

Proposed Change # 1: Expansion of the "Core" Editor-based membership qualifications

This applies to Former Article II, No. 1/New Article II, No. 2(a).

Current Language

Persons of suitable qualifications who are directing editors having immediate charge of journalistic policies and operations of newspapers, editorial and opinion pages, news Web sites, wire services and other organizations that gather and disseminate news and information, which, in the opinion of the directors, shall have attained adequate journalistic standards, are eligible for membership.

Proposed Language

Persons of suitable qualifications who are directing or supervisory editors, producers or directors in charge of journalistic policies and operations within print, online, electronic or digital media who gather and disseminate news and information and who, in the opinion of the directors, shall have attained adequate journalistic standing.

Tracked Changes

Persons of suitable qualifications who are directing or supervisory editors ~~having immediate, producers or directors in~~ charge of journalistic policies and operations ~~of newspapers, editorial and opinion pages, news Web sites, wire services and other organizations that~~within print, online, electronic or digital media who gather and disseminate news and information, ~~which and who,~~ in the opinion of the directors, shall have attained adequate journalistic ~~standards, are eligible for membership standing.~~

Why the Change?

By adding "or supervisory" to "directing" and "producers and directors" before "in charge of journalistic policies and operations," this amendment clarifies that ASNE is comprised of more than simply the highest level of newspaper editors. It builds on the most recent set of bylaws changes that allowed section editors to become ASNE members by extending eligibility to publishers and news executives. In addition to expanding the membership "vertically," this change also expands membership "horizontally," to allow members from across all media. This is also an extension of an earlier bylaws change that expanded the membership to include editors of online news sites. Recognizing the continuing media convergence, the bylaws are being amended to include news entities beyond simply newspapers and online sites affiliated with newspapers. The inclusion of "producers or directors" is intended to facilitate the eligibility of those equivalent to an "editor" in these other media, as is the change in the delineations of media from the very specific to simply "print, online, electronic or digital." The core property of ASNE membership is retained, however: membership is limited to those in charge of journalistic policies and operations of entities providing news and information which in the opinion of the directors have attained adequate journalistic standing.

Proposed Change # 2: Expansion of Educational Institution-based membership qualifications

This change affects Former Article II, No. 2/New Article II, No. 2(b).

Current Language

Academic leaders and administrators of journalism programs who hold positions as Deans, Assistant Deans, and Faculty in the capacity of an endowed or distinguished chair in an accredited university or graduate school teaching journalism that, in the opinion of the directors, promote adequate journalistic standards, shall be eligible for membership.

Proposed Language

Academic leaders and administrators of journalism programs who hold positions as Deans, Assistant Deans, faculty or supervisory positions in related media institutions or programs that, in the opinion of the directors, have attained adequate journalistic standing.

Tracked Changes

Academic leaders and administrators of journalism programs who hold positions as Deans, Assistant Deans, ~~and Faculty~~faculty or supervisory positions in ~~the capacity of an endowed or distinguished chair in an accredited university~~related media institutions or ~~graduate school teaching journalism programs~~ that, in the opinion of the directors, ~~promote~~have attained adequate journalistic ~~standards, shall be eligible for membership~~standing.

Why the Change?

The existing language in this section is too restrictive. It is not broad enough to cover directors of important programs in the journalism academy that conduct research or act as innovation incubators (example: J-Lab at American University). Limiting membership to those holding “an endowed or distinguished chair” doesn’t allow ASNE to capture the growing number of highly respected journalists who have left newsrooms to take positions as visiting or resident professionals at colleges of communication.

Proposed Change # 3: Expansion of Foundation-based membership qualifications

This change affects Former Article II, No. 3/New Article II, No. 2(c).

Current Language

Leaders and faculty of foundations and training organizations dedicated to the training of journalists that, in the opinion of the directors, promote adequate journalistic standards, shall be eligible for membership.

Proposed Language

Leaders and faculty of foundations and training organizations, research entities or other groups that, in the opinion of the directors, are dedicated to media education and study or the promotion of free press and quality journalism..

Tracked Changes

Leaders and faculty of foundations and training organizations ~~dedicated to the training of journalists, research entities or other groups~~ that, in the opinion of the directors, ~~promote adequate journalistic standards, shall be eligible for membership.~~ are dedicated to media education and study or the promotion of free press and quality journalism.

Why the Change?

Existing language is too restrictive and does not make clear that ASNE would welcome leaders of respected groups that play important roles in media research or the promotion of journalistic standards. These are groups like the Pew Center for Excellence in Journalism; J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism at American University; the International Center for Journalists, or; the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Proposed Change # 4: Creation of an Associate Member Category

Proposed Changes (No Current Language or Tracked Changes because this is an entirely new category)

"Friends of ASNE" is a separate membership category that shall include those whose participation the board determines may be beneficial to ASNE and its journalistic endeavors. They shall enjoy all the benefits of membership except voting and they may not serve as officers, directors, committee chairs or co-chairs.

Why the Change?

This will serve as a catch all for those who may not work in traditional newsrooms, as well as those non-journalists who are actively engaged with the working press and hold true to the ideals of ASNE and adequate journalistic standards generally. It is a category that has proven to work well within other organizations.

Those accepted as "Friends of ASNE" would not have voting rights within ASNE, nor would they be eligible to serve in leadership roles as officers, members of the board, or committee chairs or co-chairs. However, they would be able to attend conventions at the member rate, receive member alerts, access "members only" portions of the Website and take advantage of free webinars and other programs and discounts.

Proposed Change # 5: Changes to the Procedures for Removing Delinquent Members

This change affects Former Article II, Number 8/Current Article II, Number 7

Current Language:

If any member shall fail to pay dues within six months after date of maturity, notice of delinquency shall be given to the member by the treasurer; at the end of four weeks if the member still remains delinquent, membership may be forfeited unless otherwise ordered by the board of directors.

Proposed Language:

If any member shall fail to pay dues by the date of maturity, notice of delinquency shall be given to the member; at the end of four weeks if the member still remains delinquent, membership may be forfeited unless otherwise ordered by the board of directors.

Tracked Changes in Language

If any member shall fail to pay dues ~~within six months after~~by the date of maturity, notice of delinquency shall be given to the member ~~by the treasurer~~; at the end of four weeks if the member still remains delinquent, membership may be forfeited unless otherwise ordered by the board of directors.

Why the Change?

This change was suggested by Executive Director Richard Karpel to facilitate the removal of delinquent members from the membership rolls, increasing the value of ASNE membership to those who do pay. It is motivated, in part, by a change in the ASNE fiscal calendar from a January-December calendar and dues schedule to a twelve month schedule which will vary from member to member depending on the month in which each individual joined the membership.

The bylaws previously required that the member be given six months after the deadline for dues payment before being given notice of removal. This resulted in individuals continuing to enjoy the benefits of membership for almost an entire year after nonpayment, while the staff was routinely sending invoices.

Proposed Changes # 6: Technical Changes Required to Implement the Above

Several other sections of the bylaws must be amended to implement the changes proposed above. For instance, certain subsections must be renumbered. The term "member" must be changed to "regular member" or further detailed with the creation of the associate member category, especially where elections, committees or meetings are addressed.

The full list of changes is:

- Creation of a new Article II, No. 1 which reads: "There shall be two categories of membership: regular member and associate member.
- The provisions currently numbered Article II, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 will be renumbered Article II, Nos. 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), and 2(d), respectively.
- The new Associate Member category will become Article II, No. 3
- The provisions currently numbered Article II, Nos. 5-13 will be renumbered Article II, Nos. 4-12, respectively.
- The term "under Paragraph 1 of Article II" shall be removed from Former Article II, No. 11/new Article II, No. 10.
- The term "Retired Members" in Former Article II, No. 13/new Article II, No. 12 shall become "Retired regular members".
- "22 persons" in Article III, No. 2 shall be changed to read "22 regular members".
- "elected by the membership" in Article III, No. 2 shall be changed to read "elected by the regular members and retired members".
- "up to 2 members " in Article III, No. 2 shall be changed to read "up to 2 regular members".
- "All members, retired members and distinguished service members" in Article III, No. 2 shall be changed to read "all regular members, retired members and distinguished service members".
- References to "members" in Article VI, No. 2, Article VI, No. 3, Article VII, No. 5, Article VII, No. 6 and Article IX, No. 1 shall be changed to "regular members and retired regular members"