

ARTICLE XXIII

MEMBERSHIP

This Article has been duly adopted by AAAOM Board of Directors on January 28, 2010. In the event of any conflict with any other Article or provision or policy contained in any other Article or provision or policy previously adopted, the provisions contained in this Article shall control.

Section 1. Eligibility.

Any person or organization that supports the purpose and principals of the AAAOM and meets the qualifications for membership as set forth in these bylaws is eligible to be a member of the AAAOM.

Section 2. Application and Dues.

Application for membership shall be made in accordance with procedures approved by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall establish the membership dues.

Section 3. Membership Categories.

There shall be two main categories of membership: Individual and Organizational. Individual and organizational members may be voting or non-voting.

Section 4. Individual Membership.

A. Individual Member with Voting Privileges

1. A person shall be eligible to be an individual member with voting privileges if he or she meets either of the following requirements:
 - (a) Is certified by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) in Acupuncture, Oriental Medicine, Chinese Herbology, or Asian Bodywork Therapy; or
 - (b) Is licensed, registered, or certified as an Acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine practitioner by a state licensing board whose criteria for licensing, registration, or certification is equivalent to or greater than the standards promulgated by the NCCAOM, as determined by the Board of Directors.
2. Documentation of license, certification, or registration must accompany the application and must be maintained for renewal.
3. An individual member in good standing who meets the above requirements is entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership, and has the right to vote.

B. Individual Member without Voting Privileges

1. A person shall be eligible to be an individual member without voting privileges if he or she meets the requirements of any of the following subcategories:
 - (a) Student Member: A person shall be eligible to be a Student member if he or she is currently enrolled in a school of Acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine, or an apprenticeship program whose curriculum meets or exceeds the requirements of the state where it is taking place and which meets criteria which would allow the person to sit for NCCAOM examination.
 - (b) Other Health Professionals: A person shall be eligible to be a Health Professional member if he or she i) is not a licensed or certified acupuncturist and ii) is licensed, certified or registered as another type of health professional.
 - (c) Friend of Acupuncture: A person shall be eligible to be a Friend of Acupuncture member if he or she is not eligible for any other membership category.
2. Student members, Health Professional members, and Friend of Acupuncture members in good standing are entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership, but may not vote.

Section 5. Organizational Membership.

A. Organizational Member with Voting Privileges

1. State-based acupuncture professional membership associations that meet the requirements set forth in Article 18, Section 4, of these bylaws shall be State Association Organizational Members (SAOM) with voting privileges.
2. A SAOM in good standing who meets the above requirements is entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership, and has the right to vote in accordance with these bylaws.

B. Organizational Member without Voting Privileges.

Any other eligible organization may be an organizational member of the AAAOM without voting privileges.

Section 6. Member in Good Standing.

A member in good standing shall meet each of the following requirements:

1. The member has paid current and applicable dues, as established by the board. A member whose dues have not been received by the date specified in a membership fee notification shall have all membership privileges automatically suspended. Membership privileges shall be automatically reinstated upon payment but shall not be retroactive.
2. The member has not been found by the Association to be in violation of membership conditions and requirements established by the Association.
3. For individual members with voting privileges, a member is not under current suspension or revocation of a license or certificate to practice acupuncture in any jurisdiction.

Section 7. Disciplinary Action and Reinstatement

A. The board may, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, reprimand, suspend, or expel a member for actions that violate the purpose and principals of the Association or standards of conduct or equivalent promulgated by the Association. Disciplinary actions shall be conducted in accordance with approved board policies that address (i) adequate notification, (ii) appeal process, and (iii) conditions for reinstatement. Suspension or termination shall not entitle the member to any refunds of paid dues.

B. A member who has been expelled shall have the right to reapply for membership upon proof that the previous action that resulted in expulsion has been resolved to the satisfaction of the board.