
BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

**AMENDED SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
AMENDED OCTOBER 2, 2019
AMENDED OCTOBER 17, 2018
AMENDED OCTOBER 20, 2016
AMENDED OCTOBER 15, 2015
AMENDED OCTOBER 16, 2014
AMENDED OCTOBER 22, 2009
AMENDED NOVEMBER 10, 2005
AMENDED NOVEMBER 13, 2003
AMENDED NOVEMBER 22, 2002
AMENDED NOVEMBER 16, 2001
AMENDED NOVEMBER 18, 1999
AMENDED SEPTEMBER 11, 1998
AMENDED SEPTEMBER 26, 1997
AMENDED OCTOBER 18, 1996
AMENDED FEBRUARY 6, 1993**

ARTICLE I: NAME.

The name of this organization shall be Association of Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners (AONP). AONP is a non-profit 501(c)(6) corporation incorporated under the laws of the state of Oklahoma. AONP is the state of Oklahoma professional membership organization for nurse practitioners (NPs) of all specialties.

ARTICLE II: MISSION STATEMENT.

- Section 1: The mission of AONP is to lead Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in promoting patient-centered healthcare, including:
- A. To advance, support, and promote the high standards of health care delivered by nurse practitioners.
 - B. To represent the interests of nurse practitioners before the executive and legislative branches of the government on a local, state, and federal level.
 - C. To educate and disseminate information to consumers and other health care providers about the profession and capabilities of nurse practitioners.
 - D. To act as a resource and promote communication between nurse practitioners and other agencies.
 - E. To educate third party reimbursement agencies and market the role of nurse practitioners in the health care system.
 - F. To provide continuing education for nurse practitioners.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Section 1: The active membership of AONP (membership in good standing) shall be comprised of all the following categories and is contingent upon payment of annual dues. Any member who fails to pay dues shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Section 2: Voting Members.

Regular membership shall be Nurse Practitioners who are recognized to practice in Oklahoma as Nurse Practitioners by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing. Regular members may vote, hold elected or appointed office, and serve on committees.

Section 3: Non-Voting Members.

- A. Associate Membership shall be open to any APRN who is not an NP (CNS, Midwife, CRNA) but is interested in fostering the mission of AONP. Associate members may have a voice and serve as committee members. They may not vote, serve as committee chairs, nor serve as officers of AONP.
- B. Student Membership shall be open to any registered nurse enrolled in an educational program preparing nurse practitioners or pending recognition to practice as a Nurse Practitioner in Oklahoma. Student members may have a voice or be appointed by the Executive Board to serve as members of ad hoc committees. They may not vote, serve as committee chairs, nor serve as officers of AONP.
- C. Honorary Membership shall be for persons who have made outstanding contributions, which foster the purpose of AONP. They shall be granted Honorary Membership status by a majority vote of the Executive Board. They may not vote, nor hold office, nor pay dues.
- D. Sponsoring Membership shall be any individual, business, organization, or group that wishes to support the purposes and goals of the organization. They shall be granted Sponsoring Membership status by a majority vote of the Executive Board. They may not vote, nor hold office.
- E. Inactive/Retired Membership shall be for any NP who meets the definition of inactive/retired status as currently set forth by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing. They may not vote, nor serve as officers of AONP.

Section 4: Disciplinary Action Involving Members

- A. **Authorization.** By a majority vote of the Executive Board and at a meeting at which a quorum is present, the Executive Board may impose disciplinary measures on an AONP member (including any elected or appointed Executive Board member, Executive Director, or committee member), including expulsion, suspension, censure and reprimand, and impose terms and conditions of probation or other sanctions as the Board deems appropriate, for any of the following reasons:
 - 1. Failure of the member to comply or act in accordance with these bylaws or any other duly adopted AONP policy, procedure, rule or regulation;

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

2. Failure of the member to maintain confidentiality or security, or the permitting of conditions that allow a breach of confidentiality or security, in any manner dealing with the confidentiality of corporate records or any proprietary information of AONP;
3. Revocation of a member's license or registration as a registered nurse or advanced practice nurse;
4. Conviction of a felony which indicates that the member may be a danger to the public's health or safety;
5. Unethical behavior or behavior that could reasonably be expected to cause harm to the reputation of AONP; or
6. Failure to immediately disclose, to the Executive Board and Executive Director, being in a position of conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest, including but not limited to: membership on board of other organization(s), AONP business involving relative(s), acceptance of gifts/payments/services to influence or perceived influence of Executive Board decisions, or exercising powers motivated by self-interest or other improper purposes.

B. **Procedure.** A member alleged to have acted in such manner as to be subject to disciplinary action shall first be given written notice from the Executive Board of the charges and an opportunity to provide a written response. Upon written request, that member shall be entitled to a hearing before the Executive Board in accordance with rules established by the Executive Board.

C. **Reinstatement.** In the event a member is expelled from AONP, that former member may apply for reinstatement after one year following final action on expulsion. The Executive Board is the final authority and may, by majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present, accept application for reinstatement under such terms and conditions as it may deem appropriate. Reinstatement may include the stipulation that such reinstated member may not hold an Executive Board position or may not serve on an AONP committee.

ARTICLE IV: ANNUAL DUES.

Section 1: The Executive Board with approval of the membership shall establish annual dues. The Executive Board shall review the dues structure annually and recommend changes as needed.

Section 2: Membership dues must be paid annually to AONP. Members shall forfeit all membership rights if dues are not paid within 30 days following the end of the membership period. The membership year shall begin at the receipt of dues and end one year from the end of that month.

Section 3: No monies shall be refunded or additional monies collected when a change in dues category is made within a membership year.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

ARTICLE V: MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Section 1: Mailing Address. The Executive Board and Executive Director shall maintain a mailing address for US mail regarding the business of AONP. Any address changes shall be approved by the Executive Board.

Section 2: Office Management. The Executive Board may contract with, and/or employ personnel to provide management services deemed necessary by the Executive Board to carry out the business of the Association. The responsibilities and remuneration of said management personnel shall be delineated in a job description and/or contract as set forth by the Board. These contracts may be reviewed at the first meeting of the Executive Board in January.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE BOARD

The AONP Officers and State Regional Representatives shall constitute the AONP Executive Board and shall be the governing body of the organization. As such, the Executive Board members shall serve in good faith, shall maintain the highest professional, ethical, and legal standards, and shall fulfill the functions of their positions. An Executive Director (who is a non-voting member) shall discharge the director's duties in good faith, with ordinary care, and in a manner which they reasonably believe to be in the best interest of AONP. An Executive Director is not liable to AONP, a member, or another person for an action taken or not taken as a director if the director acted in compliance with this bylaw provision. A person seeking to establish liability of an Executive Director must prove that the director did not act in good faith, with ordinary care, and in a manner the director reasonably believed to be in the best interest of AONP.

The elected officers of the AONP shall be: President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Non-elected officers shall be: the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) State Representative.

There shall be six (6) elected State Regional Representatives, one for each of the following regions of the state:

Northwest: Alfalfa, Beaver, Blaine, Cimarron, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Harper, Kingfisher, Logan, Major, Roger Mills, Texas, Woods, and Woodward counties.

Northeast: Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Creek, Delaware, Kay, Lincoln, Mayes, Muskogee, Noble, Nowata, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Payne, Rogers, Sequoyah, Wagoner, and Washington counties.

Southwest: Beckham, Caddo, Carter, Comanche, Cotton, Garvin, Grady, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, McClain, Love, Murray, Stephens, Tillman, and Washita counties.

Southeast: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Johnston, Latimer, LeFlore, Marshall, McCurtain, McIntosh, Okfuskee, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, and Seminole counties.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Tulsa Metropolitan: Tulsa County.

Oklahoma City Metropolitan: Canadian, Cleveland, and Oklahoma counties.

Section 1: Qualifications of Officers and State Regional Representatives.

Officers and State Regional Representatives must:

- A. Be regular members as defined in these bylaws, and
- B. Have been an active voting member in good standing for a period of at least one full year prior to the date of any election.
- C. Commit to the mission of AONP through the practice of professional communication and decorum in all settings.

Section 2: Functions of Officers and State Regional Representatives.

- A. The President shall be chairperson of the Executive Board, shall provide leadership for AONP, shall set the meeting agendas, and preside at meetings. The President shall serve as an ex-officio member of all standing, ad-hoc, and special ad-hoc committees. The President or their designee shall be the official spokesperson of AONP. No other member shall represent himself or herself in this capacity without prior approval of the President.
- B. The President-elect shall be an active aid to the president and become acquainted with the affairs of the association in preparation for a term as President. In the absence of the President, the President-elect shall assume the duties of President. The President-elect shall serve as chair of the Events Committee.
- C. The Secretary shall:
 1. Keep the minutes of all meetings of AONP and the Executive Board; preserve all papers, letters, and transactions of AONP with the assistance of and in conjunction with the Executive Director and management personnel.
 2. Conduct the general correspondence of AONP and the Executive Board with the assistance of the Executive Director and management personnel.
 3. Keep an accurate record of the names and addresses of all members of AONP with the assistance of the Executive Director and management personnel.
 4. Send or cause to be sent notice of the time and place of all meetings to all Executive Board members.
 5. Ensure that all records and meeting minutes of AONP are made available to the Executive Board and management personnel in a timely manner.
 6. Serve as chair of the Membership Committee.
- D. The Treasurer shall:
 1. Oversee all funds and transactions of AONP at a financial institution(s) designated by the Executive Board and oversee payment of bills incurred and approved for payment by the Board. No funds shall be withdrawn from the

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

AONP depository without dual signatures of the Treasurer (or President if the Treasurer is not available in a timely manner), and the AONP Executive Director. The President, Treasurer, and AONP Executive Director shall sign a check authorization card at the designated bank. No AONP accounts, funds, or investments, at banks or financial institutions, shall be altered or moved without prior discussion and approval by the Executive Board and Executive Director at any regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present.

2. Receive and reconcile bank statements monthly and oversee all AONP financial activities providing written financial statements at all meetings of the Executive Board and AONP meetings with the assistance of and in conjunction with the Executive Director.
3. Deliver or cause to be delivered (annually at the end of the fiscal year), financial records for a review of expenditures by a non-affiliated party (Certified Public Accountant) approved by the Executive Board who shall disclose their findings.
4. Cause to be prepared, through the Executive Director, all tax reports and returns as may be required by State or Federal governments. If the Treasurer is unable to fulfill the duties of Treasurer, the President or President-elect shall be authorized to sign checks and transact business until a new Treasurer is elected or appointed. The treasurer shall be the Executive Board contact person with any and all investment advisors. Should an investment change be beneficial to AONP, the Treasurer will first discuss such changes with the Executive Director, and then discuss with the Executive Board at the next scheduled Board meeting (or special meeting if needed).
5. Serve as the chair of the Financial Committee.

E. The Immediate Past President shall:

1. Serve as the Parliamentarian, using Robert Rules of Order, latest edition.
2. Be chair of the Bylaws Committee (this committee will review/revise both the AONP bylaws and the AONP Strategic Plan).
3. Be the chair of the Past Presidents Council.
4. Be asked to assist the current President and AANP Liaison/Legislative Chair in the performance of their duties. This position shall serve AONP while supporting and promoting its mission. They can, at the request of the Executive Board, speak on behalf of AONP when policy decisions are being considered that might affect AONP's ability to achieve its mission as well as work to build AONP membership.

F. The State Regional Representative shall reside or practice (at least 20 hours/week) in the region they represent. The State Regional Representative shall serve as a member of the Executive Board, coordinate a communication network within their region, and promote membership into AONP.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

- G. The AANP State Liaison shall represent both the Nurse Practitioners in Oklahoma and the AANP and serve as a member of the Executive Board. The AANP State Liaison will coordinate a communication network between AANP and AONP and shall be the Legislative Chair for AONP during their tenure.

Section 3: Terms of Office.

- A. The term of office of the President shall be one year. At the end of this term, the President shall automatically succeed to the Immediate Past President position.
- B. The Immediate Past President shall serve on the Executive Board for one year.
- C. The President-elect shall serve one year and automatically succeed to the Presidency the following year. The President-elect shall have served on the Executive Board as an officer or State Regional Representative, for at least one year immediately prior to running for the office of President-elect.
- D. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected to serve two years or until their successors are elected. The Secretary term shall begin in even numbered years. The Treasurer term shall begin in odd numbered years.
- E. The State Regional Representatives shall be elected to serve two years or until their successors are elected. Regional Representatives from the Northwest, Southeast and Tulsa Metropolitan Regions terms shall begin in odd numbered years. Regional Representatives from the Northeast, Southwest and Oklahoma City Metropolitan Regions terms shall begin in even numbered years.
- F. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive full terms in the same office with the exception of the AANP State Liaison who is nationally appointed.
- G. Terms of office shall begin January 1 and end December 31 of each year. Newly elected and retiring officers and State Regional Representatives shall meet together at least once after the annual meeting and election of officers and prior to beginning the new terms of office on January 1.

Section 4: Transition to Office.

Transition of materials and brief orientation to office shall be the responsibility of the outgoing officer either at the annual AONP meeting or before January 1. Materials/orientation shall include but not be limited to a folder containing a copy of the AONP bylaws document, AONP PAC bylaws, and AONP strategic plan.

Section 5: Vacancies.

- A. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of President, the President-elect shall move into the office of President, and complete the remainder of the term of the President (the term for which the departing President was originally elected) and then continue to serve as President for a one-year term. The Executive Board shall then appoint an individual to fulfill the duties of the President-elect, until the next annual election; at which time a President-elect shall be elected (the interim President-elect shall not automatically succeed to the office of President).

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

- B. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President-elect, the Executive Board shall appoint an individual to fulfill the duties of the President-elect until the next annual election, at which time both a President and a President elect shall be elected.
- C. The Executive Board shall fill any other Board vacancy by majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present, subject to the qualification requirements for such position as set forth in these bylaws. Any member so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the term vacated and may serve two full terms following the first regularly scheduled election.
- D. If there is a vacancy in the office of Immediate Past President, a previous President of the association shall be nominated by the current AONP President, and confirmed by a majority vote of the Board at a meeting at which a quorum is present, to fill the unexpired term.

Section 6: Termination of Office.

An officer or board member may be subject to termination of their office by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board, at any regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present, for violation of the bylaws, policies, or procedures of AONP. Failure to perform the duties of obedience, loyalty and due care attendant to the office/position held, failure to report any conflict of interests, conduct unbecoming an officer or for conduct prejudicial to the aims or repute of AONP (see Article III, section 4, B). An officer or board member shall automatically be terminated after two consecutive absences without notification of reason to the Executive Director or President. Ten days written notice stating the specific reasons for removal or expulsion shall be handed directly (or sent certified mail with return receipt requested) to the officer/board member subject to the termination vote prior to an Executive Board hearing and vote being held. The officer/board member subject to the vote shall have the opportunity to respond to the allegations in writing and for a hearing before the Executive Board and may waive that hearing. The officer or board member subject to termination will abstain from the vote to determine his/her termination and will receive final written notice of the removal decision from the Executive Board. All elected Executive Board individuals must be AONP members in good standing throughout their term, failure to maintain such membership status during an elected individual's term, even after a reminder from management staff, shall result in automatic removal from office. Any member of the Executive Board who is removed from office shall be permanently ineligible to serve as an officer or board member of AONP.

Section 7: Resignation of Office:

An officer or board member of AONP may resign by:

- A. Giving written notice to the President of AONP or the Executive Director (if the President resigns, her/his written notice must be given to the Executive Director),
or

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

- B. Communicating their resignation orally to the President of AONP in the presence of another member of the Executive Board of AONP (if the President resigns, her/his verbal notice must be given to the Executive Director in the presence of another member of the Executive Board). In either case, the resignation shall be effective immediately.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Section 1: Authority.

The Executive Board is the corporate body for the Association of Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners. The Executive Board serves as the agent for and shall be vested with full control of the affairs for the Association of Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners. Members of the board shall serve in good faith, demonstrating the highest professional, ethical, and legal standards, and shall fulfill the functions of their positions according to these bylaws.

Section 2: Composition.

The Executive Board members with a vote shall be composed of the elected officers, the elected State Regional Representatives, and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners State Liaison.

The Board shall appoint a past member of the Executive Board to serve as Historian, as a non-voting member of the Board, to assist the Board in overseeing the fiscal, financial, and business operations of the Board and advise the Board on matters that have historical significance within AONP. The Historian shall be appointed at the first meeting of the Executive Board each January for a one-year term, with no limit to the number of years served.

Section 3: Functions.

- A. Transact the business of AONP in the interim between regular meetings. All business transactions and decisions occurring since the last regular meeting shall be reported at each regular meeting.
- B. Provide that all officers and management personnel are bonded by an insurance company in an amount fixed and approved by the Executive Director.
- C. Provide for the proper care of materials, equipment, funds of AONP, and for the payment of legitimate expenses.
- D. Have power to fill vacancies on the Executive Board.
- E. Hold meetings of the Executive Board as provided in Section 4 below.
- F. Authorize Ad Hoc Committees or Special Ad Hoc Committees as defined in these bylaws.
- G. Approve the appointment of members to Standing Committees, Ad Hoc Committees and Special Ad Hoc Committees.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Section 4: Meetings.

- A. Regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at least quarterly. One of these meetings shall be at the time of the annual State AONP Conference. Board members who are unable to physically attend these meetings in person may attend by conference call or other form of remote technology that is agreed upon by the Board. A simple majority of the Executive Board then in office must be in attendance. No member of the board shall have the right to have another person attend and/or vote on their behalf.
- B. Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President on five days notice to each member of the Board either personally, by mail, or by e-mail and shall be called by the President in like manner upon request of three or more members of the Executive Board. If the President is not accessible, the Executive Director may be contacted to call the meeting. Notification of said special meeting shall be conveyed and confirmed by management personnel. Special meetings shall be held at such time and place as may be specified in the notice thereof (location shall be agreed upon by members of the Board).
- C. Emergency Meetings of the Executive Board may be called with personal notification and consent of majority of the Executive Board. Time, place and specific agenda items shall be specified in the notice of the meeting. Only items specified in the notice may be considered at Emergency Meetings.
- D. Telecommunication Meetings: Members of the Executive Board may participate in a meeting of the Executive Board by means of audio/audio visual conference communications by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear and/or see each other and provide input in a meeting pursuant to this section; this shall constitute presence in person at such meeting. A verbal vote taken during an audio/audio visual meeting shall be deemed valid upon roll call. Confirmations of votes shall be attached to the minutes of the meeting by the Secretary.
- E. Action Without Meeting: Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Executive Board may be taken without a meeting if a record or memorandum thereof be made in writing and approved by a confirmed majority of the Executive Board. Such record or memorandum shall have the same effect as a meeting of the Executive Board and shall be filed with the Secretary of AONP and made a part of the AONP record.
- F. Neither absentee ballots nor proxy votes will be available or valid at any meeting of the Executive Board.
- G. Whenever the Executive Director or an Executive Board officer/member has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the Executive Board, the affected person shall:
 - a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and
 - b) withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of disinterested board members determine that it is in the best interest of AONP to do so. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval.

Section 5: Quorum.

A simple majority of the Executive Board, one member of which shall be the President or the President-elect, shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII: STANDING COMMITTEES.

Section 1: Composition and Responsibilities

- A. Standing committees shall be composed of voting members of AONP and shall assume such duties as are designated by the Executive Board and specified in these bylaws. Standing committees shall report to the Executive Board when requested to do so.
- B. Standing committees shall prepare a comprehensive plan, which shall include objectives and proposed budget for submission to the Executive Board for their approval.
- C. The Chair of each Standing committee shall submit a summary report of activities to the Secretary at the Annual Meeting.
- D. Standing committees shall be the Membership Committee, Public Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Bylaws Committee, Event Committee, Legislative Committee, Nominations Committee, and Past Presidents Council.
- E. Chairs of standing committees shall be Regular Members of AONP and are appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Board, unless otherwise specified in these bylaws. Chairs of standing committees who have been appointed shall serve a one-year term or until their respective successors have been appointed.

Section 2: Membership Committee.

- A. The Membership Committee shall be chaired by the Secretary and consist of two to four other AONP voting members.
- B. The Membership Committee, in conjunction with management personnel, shall:
 - 1. Maintain a membership list that designates membership category and current status.
 - 2. Develop plans for retaining and increasing membership in AONP.
 - 3. Assess the needs and interests of the membership in order to assist in the development of activities of AONP.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

4. Assume other duties and responsibilities as described in the AONP Strategic Plan and/or assigned by the Executive Board.

Section 3: Public Relations Committee.

- A. The Public Relations Committee shall be chaired by a Regional Representative appointed by the President and consist of two to four other AONP voting members.
- B. The Public Relations Committee, in conjunction with management personnel, shall:
 1. Devise a plan to increase public awareness of Nurse Practitioners.
 2. Facilitate communication with other groups and state organizations.
 3. Coordinate the development of informational materials that promote the purposes of AONP.
 4. Assist other committees in public relations efforts pertaining to activities of the committee.
 5. Assume other duties and responsibilities as described in the AONP Strategic Plan and/or assigned by the Executive Board.

Section 4: Finance Committee.

- A. The Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer and consist of two to four other AONP voting members.
- B. The Finance Committee, in conjunction with management personnel, shall:
 1. Prepare financial reports for submission to the Executive Board.
 2. Assume other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Executive Board.

Section 5: Bylaws Committee.

- A. The Bylaws Committee shall be chaired by the immediate Past President, and consist of two to four other AONP Executive Board members.
- B. The Bylaws Committee shall:
 1. Review bylaws annually, and initiate proposals for bylaws changes as needed.
 2. Receive requests for changes in bylaws and prepare formal statements for vote by the membership.
 3. Assume other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Executive Board.

Section 6: Events Committee.

- A. The Events Committee shall be chaired by the President-elect and shall consist of three to five other Executive Board members, at least one of which shall be a Regional Representative. Other AONP regular members may assist the committee in an advisory role.
- B. The Events Committee, in conjunction with management personnel, shall:

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

1. Plan and make arrangements for the Annual State Conference of AONP.
2. Assist in the plans and arrangements for other events or activities that are approved by the Executive Board.
3. Assume other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Executive Board.

Section 7: Legislative Committee.

- A. The Legislative Committee shall be chaired by the AANP State Liaison and consist of the Executive Board, the Lobbyist, and two to five other AONP voting members.
 1. A Legislative Liaison may be appointed by the Executive Board if it is determined, upon recommendation of the Legislative Chair and Executive Director, that this position is needed.
 2. The Legislative Liaison shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Board to represent the position of AONP during times when additional expertise and availability is needed for specific legislative activity and will provide either a written or verbal report of activity to the Legislative committee chair.
- B. The Legislative Committee, in conjunction with the Executive Director/lobbyist and management personnel, shall:
 1. Monitor national and state legislative issues and plan activities to advocate for action on identified issues.
 2. Coordinate a communication network with the Regional Representatives.
 3. Network with other organizations on legislative issues.
 4. Assume other duties and responsibilities as described in the AONP Strategic Plan and/or assigned by the Executive Board.

Section 8: Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee shall consist of the members of the AONP Executive Board who shall discuss a slate of potential nominees no later than three months prior to the annual AONP state conference.

Section 9: Past Presidents Council

- A. The Immediate Past President, and past presidents of AONP shall comprise the Past Presidents Council; chaired by the current Immediate Past President.
- B. The Past Presidents Council Shall:
 1. Act in an advisory capacity only to the Executive Board.
 2. Assume other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX: AD HOC COMMITTEES.

Section 1: Ad Hoc Committees may be formed by the Executive Board or by a vote of the membership at the AONP Annual Conference Business Meeting to serve in an advisory capacity to AONP. A Special Ad Hoc Committee may identify individuals outside of the AONP membership to serve on the Committee; such members shall have a full voice on the Committee. Any AONP member may serve on an Ad Hoc

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Committee. The Chair of an Ad Hoc Committee shall be a regular voting member of AONP.

- Section 2: All Ad Hoc Committees shall make reports to the Executive Board and to the membership as designated by the Executive Board.
- Section 3: Ad Hoc Committees shall remain functional until their work is completed or until they are disbanded by the Executive Board.
- Section 4: A Student Committee may be formed composed of a Chairperson appointed by the President of AONP. The Chairperson of the Student Committee shall appoint no less than 10 members from all Regional Representative districts. The Student Committee will be charged with exploring avenues to advance AONP membership in the state of Oklahoma. They will make all suggestions written and given to the President of AONP before each board meeting.

ARTICLE X: NOMINATIONS.

Section 1: Nominations Committee.

The Nominations Committee shall prepare a slate for elected officers and State Regional Representatives that preferably consists of at least one nominee but not more than three nominees for each available position on the slate.

Section 2: Procedure.

- A. A call for nominations will be sent to all AONP voting members via email and on the AONP website starting no later than three months prior to the Annual Meeting. Other means of notification may be approved by the Executive Board.
- B. No later than two months prior to the Annual Meeting, the Nominations Committee (the Executive Board) will discuss the names of officers then serving, indicating those whose terms of office will expire at the end of the current year, those eligible for re-election, and the president-elect, who succeeds as president. It is suggested that each member of the Board recommend at least one AONP voting member as a nominee for one of the open positions. All nominees must agree to serve according to the position description as described in the AONP bylaws prior to being placed on the ballot.
- C. The Committee shall prepare a ballot reflecting qualified nominations. Candidates selected by the Nominations Committee will be identified on the ballot as "Nominations Committee Candidate", and those not vetted or named by the committee will be identified as "petition candidate".
- D. The ballot shall be subsequently presented to AONP members no later than one month prior to the date of the annual meeting.
- E. No name shall be presented to the voting body unless the nominee has consented to serve if elected.
- F. Write-in candidates are allowed for any office listed on the ballot and must ~~have~~ consented to serve if elected.
- G. Using AONP position descriptions, the AONP Executive Board will conduct reviews of all eligible candidates seeking office to determine the qualifications of

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

candidates for each position. Each candidate must be currently engaged in the practice of nursing as a Nurse Practitioner in Oklahoma, in good standing under the provisions of the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, with an active unencumbered RN license and APRN/NP certification.

ARTICLE XI: ELECTIONS.

Section 1: Procedure.

- A. All elections shall be determined by official ballot. All election records, including electronic ballots, must be preserved for one year.
- B. The member receiving the majority of votes cast shall be declared elected and entitled to the position of the office to which elected. In case of a tie, a run-off election will be held. If there is a second tie vote, the Executive Board will have the final vote.
- C. Each regular voting member in good standing in AONP shall be entitled to vote in the elections.
- D. At least one month prior to the annual meeting, the Secretary shall arrange with AONP management to post notification of the election on the AONP website. Instructions will accompany the ballot on the voting method.
- E. Ballots shall be emailed to qualified voting members of AONP no less than two-weeks prior to the Annual AONP Conference. The ballot of each voter shall be preserved for one year after the election. The vote results shall be held in secret in the custody of the Executive Board President until the annual meeting.
- F. The President shall appoint three members to serve as a Committee of Tellers from Regular Members present at the annual meeting that are not candidates for office in the current election. The Committee of Tellers, with the assistance of AONP management, shall review the electronic voting results and shall announce results of the election at the appointed time during the annual meeting.
- G. If there are no nominees for an elected position, or if all nominees for an elected position are disqualified, the President will nominate an AONP member for the position, subject to the qualification requirements for the position as set forth in these bylaws. The AONP Executive Board will vet the nominee, and once approved, that nominee will fill the position.

Section 2: Ballot.

- A. The President-elect shall be appointed by the Executive Board and listed on the ballot for approval by the membership, each year.
- B. The Secretary and the Regional Representatives from the Northwest, Southeast and Tulsa Metropolitan Regions shall be elected to a two-year term which starts in even numbered years.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

- C. The Treasurer and Regional Representatives from the Northeast, Southwest and Oklahoma City Metropolitan Regions shall be elected to a two-year term which starts in odd numbered years.

ARTICLE XII: MEETINGS.

Section 1: Annual Meeting.

- A. There shall be at least one general membership meeting each year, which shall be called the Annual AONP Conference, and shall include the AONP annual business meeting.
- B. The Annual AONP Conference shall be held in the fall at such time and place as designated by the Executive Board.
- C. The Executive Board, in conjunction with the Executive Director and management personnel, shall be responsible for making all necessary arrangements for the Annual AONP Conference.

Section 2: Other General Meetings.

- A. Additional general meetings of AONP may be called by the Executive Board.
- B. The Executive Board shall also call special general meetings on the written or electronic request of at least ten percent of the voting membership. Email notice must be given to the voting membership at least ten days prior to the special general meeting. The purpose of the special general meeting must be stated.

Section 3: Procedures.

- A. Notice of all general meetings shall be available on the AONP website at least 10 days prior to the meeting.
- B. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in meetings of AONP. Only Regular Voting Members are allowed to vote.
- C. Any business discussed in Other General Meetings that requires a vote by AONP members, except that specifically designated in the bylaws shall be decided by a majority vote of all voting members and will be emailed to the voting members no more than 5 days following the meeting. Neither absentee ballot nor proxy votes will be available or entertained at any meeting of AONP. Voting procedures will be adhered to as otherwise noted herein.

ARTICLE XIII: QUORUM.

Section 1: A majority of the Executive Board, one of whom shall be the President or the President-elect shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at AONP Executive Board meetings, the AONP annual business meeting or any general membership meeting.

Section 2: A simple majority of any standing, ad hoc or special ad hoc committee members shall constitute a quorum of the specific Committee.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

ARTICLE XIV: FISCAL YEAR.

The fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31.

ARTICLE XV: FEES AND COMPENSATION.

Officers, Regional Representatives, and Committee Members may not receive compensation for their services, provided that they may receive such reimbursements for expenses, as may be fixed or determined by a vote of the Executive Board or at any general meeting of AONP.

ARTICLE XVI: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, most current edition, shall govern meetings of AONP in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XVII: AMENDMENTS.

Proposed amendments to these bylaws shall be recommended to the members for vote by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.

- Section 1: With Prior Notice. These bylaws may be amended at any AONP annual or general meeting by a two-thirds majority of votes cast electronically, provided changes were available to members electronically at least ten days prior to the meeting. Bylaw changes provided on the AONP website is an acceptable form of notification to the membership.
- Section 2: Without Prior Notice. In order to amend the bylaws at any annual or general meeting without prior notice, one hundred percent of the voting members present and voting must vote for the proposed amendments.
- Section 3: Procedure. Proposed amendments to the bylaws must be submitted to the Bylaws Committee Chair. The Bylaws Committee shall draft the proposed amendment and prepare the proposal to be approved by the Executive Board, and then distributed to the membership electronically for a vote at the next annual business meeting.

ARTICLE XVIII: EXISTENCE.

- Section 1: Unless dissolved, the Association of Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners shall have perpetual existence.
- Section 2: The membership may dissolve AONP by election at any annual business meeting and the procedure for so doing shall be the same as to amend the bylaws.
- Section 3: In the event of dissolution, it shall be resolved that all assets of AONP shall be assigned, transferred, or set over to a non-profit association with the same or similar objective, goals or purposes, as determined by an Executive Board vote.