

**CONSTITUTION
AND BY-LAWS
UNITED STATES CHAPTER, INC.
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SURGERY**

Original adopted October 13, 1976
at a regular meeting of the Chapter
in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Revisions adopted April 8, 1992.
Revisions adopted October 2, 2002.
Revisions adopted October 6, 2010.

**CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the UNITED STATES CHAPTER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SURGERY.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the CHAPTER shall be those of the SOCIETY, and shall include
advancement of the science and art of surgery through research and education to achieve focused,
sustainable excellence in surgical care throughout the developing and developed world.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Classes

The classes of membership shall be Active, Senior, and Honorary.

Section 2 – Qualifications

All members shall be surgeons residing in the United States of America who have
received training in a field of surgery and are, or have been, engaged as their main professional
endeavor in a career involving a recognized field of surgery, including care of the critically ill.

In accord with the constitution of the SOCIETY, candidates for membership should
normally be Fellows of the American College of Surgeons and/or the American Surgical
Association. Additional qualifications shall be as follows:

- A. Active members shall be surgeons of good moral and ethical character who have
distinguished themselves by well-recognized professional and/or scientific
achievements in a field of surgery.
- B. Senior members shall be surgeons who have been Active members for at least 15
years and have retired from practice and have submit a request for Senior Member
status in writing to the Secretary.
- C. Honorary membership shall be awarded by the decision of the General Assembly of
the SOCIETY to Active or Senior members of undoubted international reputation
who have rendered distinguished service to the SOCIETY. Honorary members of the
SOCIETY from the United States shall automatically become Honorary members of
the CHAPTER.

Section 3 – Nomination and Election

Nomination of candidates for Active membership shall be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer of the CHAPTER on the standard application form of the SOCIETY.

The application form shall be supported by two Active members of the CHAPTER. These sponsors shall send letters to the Secretary-Treasurer of the CHAPTER describing the qualifications of the candidate and the reasons why he or she should be elected to membership.

Complete applications for membership that are accompanied by letters from the sponsors shall be reviewed by the Membership Chair of the CHAPTER and a recommendation regarding the election of each candidate shall be made to the Executive Committee. The approval of the Executive Committee shall be based on an affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members.

United States members of the Integrated Societies of the SOCIETY, who satisfy the requirements for Active membership listed above and who are supported by the Secretary of their Society, shall be accepted into Active membership in this CHAPTER.

The CHAPTER shall vote at a regular meeting on the candidates recommended for membership by the Membership Chair and approved by the Executive Committee. The affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present and voting shall serve as the basis for proposing to the SOCIETY that a candidate be elected to membership.

The Secretary-Treasurer of the CHAPTER shall forward copies of the application forms and letters of sponsors to the Secretary General of the SOCIETY within 30 days of the affirmative vote of the membership of the CHAPTER on the application of a candidate. The Secretary-Treasurer of the CHAPTER shall indicate to the Secretary General of the SOCIETY that the CHAPTER wishes to propose the candidate for membership in the SOCIETY. The application then shall be acted upon according to the procedure for election required by the constitution of the SOCIETY. Candidates shall become members of the CHAPTER automatically upon election to membership in the SOCIETY, according to the required procedure, but not before such election. Candidates who are not approved for membership by the CHAPTER shall be reconsidered for membership by the Membership Chair for two consecutive years following the initial vote, unless the application is withdrawn.

Candidates who fail to gain election after three yearly considerations of their applications shall no longer be considered candidates unless a new application form and new letters from two sponsors are submitted after a one year waiting period.

Section 4 – Rights and Responsibilities of Members

- A. Active members must pay dues and assessments established by the SOCIETY and the CHAPTER. They may vote, serve as officers, and serve on committees. They shall receive all of the publications of the SOCIETY without cost, provided their dues are paid in full.
- B. Senior members are not required to pay dues and assessments. They may not vote, serve as officers, or serve on committees. They shall not receive the publications of the SOCIETY without cost.
- C. Honorary members have all of the rights as Active members. They are not required to pay dues or assessments. They shall receive all of the publications of the SOCIETY without cost.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1 – Types of Officers and Duties

The officers of the CHAPTER shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Membership Chair, and the Councilors.

The duties of the officers and their terms of office shall be as follows:

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the CHAPTER, preserve order, regulate debate, appoint committees not otherwise provided for, announce results of elections, and represent the CHAPTER in undertakings in which a specific representative is not otherwise specified.

The President shall be elected for a term of two years and shall not be eligible for re-election.

- B. The Vice President shall perform all of the duties of the President in the absence or incapacity of the President. The Vice President shall automatically be nominated as a candidate for President at the end of the President's term in office. The Vice President shall be elected for a term of two years.
- C. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep minutes of all meetings and proceedings of the CHAPTER, receive and process applications for membership, maintain communication with the office of the Secretary General of the SOCIETY, notify new members of their election to membership in the SOCIETY and CHAPTER, maintain a register of the members with their current addresses, send out announcements of meetings of the CHAPTER and of the SOCIETY, send out a list of candidates for membership in advance of regular meetings of the CHAPTER, collect the dues and assessments of the CHAPTER, maintain an accurate and current account of the payment of dues by each member, receive all funds belonging to the CHAPTER, make disbursements for expenses authorized by the CHAPTER, present an annual report of the financial condition of the CHAPTER for audit, report annually to the Executive Committee the names of members who have failed to pay their dues and are in arrears, and conduct the correspondence of the CHAPTER not otherwise provided for by statute.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall assume the responsibilities of the National Delegate for the CHAPTER in communications with the SOCIETY.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or incapacity of both the President and Vice President. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a term of four years and shall not be eligible for re-election.

- D. Councilors shall participate in all of the deliberations and decisions of the Executive Committee as voting members. There shall be a Councilor

recommended by each of the integrated societies and one Councilor recommended by the CHAPTER Executive Committee. Each Councilor will serve a term of two years. All

Councilors recommended will be proposed by the Executive Committee and elected in the same manner as the officers.

Section 2 – Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the CHAPTER corresponds to the National Committee mentioned in the constitution of the SOCIETY, and shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Membership Chair, the Councilors, and by invitation, the Secretary-Treasurer of the ISS Foundation, the Editor-in-Chief of the World Journal of Surgery, and the immediate past President of the CHAPTER. The President shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee and call its meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once each year prior to a regular meeting of the CHAPTER for consideration of matter to be presented to the CHAPTER. One-half of the elected members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3 - Election of Officers and Councilors

The officers and councilors shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a regular meeting of the CHAPTER. Nominations for the offices shall be presented to the membership by the Executive Committee and may be proposed additionally by any two Active members present at a regular meeting.

Section 4 – Vacancies in Offices

Vacancies occurring in offices other than that of President shall be filled by appointment by the President until the next regular meeting when the usual procedure for election of officers will be used to fill the vacancy, nomination being made by the most recently appointed Executive Committee or by at least two Active members present at the regular meeting.

ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer at least one month prior to a regular meeting of the CHAPTER, shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee, shall be presented to the membership for a vote at the earliest regular meeting of the CHAPTER, and shall be adopted if there is an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.

ARTICLE VI – ADOPTION

Upon presentation of this Constitution at a regular meeting of the CHAPTER and an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present, this Constitution shall be adopted and take effect immediately.

BY – LAWS

ARTICLE I – MEETINGS

The UNITED STATES CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SURGERY shall hold one regular meeting each year at the time and place of the annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons.

Special meetings may be held upon the decision of the Executive Committee and notification of the membership.

ARTICLE II – QUORUM

The members present at a regular or special meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE III – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Meetings of the CHAPTER shall be conducted according to the usual parliamentary rules that govern deliberative bodies, as specified in the most recent edition of Roberts' Rules of Order.

ARTICLE IV – DUES

The fiscal year governing the business of the CHAPTER shall begin on the first day of January. The dues for Active members shall be those established by the SOCIETY and the CHAPTER, payable on receipt of the invoice from the SOCIETY. Additional assessments may be established by majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES

Section 1

There shall be a standing Membership Committee, the major function of which shall be to propose and review candidates for membership to the SOCIETY. There shall be members of the committee appointed from the major regions of the United States as follows: Northeast (Region #1); Atlantic & Southeast (Region #2); North Central (Region #3); Midwestern (Region #4) and Pacific (Region #5). The Membership Chair shall be appointed by the President for a term of four years. The regional members may be appointed by the Membership Chair with approval of the Executive Committee. Their terms may vary as necessary.

Section 2

The Executive Committee may serve as a Program Committee whose charge will be to recommend topics, speakers and moderators to the SOCIETY Program Committee for the biennial Congress.

Section 3

The President, with approval of the Executive Committee, may appoint other committees that serve the purposes of the CHAPTER.

ARTICLE VI – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the CHAPTER and SOCIETY shall be terminated under the following conditions:

1. Failure to pay dues, including all back dues in full, for two years shall result in automatic termination of membership, except that members judged to be suffering financial hardship may be forgiven dues insofar as this can be harmonized with the SOCIETY.
2. Failure of a member for any reason to retain his or her good standing in the medical profession, or to fulfill his or her obligations as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws, shall result in termination of membership upon recommendation of the Executive Committee.

3. A decision by the SOCIETY to expel a member as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of the SOCIETY shall result in automatic termination of membership in the CHAPTER.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Councilors shall take office following their election.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws shall be proposed in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer at least one month prior to a regular meeting of the CHAPTER, shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee, shall be presented to the membership for a vote at the earliest regular meeting of the CHAPTER, and shall be adopted if there is an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting.