



## **ARTICLE XXI**

### **Parish Societies**

The Louisiana State Medical Society recognizes parish medical societies as either Chartered or Affiliated.

#### **A. Definitions**

A Chartered Parish Society is registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office as a non-profit corporation to legally conduct business in the state and is a unified component of the Louisiana State Medical Society. A member of a Chartered Parish Society is not required to be a member of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

An Affiliated Parish Society is registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office as a non-profit corporation to legally conduct business in the state and is not a unified component of the Louisiana State Medical Society. A member of an Affiliated Parish Society is not required to be a member of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

#### **B. Members**

Membership in a Chartered Parish Society is limited to those physicians within the named parish medical society.

Membership in an Affiliated Parish Society is determined by the affiliated society.

In the event of a federal or state declared disaster, the Board of Governors may make special dispositions as to the membership of LSMS and Chartered Parish Society members who are displaced from the parish of their principal office or residence.

#### **C. Organization**

A Chartered Parish Society shall adopt its own bylaws and other rules, which cannot conflict and must be in accordance with the Charter, bylaws, and other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society, or they may choose to copy the bylaws and other rules of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

The bylaws and other rules of a Chartered Parish Society are subject to review by the Louisiana State Medical Society. Upon request of the LSMS Board of Governors, a component society shall submit a copy of its bylaws to the LSMS Charter and Bylaws Committee and updated copies shall be submitted if and when any amendments to those bylaws are adopted.

A Chartered Parish Society shall forward its proposed meeting dates for the upcoming year to the LSMS for inclusion into the LSMS meeting calendar no later than five days after the first meeting of the new membership year. Additionally, any changes should be communicated to the LSMS.

The LSMS may request a copy of the Chartered Parish Society's financial statements for review to determine whether membership dues are being collected and managed in accordance with the LSMS Charter, Bylaws, and policies. The LSMS may also request a copy of the current membership roster of the Chartered Parish Society and meeting minutes.; and vice versa, the Chartered Parish Society may also request a copy of the current membership roster and meeting minutes of the LSMS.

A Chartered Parish Society shall be bound by any resolutions or other actions of the House of Delegates.

A Chartered Parish Society shall be incorporated in the state of Louisiana.

None of the provisions of this subsection apply to Affiliated Parish Societies.

**D. Charter**

The Board of Governors may, on request, issue a charter to any group of 10 or more physicians organized according to this Article. There shall be only one medical society chartered within the geographic confines of a Parish. In the event that there is an Affiliated Parish Society within the confines of a parish, then a medical society shall not be chartered within that parish. In the event that there is a Chartered Parish Society within the confines of a parish, then there shall not be an Affiliated Parish Society within that parish.

The charter of a Chartered Parish Society shall remain in perpetuity unless revoked.

The charter of a Chartered Parish Society may be revoked for cause by the Board of Governors, after notice and hearings before the LSMS Board of Governors. Cause shall include, but not be limited to, failure of a Chartered Parish Society which collects dues to hold a minimum of two general membership meetings per year.

Upon a determination by the LSMS Board of Governors that sufficient facts exist to determine that a Chartered Parish Society may otherwise be subject to revocation of their charter for cause, the LSMS Board of Governors shall provide the Chartered Parish Society a definite time, not to exceed one hundred and eighty days, to correct the deficiency prior to initiating any hearing to determine whether the charter should be revoked.

In the event a Chartered Parish Society charter is revoked by the LSMS, the parish medical society will automatically be designated as an Affiliated Parish Society.