ARTICLE V, MEETINGS OF MEMBERS, Section 7. Voting. States: Only Individual Members whose dues are received by the corporation prior to the Annual General Meeting are eligible to vote. Therefore, to be admitted to the AAAOM-AGM and be eligible to vote, you must join the AAAOM by close of registration on the Friday preceding the AGM.

Note: In the process of updating the Bylaws, the AAAOM Bylaws committee felt that there are many changes needed to remove ambiguities and reflect the unification of our profession through the governance of the AAAOM as defined through our Bylaws. To that extent, proposed amended Bylaws will be forwarded to voting members in early 2009 for review, and subsequent vote at the 2009 Annual meeting in April.

#####