



ARTICLE V Officers – General

The general officers of the society are: President, President-elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Speaker of the House of Delegates, Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates, District Councilors, and the Chair of the Council on Legislation.

A. Qualifications

A general officer of the Society must have been an active member of the Society for at least 3 years prior to his election, is not under suspension under any provision of these bylaws, and has not been convicted of a crime under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States, which constitutes a felony or for any crime which is related to the practice of medicine other than for a violation of a court order regarding the production of confidential medical records.

B. Method of Selection

1. *Nominations*—Nominations for general officers, except for the District Councilors, shall be made by a member of the House of Delegates at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.

2. *Elections*

a. *Time*—Officers, except for the District Councilors, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates. The date and hour for nominations and elections shall be designated on the official agenda of the Annual Meeting.

b. *Method*—All elections shall be by ballot. A majority of the votes cast is necessary to elect.

In the event any nominee fails to receive a majority of votes cast, the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and a new ballot taken. This procedure will then continue until one of the nominees receives a majority of the votes cast.

When there is only one nominee for an office, the Speaker of the House shall declare that nominee elected.

The ballots shall be counted and tallied by the Credentials Committee. Each candidate shall be allowed to name one observer to attend the counting and tallying of the ballots.

The final numerical tabulation may be presented to the House only by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

At the termination of the final count and tabulation, if there be no protest or objection sustained by a majority of those present and voting, the ballots shall be destroyed immediately by the Credentials Committee.

c. *Recount*—A recount of the votes may be ordered by the Speaker of the House of Delegates or by a majority vote of the members of the House of Delegates present and voting, but only at the time of the election. The recount will be conducted in the same manner as the original count and tabulation.

d. *Eligibility*—All certified and attending members of the House of Delegates shall have the right to vote.

3. *Installation*—The President-elect shall be installed and assume the duties of the President at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.

All other general officers shall assume their duties at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they were elected.

C. Term

1. The President serves a term of one year or until his or her successor is installed.
2. The President-elect serves a term of one year or until he or she is installed as president.
3. The Vice President, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates and the Chair of the Council on Legislation serve terms of one year. These officers take office at the close of the Annual Meeting.
4. The District Councilors and Alternate District Councilors serve terms of two years, staggered so that approximately one half of the Councilors and Alternate District Councilors are elected each year. A District Councilor and Alternate District Councilor may be elected for no more than four full terms. Time served as an appointee to fill a vacancy shall not be counted against time of elected terms.
5. If a general officer misses two consecutive meetings of the Board of Governors without a valid cause, his or her office will be declared vacant by the Board of Governors and the vacancy filled in accordance with Article V Subsection D of these bylaws.

D. Vacancies

1. Creation of a Vacancy

A vacancy in the office of any general officer shall be created by any of the following circumstances:

- a. Death of an officer;
- b. Disability of an officer severe enough to prevent fulfillment of duties;
- c. Resignation of an officer;
- d. Automatic suspension of an officer as set forth in Paragraph E below; and
- e. Removal of an officer as set forth in Paragraph F below.

2. Filling a Vacancy

- a. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President, who shall then succeed to the office of Immediate Past President at the conclusion of his term as President.
- b. A vacancy in the office of President-elect shall be filled by an appointee of the Board of Governors. This appointee shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term only; he or she shall not automatically succeed to the office of President at the conclusion of his or her term as President-elect. The resulting vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by election at an annual or special meeting of the House of Delegates.
- c. A vacancy in the office of Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be filled by the Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates.
- d. A vacancy in the office of Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates during a House of Delegates meeting shall be filled by the Board of Governors, such appointee shall be a former Speaker of the House of Delegates and shall serve only during the current House of Delegates meeting pending the election of a new Vice Speaker at that meeting.
- e. A vacancy in the office of Chairman of the Council on Legislation shall be filled by the Vice Chairman of the Council on Legislation.
- f. A vacancy in the office of any other general officer shall be filled by an appointee of the Board of Governors in accordance with the qualifications set forth in Paragraph A above except during the Annual Meeting. If a vacancy becomes apparent during an Annual Meeting it will be filled by election during the meeting.

E. Automatic Suspension of an Officer

Any officer of the LSMS who is convicted of a crime under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States which constitutes a felony, or for any crime, which is related to the practice of medicine other than for a violation of a court order regarding the production of confidential medical records, shall be automatically suspended from office. Such suspension shall remain in force until the conviction is either upheld or reversed.

F. Removal

Any officer or member selected to an office of the Society neglecting his or her duty or violating any Society policy, article of this charter or bylaws may be removed from office after a hearing at any regular or special session of the House of Delegates following the procedures set forth below. The complaint shall originate from a majority of the Board of Councilors or on the request of 50 voting members of the Louisiana State Medical Society representing 3 medical districts provided that no more than 20 signatures come from a single district. If the complaint involves a member of the Board of Councilors, such member shall recuse himself or herself from participation in the vote on the complaint.

1. Procedure

- a. The complaint against the officer shall be set forth in writing and will be delivered to such officer via certified mail.
- b. Such officer shall receive thirty-days prior written notice of the date of the regular or special session of the House of Delegates at which the complaint will be considered.
- c. Such officer and the Society shall be entitled to be represented by legal counsel during the special or regular session of the House of Delegates.

2. Disposition

An officer, after a hearing by the House of Delegates, shall be removed from office upon the two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting in the House of Delegates.

ARTICLE VI Officers – Duties

Section 1—President

The duties of the President shall include the following:

1. To preside at all general meetings of the Society;
2. To preside at all meetings of the Board of Governors;
3. To preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors;
4. To appoint all Councils and Committees of the Louisiana State Medical Society not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws;
5. To serve as a member of the Board of Governors;
6. To serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors;
7. To serve as a member of the House of Delegates;
8. To serve as a member of the LSMS AMA Delegation in the position of Alternate Delegate
9. To serve as a member of all Louisiana State Medical Society Councils and Committees ex officio;
10. To serve as Immediate Past President for one year following his or her term as President;
11. To serve as a member of the Board of Governors for one year following his or her term as President;
12. To deliver an annual address;
13. To address the opening session of any meeting of the House of Delegates;
14. To serve as official spokesman for the Louisiana State Medical Society;
15. To remove members of LSMS Councils or Committees appointed by the President for violation of the confidentiality agreement as set forth in Article XXXIV;
16. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by the House of Delegates or the Board of Governors; and
17. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by law, custom, parliamentary usage, or other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Section 2—President-elect

The duties of the President-elect shall include the following:

1. To assume the office of President at the end of his or her term as President-elect;
2. To serve as a member of the Board of Governors;

3. To serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors;
4. To serve as a member of the House of Delegates;
5. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by the President, the House of Delegates, or the Board of Governors; and
6. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by law, custom, parliamentary usage, or other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Section 3—Vice President

The duties of the Vice President shall include the following:

1. To officiate for the President during his or her absence or at his or her request;
2. To assume the office of President for the unexpired portion of the term, if there is a vacancy in that office;
3. To serve as a member of the Board of Governors;
4. To serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors;
5. To serve as a member of the House of Delegates;
6. To serve as Chair of the Scientific Assembly;
7. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by the President, the House of Delegates, or the Board of Governors; and
8. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by law, custom, parliamentary usage, or other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Section 4—Secretary-Treasurer

The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer shall include the following:

1. To be the official custodian of all securities owned by the Society and the income there from, subject to the direction of the Committee on Budget and Finance
2. To select a bank or trust company to act as custodian and transfer agent for such securities, cooperation with the Board of Governors;
3. To make bond in an amount specified by the Board of Governors, the premium to be paid by the Louisiana State Medical Society;
4. To supervise preparation of the official minutes of all meetings of the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Medical Society;
5. To serve as a member of the Board of Governors;
6. To serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors;
7. To serve as a member of the House of Delegates;
8. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by the President, the House of Delegates, or the Board of Governors; and
9. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by law, custom, parliamentary usage, or other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Section 5—Immediate Past President

The duties of the Immediate Past President shall include the following:

1. To serve as a member of the Board of Governors;
2. To serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors;
3. To serve as a member of the House of Delegates;
4. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by the President, the House of Delegates, or the Board of Governors; and
5. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by law, custom, parliamentary usage, or other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Section 6—Speaker of the House of Delegates

The duties of the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall include the following:

1. To preside at all meetings of the House of Delegates;
2. To address the House of Delegates at the opening session of all meetings, limiting his or her address to matters of conduct and procedure in the House;
3. To exercise his or her right to vote (or not to vote) in the House of Delegates only when the vote is by ballot or to make or break a tie;
4. To serve as a member of the Board of Governors;
5. To serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors;
6. To serve as a member of the House of Delegates;
7. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by the President, the House of Delegates, or the Board of Governors; and
8. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by law, custom, parliamentary usage, or other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Section 7—Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates

The duties of the Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates shall include the following:

1. To officiate for the Speaker during his or her absence or upon his or her request;
2. To serve as a member of the Board of Governors;
3. To serve as a member of the House of Delegates;
4. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by the House of Delegates or the Board of Governors; and
5. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by law, custom, parliamentary usage, or other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Section 8—District Councilors

The duties of a District Councilor shall include the following:

1. To serve as a member of the Board of Councilors;
2. To serve as a member of the Board of Governors;
3. To serve as a member of the House of Delegates’;
4. To act as advisor to the physicians and any Chartered Parish Societies in his or her district; and to act as a representative of the members of the Louisiana State Medical Society in that District;
5. To submit at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates a written report of his or her activities during the preceding year;
6. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by the President, the House of Delegates, or the Board of Governors; and
7. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by law, custom, parliamentary usage, or other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Section 9—Chair of the Council on Legislation

The duties of the Chair of the Council on Legislation shall include the following:

1. To preside at all meetings of the Council on Legislation;
2. To call all meetings of the Council on Legislation;
3. To vote only when there is a tie;
4. To submit at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates a detailed written report of the activities of the Council on Legislation for the preceding year;
5. To serve as a member of the Board of Governors;
6. To serve as a member of the House of Delegates;
7. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by the President, the House of Delegates, or the Board of Governors; and

8. To perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by law, custom, parliamentary usage, or other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society.