



AMA Medical Student Section Region V Bylaws

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ARTICLE I. Name

The full name of this organization shall be Region V of the American Medical Association-Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS). It shall be referred to as Region V thereafter.

ARTICLE II. Objectives

The objectives of Region V shall be to provide and promote medical student participation in the activities of the American Medical Association Medical Student Section, hereafter AMA-MSS, through adherence to the following principles:

- to have meaningful input into the decision and policymaking process of the Association;
- to improve medical education and to further professional excellence;
- to involve medical students in addressing and solving the problems of health care and health care delivery and to provide a forum for the discussion and dissemination of information;
- to develop medical leadership;
- to initiate and effect necessary change;
- to promote high personal and professional ethics, and a humanistic approach to the delivery of quality patient care;
- to promote activity and communication within organized medicine on the local, state, and national levels;
- to work cooperatively within the Region and with other student groups to meet these objectives.

ARTICLE III. Membership

- 3.1** Members must be in good standing in accordance with AMA bylaws.
- a. Terms of and the eligibility for the membership in the AMA shall be governed by the bylaws of the AMA.
 - b. No dues in addition to those paid to the AMA shall be required to be a member.
 - c. Only members in good standing as defined by the AMA shall have the right to vote or hold office in Region V.
- 3.2** Membership shall be limited to those medical students who attend medical allopathic or osteopathic schools in the following states: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia.

ARTICLE IV. Officers

- 4.1** Region V shall have the following Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Community Service Liaison.
- 4.2** Responsibilities of the Chair shall include:
- a. Presiding over the Meetings of the Region
 - b. Maintaining communication with the Governing Council (GC) of the AMA-MSS
 - c. Maintaining communication with State leaders
 - d. Representing the Region to other student groups both within and outside of the AMA
- 4.3** Responsibilities of the Vice-Chair shall include:
- a. Assisting the Chair in all his duties
 - b. Keeping Minutes of the Meetings
 - c. Serving as an Official Keeper and providing an annual review of these Bylaws
 - d. Assuming the Office of the Chair in case of the Chair's inability to serve until such time as the Chair may resume his duties.
- 4.4** Responsibilities of the Community Service Liaison shall include:
- a. Serving as the liaison between the AMA-MSS Governing Council At-Large Officer, region members, and individual AMA chapter Community Service Representative
 - b. Organizing a community service project as part of the annual Region V meeting in conjunction with the host chapter
- 4.5** Duty and Capacity
- a. The officers shall direct the programs and activities of the Region V.
 - b. During the interval between meetings of the AMA House of Delegates and the Region, the Officers shall act on behalf of the Region V in formulating decisions related to the development, administration, and implementation of student activities, programs, goals, and objectives.
 - c. Region V members shall be notified at least quarterly of actions taken by the Officers on its behalf.

4.6 Election of Officers

- a. In no event shall the Chair or Vice-Chair be from the same state.
- b. In no event shall the Chair or Vice-Chair hold a concurrent State Executive Board or State Governing Council position.
- c. Each candidate for Chair must declare by the date specified by the current Chair and shall be able to post their CV and Personal Statement or additional campaigning material on the Region V listserv.
- d. Each candidate for Vice-Chair or Community Service Liason may declare up to the point of election; however, only those candidates that declare by the date specified by the current Chair shall be able to post their CV and Personal Statement or additional campaigning material on the Region V listserv.
- e. All candidates shall be restricted to distribution of their CV and personal statement. No other insignia or campaign materials shall be allowed. Travel to other State Meetings is expressly forbidden, unless a candidate also serves in such capacity that requires him to undertake such travel.
- f. Prior to balloting, candidates shall be given 2 minutes to speak and 3 minutes to answer questions to the membership of the Region V.
- g. Each election shall be decided by the simple majority vote in accordance with the voting procedures set forth in these bylaws.
 - i. In the event of more than two people contesting an office, with no candidate getting the requisite number of votes, a run-off vote shall be held between the two candidates with the most votes.
 - ii. In the event of a tie between two candidates, the current chair will cast the deciding vote.
 - iii. Unselected candidates may drop down to the next position for election.

4.7 Term Limits

- a. The term of each office shall be 1 year, commencing at the close of each Annual Meeting of the AMA-MSS.
- b. The total length of service in these positions shall not exceed 2 years.
- c. A term of service of greater than 6 months shall count as a full year.
- d. Term limits may be waived if it renders all candidates ineligible.

4.8 Filling of vacancy

- a. In case of vacancy in the Office of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall succeed.
- b. In case of vacancy in the Office of Vice-Chair, Region V shall elect a replacement via electronic communication within 30 days of the vacancy
- c. In case of vacancy in the Office of Community Service Liason, Region V shall elect a replacement via electronic communication within 30 days of the vacancy
- d. In case of vacancies in both Offices, Region V shall elect both Officers at the next Meeting.

4.9 Recall of Officers

- a. Any member of Region V can bring forth a motion to recall an officer by contacting all of the state chairs or representatives, and the motion must be approved by a majority (>3/5) state chairs or representatives.

- b. Upon approval, the state chairs will designate one chair to notify the officer in recall.
- c. Notification must be made at least 10 days prior to a regional meeting.
- d. The officer shall be provided the opportunity to address Region V members at the meeting.
- e. A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote in favor of removal is required.

ARTICLE V. Regional Delegates and Alternate Delegates

- 5.1** The number of Regional Delegates (RDs) and Regional Alternate Delegates (RADs) shall be set according to the AMA Bylaws.
- 5.2** Responsibilities shall be performed in accordance with the AMA-MSS Regional Delegate Handbook.
- 5.3** Duty and Capacity
 - a. RDs and RADs shall advocate, vote, and represent Region V to the AMA House of Delegates and to their state delegations.
 - b. RDs and RADs shall notify Region V members of the results of issues pertinent to Region V heard at the AMA HOD via the Region V listserv at the conclusion of the meeting.
- 5.4** Election of RDs and RADs
 - a. No person may stand for election to either of these positions, unless he presents a written endorsement of his state's delegation to the AMA-HOD.
 - b. No person is eligible for the position of RD unless he has attended at least one AMA-MSS National Meeting prior to the meeting at which the said election shall take place.
 - c. No more than one person from the same state shall serve as RD, and no more than 2 people from the same state be elected to either RD or RAD, unless there are no other eligible candidates.
 - d. Remaining election procedures shall apply as set forth for officers in 4.6.c. through e.
 - i. In the event that 2 RDs candidates from the state receive enough votes to be elected RD, the person with more votes shall become RD and the person with fewer votes shall become RAD.
- 5.5** Term Limits
 - a. The term of Office shall begin at the opening of the AMA-HOD Annual Meeting at which time, the RDs and RADs shall take seats with their State delegations, and the said term shall last for 1 year.
 - b. The total length of service in these positions shall not exceed 2 years.
 - c. A term of service of greater than 6 months shall count as a full year.
 - d. Term limits may be waived if through the enforcement of the said rules Region V would not be able to seat Delegates or Alternates to which it would otherwise be entitled.

5.6 Filling of Vacancies

- a. In the event of a vacancy in a regional delegate position, one of the Region V alternate delegates shall fill that vacancy, and only Region V alternate delegates shall be eligible to fill a regional delegate vacancy unless none of the regional alternates are available.
- b. In the event of a vacancy in a regional delegate and alternate delegate position at least 30 days before an Annual or Interim meeting, the Chair shall call a special election to fill that vacancy, for that meeting only, in accordance with these bylaws.
- c. In the event of a vacancy in a regional delegate and regional alternate delegate position less than 30 days before an Annual or Interim meeting, the following shall be considered to be the 'appropriate authority' of Region V that is empowered to appoint a substitute delegate or alternate delegate, for that meeting only, as necessary:
 - i. first, the region Chair;
 - ii. second, if the region Chair is unavailable, the region Vice-Chair; and
 - iii. next, if the region Chair and Vice-Chair are unavailable, the regional delegate that is predetermined by the Chair; and
 - iv. finally, the Delegate of the Medical Student Section shall make the appointment to fulfill the vacancy.

ARTICLE VI. Committees

- 6.1** The Chair and Vice-Chair shall from time to time jointly appoint such committees as they deem appropriate and necessary for the proper functioning of Region V.
- 6.2** The committees shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Officers of Region V and shall produce such reports as are requested of them by the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- 6.3** All committees shall be deemed dissolved at the close of each Annual Meeting of the AMA-MSS.

ARTICLE VII. Meetings

- 7.1** Region V shall meet at the Interim and Annual Meetings of the AMA-MSS. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chair, as long as members are given 30 days written notice.
- 7.2** *Davis Rules of Order* shall be the governing parliamentary authority for all Regional meetings.
- 7.3** A quorum shall constitute $\frac{1}{4}$ of all active chapters within Region V provided that at least 3 states are represented.
 - a. The Chair shall have the power to declare those chapters that have missed 5 consecutive Meetings to be inactive for the purposes of quorum only.

- b. Inactive chapters shall not count towards the total number of chapters when determining quorum.
- c. A chapter shall become active automatically upon sending a delegate to any of the Region V meetings.

ARTICLE VIII. Voting

- 8.1** For the election of Region V positions above, votes shall be apportioned according to the number of AMA-MSS delegates present at the annual and interim meeting.
- a. Delegates must be registered prior to the Regional Business meeting.
 - b. Ballots shall be distributed to each delegate upon roll call at the beginning of each election process in the regional meeting.
- 8.2** For issues of procedure or amendments to these bylaws, votes shall be apportioned one for each registered delegate.
- a. If the registered delegate is not available, the vote goes to their alternate delegate or state representative.
 - b. In the event that no representative is identified, the students from that state can select a representative at the meeting, or the chapter chairs may select a representative by email.
- 8.3** All other decisions regarding Region V business, its endorsements of candidates, resolutions, or any other matters not otherwise specified in these bylaws shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the region V members present at the meeting or belonging to the Region V listserv.
- a. Votes may be called by the chair at the meeting or via the Region V listserv.
 - b. Votes may be cast by verbal acquisition, by handraising, written ballot, or email response.

ARTICLE IX. Amendments

- 9.1** Proposed amendments to these bylaws must be posted to the Region V listserv ten (10) days prior to a vote to allow members time to contact their state chair in response.
- 9.2** Approval of any amendments requires approval by 4 of the 5 state chairs or the state's representative.
- 9.3** All amendments needed to bring these bylaws in compliance with those of the AMA and/or the AMA-MSS shall be automatic, and require neither vote nor discussion. The membership must be made aware of such changes by the Region Chair within ten (10) days.
- 9.4** Yearly revisions of the Region V Bylaws will be submitted to State Chairs who will present the proposed changes to their respective chapters. The State Chairs will then

have 30 days to ratify the proposed changes and submit written changes to the Regional List serve as well as the Regional Vice Chair.

ARTICLE X. Supremacy and Severability

- 10.1** These bylaws are superseded by the bylaws of the AMA-MSS and the AMA wherever conflict arises.
- 10.2** If any portion of these bylaws is found to be incompatible with the bylaws of the AMA and/or the AMA-MSS, such finding shall not affect any other portion of these bylaws.