

## Explanations for Amendments to RRS Constitution – 2015

### Article III; 2. 3, 4:

Removes requirement for a nominating letter from a current member as part of the membership application. This is often a hardship for foreign applicants. Which is usually solved by the Membership Committee reviewing the applicant's CV and then one member serving as the "nominator". The change would eliminate the need for this step. If a nominating letter is provided, it would be used by the Membership Committee to streamline the review.

### Article III; 5:

Two options are provided to address two "needs" in regards to Emeritus Members. First, there is a certain cost (~\$25) to maintaining each member in the membership management system. Secondly, without a requirement for an annual dues payment, there is no way to verify that members are still interested in the Society, or are even alive. Thus, Emeritus Members remain on the roster in perpetuity unless 1) they voluntarily notify the Society that they wish to "resign" their membership or 2) the Society learns of their demise.

Option 1 maintains the restriction that Emeritus members do not pay dues; but adds a requirement for a positive action in order to maintain emeritus membership.

Option 2 deletes any mention of dues, which would allow Council in the future to impose an annual dues at their discretion, e.g., sufficient to cover the actual cost of maintaining membership.

There is also the addition of language requiring a positive confirmation to maintain emeritus status.

Basically, the choices here are 1) whether an annual confirmation of continued interest in the society is a reasonable requirement that will allow an accurate membership database? And 2) whether emeritus members should continue to be exempt from payment of annual dues.

Overall, the intent is certainly not to remove memberships or to cause a hardship for retired members. Rather, it is an effort to validate the membership roster, to reduce costs where feasible, and to not send information (often to inactive addresses or e-mail accounts) to individuals that no longer care to receive it. The ballot is constructed so that each option will be voted on in a head-to-head fashion versus no change. If both options are approved, then the one with the greater number of affirmative votes will be implemented.

### Article VI; 1:

Housekeeping, change to clarify text.

### Article VI; 2 (e):

Formalizes a standing committee to annually provide a financial audit of the Society accounts. This is good practice for a 501(c)3 organization and eliminates the (expensive) requirement for an annual formal audit by an outside firm.

### Article VI; 2(f):

Housekeeping to clarify text. Also to specify the actual process of communication that is currently used.

### Article VI; 2(h):

Formalizes an ongoing operational procedure, wherein the Society has been managed by an outside company for decades. Currently, management is by A Meeting By Design (AMBD) with Veronica Haynes as the Executive Director.