A guide to the AMA and the Young Physicians Section

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About the AMA

The American Medical Association (AMA) was founded by Nathan Smith Davis, MD. In 1845, Dr. Davis presented a resolution to the New York Medical Association calling for a national medical convention, which led to the formation of the AMA. Dr. Nathaniel Chapman was elected as its first president in 1847.

Dr. Davis became president of the AMA in 1864 and was the first editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association from 1883 to 1888. At the founding meeting, the Delegates adopted the first code of medical ethics and the first national standards for preliminary medical education for the degree of MD.

The mission of the AMA is to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health. The Core Values of the AMA with regards to this mission are: (1) Leadership; (2) Excellence; and (3) Integrity and Ethical Behavior.

As a professional association, the AMA focuses on:

- Representation and Advocacy – Providing a common voice and an issue-specific agenda.
- Image and Identity – Responding to the needs of the entire medical profession to maintain a position of respect and integrity in society.
- Standards – Setting and implementing professional educational, scientific/clinical, and behavioral/ethical standards in medicine.
- Information – Providing necessary and pertinent information to its membership.
- Products and Services – Providing material and resources to help members deal with the practical implications of their daily professional practices and the requirements from meeting professional standards or externally imposed regulations.

The AMA helps physicians help patients by uniting physicians nationwide to work on the most important professional and public health issues. The vision is to be an essential part of the professional life of every physician.
Structure of the AMA

The internal organizational elements that play key roles in the AMA’s system of governance and policymaking process include: the House of Delegates; the Board of Trustees; Executive Vice President; Councils and Committees; Sections and Special Groups; and Staff.

House of Delegates

The House of Delegates (HOD) is the legislative and policymaking body of the AMA. The HOD is comprised of approximately 500 voting delegates (and an equal number of alternate delegates). Delegates are selected by one of the following types of entities: state or territorial medical societies, national specialty societies, professional interest medical associations, American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), National Medical Association (NMA), branches of the US Military, and ten Sections (to be discussed below).

Delegates and Alternate Delegates who are seated in the HOD serve as an important communications, policy, and membership link between the AMA and physicians nationwide. They are key sources of information on activities, programs, and policies of the AMA. Delegates are also direct contacts for individual members to communicate with and contribute to the formulation of AMA policy positions, the identification of situations that might be addressed through policy implementation efforts, and the implementation of AMA policies. Delegates are expected to foster a positive and useful two-way relationship between grassroots physicians and AMA leadership, and must take into consideration a variety of perspectives (including those of patients, their sponsoring organizations, and their physician constituents) when considering business before the HOD.

During HOD meetings, Delegates have a number of responsibilities and functions. These include submitting resolutions, serving on HOD Committees, and testifying at Reference Committee hearings on reports and resolutions. After Reference Committees submit their reports to the HOD, Delegates have the opportunity to testify and vote on the merits of reports and resolutions during HOD business sessions.

Alternate Delegates cannot themselves introduce resolutions or vote in HOD elections. Alternate Delegates may, however, testify on resolutions and reports in Reference Committees, serve on HOD Committees, and substitute for a Delegate. While substituting for a Delegate, an Alternate Delegate may speak and debate on the floor of the HOD, offer an amendment to a pending matter, make motions, and vote (except in elections).

Committees of the House of Delegates

There are several types of HOD committees: Reference Committees, Convention Committees, and Special Committees. The Speaker appoints Delegates and Alternate Delegates to serve on Reference Committees and Convention Committees. Some special committees are formed to study major issues facing the AMA and may include individuals who are not Delegates or Alternate Delegates.
AMA Officers

The members of the Board of Trustees comprise the AMA Officers and include the following:

- **President** – The President of the AMA works closely with the Board Chair, the Executive Vice President, and other AMA officers to further the AMA's mission and goals. The President serves as the principal spokesperson in enunciating and advocating the official policies and positions of the AMA and also serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees.

- **President-Elect** – The President-Elect is elected annually by the Delegates at each annual meeting of the HOD and serves in that position until inaugurated as President the following June. If the office of President becomes vacant, the President-Elect immediately becomes President. Also, the President-Elect serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees.

- **Immediate Past President** – The Immediate Past President serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees, and carries out such tasks as may be designated from time to time by the President.

- **Speaker and Vice Speaker** – The duty of the Speaker is to preside over meetings of the HOD and to perform such duties as custom and parliamentary usage require. The primary duty of the Vice Speaker is to officiate at HOD meetings at the request of the Speaker or in the absence of the Speaker. The Vice Speaker shall assume the duties and privileges of the Speaker in the event of vacancy in the office of Speaker, until the vacancy is filled by election of the House of Delegates. Both are entitled to a vote in the HOD and serve as ex officio members of the Board of Trustees.

- **Chair and Chair-elect of the Board of Trustees** – The Board Chair exercises overall supervision of the work of the Board of Trustees and presides over all meetings of the Board. The Chair-elect shall assume the duties of the Chair in the Chair’s absence or at the request of the Chair.

- **Secretary** – A Secretary shall be selected by the Board of Trustees from one of its members and shall serve for a term of one year. The Secretary performs routine administrative functions of the Board.

- **Trustees** – Individual members of the Board of Trustees are also considered to be officers of the Association. One seat on the Board is slotted for a young physician.

- **Executive Vice President** – Although not one of the elected general officers of the AMA, the Executive Vice President (EVP) is one of the AMA’s key officials. The EVP is appointed by the Board to manage and direct the activities of the Association and to perform the duties commonly required of the chief executive officer of a corporation.

The Board of Trustees

The twenty-one member Board of Trustees (BOT) is responsible for transacting all business for, and on behalf of, the AMA. In doing so, the BOT is required to have the accounts of the AMA audited at least annually and to make financial reports concerning AMA affairs to the HOD at the Annual Meeting. The BOT is also responsible for the appointment and ongoing evaluation of the EVP. The EVP and a staff of approximately one thousand are responsible for the day-to-day affairs of the AMA. One young physician is elected by the HOD as a voting member of the BOT. There are also slotted seats for a medical student and a resident/fellow member of the BOT.
AMA Councils

The AMA has a long history of using AMA Councils as a way to study a variety of issues. The Councils provide an opportunity for the expertise and diverse views of the AMA membership to be applied to the variety of challenging issues facing physicians and the AMA. They also provide recommendations to the HOD and the BOT.

The seven AMA Councils and their key responsibilities are as follows:

- **Council on Constitution and Bylaws (CCB)** – Serves as a fact-finding and advisory committee on matters pertaining to the AMA Constitution and Bylaws. This Council is elected by the HOD.

- **Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA)** – Serves as the judicial authority of the AMA, interpreting the Principles of Medical Ethics and the Constitution and Bylaws of the AMA. The members of this Council are elected by the HOD on the nomination of the incumbent President.

- **Council on Legislation (COL)** – Reviews all legislative proposals of the AMA prior to final consideration by the Board of Trustees. There are twelve members of this Council, one of whom is a resident/fellow physician and one is a medical student. The members of the COL are appointed by the Board of Trustees. The medical student member is appointed from nominations submitted by the Medical Student Section (MSS).

- **Council on Long Range Planning and Development (CLRPD)** – Makes recommendations on the long-range objectives of the AMA, studies and reports on anticipated changes in the medical practice environment, and identifies ways to enhance the AMA's policy development processes. Five members of this Council are appointed by the Speakers, four members are appointed by the BOT, and the medical student member is appointed by the MSS with the concurrence of the BOT.

- **Council on Medical Education (CME)** – Studies, evaluates, and makes recommendations regarding all aspects of medical and allied health education. This Council is elected by the HOD.

- **Council on Medical Service (CMS)** – Serves as a resource to study and evaluate the social and economic aspects influencing the practice of medicine and to suggest means for the development of services in a changing socioeconomic environment. This Council is elected by the HOD.

- **Council on Science and Public Health (CSAPH)** – Advises on developments in the scientific aspects of medicine and biomedical research and assists in the development of policy positions on scientific and biomedical research issues. This Council is elected by the HOD.

Nominations for open seats on the Councils are solicited annually and are due each March 15. Nomination materials are found online.

AMA Sections and Special Group

Over the years, the AMA has created a number of Member Groups and Sections to provide for closer involvement with various segments of AMA membership and facilitate the participation of those segments in the AMA policy development process. Sections usually meet on the Friday and Saturday immediately preceding the opening of the Annual and Interim Meetings of the HOD. Each Section has its own policymaking process and typically will forward resolutions to the HOD that arise out of the Section’s deliberations.
Special Groups also contribute to the policy development process by working with the Sections, appropriate delegations, and the AMA Councils. The special groups also link to the BOT, affecting policy through BOT reports to the HOD. Sections and Special Groups offer many levels of involvement and opportunities to shape policies affecting various AMA member constituencies and their patients. The AMA currently has seven Sections and four Special Groups:

- **Medical Student Section** (MSS) – Provides a direct means for medical students at accredited U.S. medical schools to participate in AMA activities.

- **Section on Medical Schools** (SMS) – Provides a direct means for accredited medical schools and faculty to participate in AMA activities.

- **Resident and Fellow Section** (RFS) – Composed of resident and fellow physicians who are serving in approved training programs.

- **Young Physicians Section** (YPS) – Focuses on the needs of physicians under 40 years of age or in their first eight years of professional practice.

- **Organized Medical Staff Section** (OMSS) – Focuses on the issues of medical staffs of hospitals and organized delivery systems, and provides a direct role in the AMA policymaking process for physicians who participate in organized medical staffs.

- **International Medical Graduates Section** (IMGS) – Provides a means for international medical graduates (IMGs) to participate in AMA activities and facilitates the development of information and educational activities on topics of interest to IMGs. Any AMA member, including non-IMGs, may join this Section. Non-AMA member IMG physicians may participate in this Section, as provisional members, for a one-year period.

- **Minority Affairs Section** (MAS) – Focuses on eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities, increasing diversity in the profession, and supporting young people of color in becoming physicians. The MAS promotes education and advocacy on minority health issues and works to increase diversity in the AMA through involvement programs such as the Doctors Back to School program, Commission to End Health Disparities and Minority Scholars Award.

- **Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Issues** – Provides timely advice and counsel on policy matters pertaining to GLBT physicians, medical students and patients. The goals and objectives of the GLBT Advisory Committee include enhancing AMA advocacy and education on GLBT health and professional issues and providing a dedicated forum for involvement, mentoring and networking for GLBT physicians and medical students.

- **Senior Physicians Section** (SPS) – Open to all AMA members 65 years of age or older, the Senior Physicians Section brings together senior physicians who wish to stay connected to the profession and to their colleagues, and to help shape advocacy efforts.

- **Women Physicians Section** (WPS) – Focuses on concerns of special interest to women physicians. In addition to bringing forward topics for debate such as professional advancement issues, career flexibility/balancing options and increasing job satisfaction, the WPS also develops policy recommendations and builds awareness and advocacy on gender-based health differences and related women’s health issues. The WPS represents all female members of the AMA automatically and male members can “opt in.”

- **Integrated Physician Practice Section** (IPPS) – The mission of the IPPS is to advance, through policy and education, the interests of multispecialty, physician-led, integrated health care delivery, and groups actively working toward such systems of coordinated care.
AMA policy formation

“Policy” is a guide to decision-making and action. When people refer to "AMA policy," they are usually referring to the set of normative statements the HOD has developed on health care issues and the health care system. They may also be referring to the set of statements the AMA has developed about its internal organizational structure and decision-making process (governance system) as well as medical science and technology.

This summary of the **AMA policy system** outlines:

- The processes of how AMA policy positions are established
- The processes to record and disseminate AMA policy
- The activities through which the AMA promotes and advocates its policy positions

Categories of policy include:

- Policies of the HOD – By acting on reports and resolutions, the HOD establishes the AMA’s policy position on a given topic. Those positions in turn guide AMA activity on any particular issue. The HOD also establishes policies on the governance of the AMA and policies that direct the Board to take specific actions.

- Code of Medical Ethics – This category includes the two components of the AMA’s Code of Medical Ethics: (i) the AMA Principles of Medical Ethics, which establish the core ethical principles of the medical profession, and (ii) current Opinions of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA).

- AMA’s Constitution and Bylaws – The Constitution establishes the basic principles of the AMA and the Bylaws provide the framework for the governance and administration of the AMA. The HOD establishes the content of the AMA Constitution and Bylaws.

All AMA policies can be accessed online through AMA’s [PolicyFinder](http://www.ama-assn.org).
How AMA sets policy

- Individual delegates
- Delegations (state and specialty)
- AMA sections

- AMA Board of Trustees
- AMA councils
- Special house committees

Resolutions → Reference committees → House of Delegates

- Reaffirm in lieu of
  - Current AMA policy reaffirmed in lieu of proposed policy
- File
  - Accepted for information only
- Not adopted
  - Does not become AMA policy

Adopt or adopt as amended
- Resolves of resolution or recommendations of report become AMA policy

Reports → Reference committees → House of Delegates

- Refer
  - Sent to the board (or through the board to the appropriate council or committee) for report back to the house.
- Refer for decision
  - Sent to the board for disposition; house is notified of outcome at next meeting

Policy implementation
- Representation, Advocacy, Communication, Programs

Recording of policy
- Proceedings, Policy Finder
About the YPS

The AMA Young Physicians Section (YPS) was established in 1986 to increase leadership opportunities for young physicians and to train them for future leadership within organized medicine. Over the past 25 years, the main goals of the YPS have been to strengthen the value of AMA young physician membership by: (1) enhancing young physician practice of medicine, including the transition into practice; (2) facilitating the participation of young physicians in policy development and other activities of the AMA; and (3) promoting young physician leadership throughout organized medicine.

The YPS acts as the liaison between young physicians and the AMA, overseeing projects and organizing and facilitating meetings. It also provides policy information and develops tools and services important to individual young physicians, and state and specialty societies.

The YPS has representation and direct involvement in all levels of AMA governance and policy formation. The following descriptions lay out the roles that young physician members assume in the governance of the AMA and the YPS. Furthermore, it describes how young physician members create resolutions for consideration by the YPS Assembly that may eventually become AMA policy.

For several decades, the YPS, as the largest national organization of young physicians, has set policies that have been incorporated into national legislation or have been adopted by regulating bodies. The policymaking process and leadership opportunities of the YPS give young physicians the power to create change and are some of the most unique and powerful privileges of membership.
Structure of the YPS

The YPS, like all Sections of the AMA, is designed to provide a voice in the larger organization to the particular AMA membership segment that it represents. Consequently, the YPS structure is designed to feed into the larger policymaking and governance bodies of the AMA (the HOD and the BOT). Before going into the descriptions of various YPS leadership positions and the policy process, the following explanation is intended to reduce confusion about the multiple “Delegate” positions in the policymaking process and their respective functions.

- **Representatives to the YPS Assembly:** At each HOD meeting, more than 100 YPS representatives take part in the YPS Assembly. Representatives are selected by either their state or specialty societies to represent their young physician membership. Representatives have full voting privileges in the YPS Assembly and vote to establish YPS policy. *Each state and specialty society has at least two representatives in the YPS assembly.*

- **YPs GC Delegate and Alternate Delegate:** Of the titles of the seven young physicians serving on the YPS Governing Council (YPs-GC), one is Delegate and one is Alternate Delegate. These two elected positions represent the YPS in the House of Delegates, and they have the same voting and speaking privileges as any other member of the HOD. The purpose of the YPS-GC Delegate and Alternate Delegate is to work as a liaison between the YPS Assembly and the HOD. Resolutions that are passed by the YPS Assembly are forwarded to the HOD for consideration on behalf of the YPS Assembly by the YPS-GC Delegate. The YPS-GC Delegate then advocates for these policies in the HOD on behalf of the YPS.

**Governing Council**

The YPS Governing Council (GC) is the guiding force of the YPS. It is the GC’s responsibility to direct the programs and activities of the Section, set both the Annual and Interim Assembly meeting agendas, and monitor resolutions and reports both in the YPS and HOD.

All elections for YPS Governing Council positions are held at the Annual Meetings of the YPS Assembly, unless there is a vacancy that needs to be filled at the Interim Meeting. These elected offices include Chair-elect, Speaker, Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and Member-at-Large. The Chair-elect is elected every year. Individuals elected as Chair-elect serve a three-year term, which will include one year as Chair-elect, one year as Chair, and one year as Immediate Past Chair, beginning at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which he or she was elected. The Speaker is elected to a two-year term in odd numbered years. The Delegate is elected in even numbered years; the Alternate Delegate is elected in odd numbered years. The Member-at-Large is elected in even numbered years.

The YPS Chair in the absence of the Speaker or at the request of the Speaker, presides at all meetings of the YPS Assembly and transacts business in accordance with the current parliamentary procedure authority as chosen by the HOD. The Chair also presides over all YPS GC meetings; serves as the spokesperson for the YPS, except on matters pending before the HOD; and seeks to recruit and maintain AMA members.

The YPS Immediate Past Chair shall: attend all meetings of the YPS Assembly and the YPS GC; assist and advise the Chair; and seek to recruit and maintain AMA members.

The YPS Chair-elect shall: assist the Chair and preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair or at the Chair's request; serve as a member of the YPS GC; serve as the spokesperson for the YPS, if the Chair is not available, except on matters pending before the HOD; and seek to recruit and maintain AMA members.
The YPS Delegate shall:

a. Serve as a member of the YPS GC, and represent the YPS at the HOD meeting. The Delegate has voting privileges in the HOD.

b. Organize and preside over the HOD Handbook Review sessions for members of the YPS attending the HOD meeting.

Observe deliberations during the Assembly HOD Handbook Review. At the discretion of the Speaker, the Delegate may ask questions or suggest potential courses of action during the discussion so as to best elicit the will of the Assembly.

c. Be responsible for reviewing all resolutions going forward from the YPS to the HOD, present Reference Committee testimony on resolutions submitted to the HOD, summarize the actions of the HOD as they pertain to the YPS, and compile a summary of pertinent HOD actions to all YPS members.

d. Coordinate Reference Committee testimony and monitor other issues under consideration by the HOD, but not directly being commented on by the YPS Assembly, and have responsibility for articulating a YPS position on resolutions that he or she believes merit YPS testimony or a young physician voice. The Delegate shall vote consistent with YPS actions whenever possible, and shall use his or her own best judgment to vote on matters before the HOD in the absence of specific direction from the YPS Assembly or GC.

e. Seek to recruit and maintain AMA members.

The YPS Alternate Delegate shall: serve as a member of the YPS GC, and represent the YPS at the HOD meeting; assist the YPS Delegate in his or her delegate duties described above; and seek to recruit and maintain AMA members.

The YPS Member at-Large shall: participate in all deliberations of the GC; assist the Speaker during the YPS Assembly Meeting; organize an orientation for new YPS representatives at each Assembly Meeting; assist the Chair during the Governing Council meetings; assist the Delegate and Alternate Delegate during HOD meetings; and seek to recruit and maintain AMA members.

The Speaker of the YPS Assembly shall:

a. Preside over deliberations, including the HOD Handbook Review and elections in the YPS Assembly and shall perform such duties as custom and parliamentary procedures require.

b. Provide for oversight and enforcement of the YPS Campaign Rules, as specified in the YPS Internal Operating Procedures.

c. Organize and lead a training on parliamentary procedure for new YPS delegates at each Assembly meeting.

d. Assist the Chair in appointing the Convention Committees and instructing the committees regarding their duties prior to each Assembly Meeting.

e. Implement the agenda for the YPS Assembly Meetings.

f. Refer resolutions and reports submitted for consideration at YPS Assembly business meetings to reference committees.

g. Prepare a document summarizing parliamentary procedure used in Assembly business meetings to be published in the YPS agenda book.

h. Review the YPS Digest of Actions for consistency with Assembly action prior to its update and distribution.

Please refer to the YPS Internal Operating Procedures for complete details on the terms and elections related to each specific GC position.
Representatives to the YPS Assembly

Representatives to the YPS Assembly represent the interests of young physicians and are voting members of the YPS Assembly. Representatives to the YPS Assembly are certified (confirmed as representatives to the YPS Assembly) by the state or specialty that is sponsoring them.

AMA Bylaws state that the apportionment for each state and specialty society, or federal service, will be two representatives (and no alternate representatives) for each 1,000 members of the Young Physicians Section who are members of the society or federal service seated in the HOD as recorded by the AMA on December 31 of each year. Societies eligible for more than two representatives to the YPS Assembly will be required to submit evidence to the Section that documents the number of their AMA young physician members.

Representatives to the YPS Assembly meeting may be:

- **State federation members**: Young physician AMA members may be selected as representatives to the YPS Assembly by their state medical society. The state medical society determines the manner in which young physicians may be selected to represent them at the YPS Assembly meeting. Each state has at least two voting positions available for them to fill regardless of the number of young physician AMA members in that state.

- **Members serving in the military or in federal agencies**: Young physician AMA members serving in the United States Armed Forces or other Federal agencies may be selected as representatives to the YPS Assembly by their military branch or federal agency. The branch or agency determines the manner in which the representatives are selected. Each agency has at least two voting positions available for them to fill.

- **National medical specialty organizations**: National medical specialty organizations that have been granted representation in the AMA HOD and have established a young physician membership component may select young physicians as representatives to the YPS Assembly. Each organization has at least two representative positions available for them to fill, regardless of the number of young physician AMA members in the organization.

- **Professional interest medical associations**: Each qualified Professional Interest Medical Association may select at least two young physician representatives to the YPS Assembly.

Only duly selected representatives to the YPS Assembly meeting shall have the right to vote. However, access to the meeting floor and the right to testify shall be open to all young physician members of the AMA.
Assembly Convention Committees

The YPS has several involvement opportunities available for young physicians interested in being active at the Annual and Interim meetings of the YPS Assembly. Convention Committees are vital to the operation of the Assembly.

Reference Committee
The YPS Reference Committee is composed of five young physician representatives, one of whom is appointed the chair. The Reference Committee serves to:

- Deliberate as a group and prepare a report summarizing testimony and making recommendations to the Assembly for action; and
- Respond to questions and explain the rationale behind their recommendations at the report's subsequent presentation to the Assembly.

HOD Handbook Review Committee
The YPS Handbook Review Committee is convened prior to each Annual and Interim YPS Assembly meeting to review the entire HOD Handbook. The committee looks at all resolutions and reports submitted to the HOD, and identifies those issues relevant to the YPS or of timely significance to the profession as a whole. The purpose of highlighting these issues is to allow the YPS Assembly to discuss each item and recommend a position, which then guides the YPS Delegate and Alternate Delegate as they testify in the HOD on the Section’s behalf.

Credentials Committee
The Credentials Committee consists of a chairperson and three members. The Credentials Committee’s major responsibilities are to:

- Credential representatives to the YPS Assembly (ensure the representative’s eligibility to vote) on both mornings of the meeting and immediately prior to elections;
- Verify a quorum is present;
- Serve as tellers when there is a call for division; and
- Distribute and count election ballots.
YPS policy

The chart below shows the typical flow of policy and reports within the YPS and then externally to the HOD. During a typical meeting, the YPS handles business in the form of reports from the GC and resolutions brought by the representative members of the YPS Assembly.

However, any AMA member may introduce a resolution to the YPS Assembly, which is a privilege of membership in the YPS. State or specialty medical associations may introduce resolutions through their sponsored representatives in the YPS Assembly. If a resolution is adopted by the YPS Assembly and the actions require advocacy or other AMA support, it may be forwarded to the HOD for consideration. This is one of the main reasons that the YPS Assembly business is conducted two days prior to the opening of the HOD meeting. The following depicts the structure of the YPS in relation to the AMA.

*The YPS is governed by the [AMA Bylaws](https://www.ama-assn.org) and YPS Internal Operating Procedures.

The YPS Assembly transacts its business according to a set of rules, which are generally pursuant to the principles outlined in *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice Sturgis. No rigid codification of its rules exists. Parliamentary law protects the right to free and fair debate, the right of the majority to decide, and the right of the minority to protest and be protected.

There are two major ways in which business generally is introduced to the YPS Assembly: resolutions and reports. The YPS Assembly is officially opened for business once the quorum count has been presented and met, and the "Rules of Order" have been adopted.
Reference Committee

For the past several years, the YPS has convened a one-day Assembly meeting. This is possible due to the YPS online discussion forum held in advance of the Annual and Interim meetings. The online discussion forum is an online version of a live hearing that enables YPS representatives to comment on items of business prior to the meeting.

The YPS Reference Committee is composed of five representatives to the YPS Assembly, one of whom is appointed the chair. The Reference Committee serves to:

- Deliberate as a group and prepare a report summarizing testimony and making recommendations to the Assembly for action; and
- Respond to questions and explain the rationale behind their recommendations at the report’s subsequent presentation to the Assembly.

After reviewing testimony submitted via the online discussion forum and deliberating by conference call, the YPS Reference Committee drafts its report. The report recommendations correspond to the standard types of Assembly actions. These are defined as follows:

- **Adopt**: Approve report or resolution as action to be implemented through GC and/or transmitted to the House of Delegates for its consideration;
- **File**: Accept report for information only;
- **Refer**: Send report or resolution to GC for further consideration and a report at a later date;
- **Refer for decision**: Delegate to the GC the decision as to what action is appropriate; and
- **Not adopt**: Defeat report or resolution

YPS Assembly Business Meeting

The Reference Committee report is made available to the Assembly. The chair of the Reference Committee presents the report to the Assembly during the business portion of the meeting. The Assembly then votes on the committee’s recommendations. The Assembly may vote to adopt, not adopt, amend, or refer the items of business based on recommendations. Only Assembly representatives may vote during the business portion of the meeting.

Resolutions to the AMA House of Delegates

The YPS Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the HOD officially transmit resolutions from the YPS Assembly to the HOD.
Policy development process

- Resolutions From Assembly Participants
- Reports and resolutions become official business of the Assembly, then placed online for the online discussion forum
- Young physicians provide online testimony
- Reference Committee makes recommendations for action to the Assembly
- AMA Young Physicians Section Assembly Votes on Items of Business
- Adopt
  - Adopt as Amended
  - Resolution submitted to AMA-HOD
- Not adopt
- File
- Refer for decision
  - YPS Governing Council studies and takes appropriate action
- Reports From the YPS Governing Council
- Refer YPS Governing Council studies and reports back to Assembly
What are resolutions?

Resolutions may be introduced by any AMA-YPS member and generally propose policy or action on issues affecting patients, public health, physicians, or the medical profession as a whole. Other resolutions may address changes in the structure or function of the YPS Assembly or the AMA.

A resolution is a main motion in parliamentary procedure, which expresses the Assembly’s formal opinions or sentiments.

YPS resolutions may call on the YPS to take a specific action or position (“Internal resolution”), may call on the AMA to take a specific action or adopt a policy (“External resolution”), or may call for both.

The YPS Handbook, a guide to the upcoming YPS Assembly meeting, is posted on the YPS website prior to each meeting. The Handbook contains, among other things, the resolutions and reports that will be considered by the Assembly.

Learn more about developing and submitting resolutions.

Developing sound policy

Creating or changing policy generally is initiated when an inequity is perceived, a problem is recognized, or a potential problem is identified (e.g., the effects of passive smoking or a decrease in graduate medical education funding). Those who frame resolutions for consideration first find the underlying problem and then identify specific objectives that will resolve the issue.

While experienced Assembly Delegates may find the process of evaluating issues easy, the novice may find it complicated and arduous. Complex though it may be, the process produces sound policy and helps those who frame resolutions to produce a sound defense for their proposals.

Sound policy is formulated by answering yes to the following criteria:

1. Is the proposed matter feasible? (Can it be done?)
2. Is it advisable? (Should it be done?)
3. Is it efficient? (What is the cost-benefit ratio?)

Writing a resolution

A resolution is often prefaced by statements, each introduced by the word “whereas” and known as “WHEREAS” clauses, that state the reasons for the resolution. The statements contained in the “WHEREAS” clauses are of no legal effect, and are used primarily to convey the background of the issue at hand to the Assembly. The “WHEREAS” clauses are useful mainly when the organization plans to publish the resolution and wants the reasons for its adoption included. A “Preamble” paragraph can be substituted for the “WHEREAS” clause. It serves the same purpose, but is less formal.

The “RESOLVED” clause(s) comes at the end of all prefacing statements and is the language that would become policy if adopted by the Assembly. It should be written in a concise and clear manner. “RESOLVED” clauses should be stated in the affirmative, since the negative form is often confusing to the Assembly.
All resolutions must include pertinent references and clearly cite existing AMA policy on the issue or explicitly state that no such policy exists. Current AMA policies can be found in the AMA PolicyFinder, available in the Policy and Advocacy section of the AMA website.

All resolutions must be submitted by the deadline, which is announced well in advance of the meeting. Resolutions submitted after this date will be considered late resolutions and will require written background describing the importance and urgency of the resolution’s concept as well as a convincing reason for the resolution’s late submission.

The proposer may rephrase or withdraw a resolution at any time before the opening of the Assembly meeting. After Assembly business has begun, the proposer may modify a resolution when it is introduced during the business session. When planning to submit resolutions, the author confers with the Speaker, Chair, Delegate, or staff to ensure the resolution is in proper form.

In summary, the following points should be considered when writing a resolution:

- All resolutions must be typed and in proper form to be considered by the YPS Assembly.

- "WHEREAS" clauses or preambles of the resolution should identify a problem or need for action, address its timeliness or urgency and its effects on the YPS, AMA or the public at large. They must also include references and indicate whether the proposed policy or action will alter current AMA or YPS policy.

- Neither "WHEREAS" clauses nor preambles will be voted upon. Instead they offer an explanation and the rationale of the resolution.

- "RESOLVED" clauses are the essential part of the resolution; they should positively state the action or policy called for by the resolution.

- Requests for internal (YPS) action and external (AMA) policy should be stated in separate "RESOLVED" clauses.

- A single issue should be addressed in each resolution. If multiple "RESOLVED" clauses are included in a resolution, each "RESOLVED" clause must be independent, related to the central subject, stated in simple and concise terms, and able to stand on its own after removal of the supporting "WHEREAS" clauses.

- All resolutions must cite existing policy on the topic or note that no relevant policy exists.

- All resolutions must include an estimate of the cost to implement the proposed policy, called a "fiscal note." YPS staff will complete this.

- Samples of past resolutions are available in both the YPS Digest of Actions and the AMA PolicyFinder.

Use the resolution template to document your resolution. The Office of House of Delegates Affairs has prepared a resolution checklist, which may also be helpful, although some elements are specific to House of Delegates meetings rather than the YPS Assembly.
Late resolutions

Late resolutions should be avoided whenever possible. The introduction of timely resolutions allows Assembly members to adequately research background information and AMA policy and prepare testimony either for or against a resolution. In addition, it gives Reference Committee members an opportunity to study background information in order to make an informed recommendation on the disposition of a resolution to the Assembly.

- **Late resolutions** - Resolutions introduced after the pre-imposed deadline for publication in the Handbook (approximately 5 weeks before the meeting) and up until 7 days prior to the Assembly meeting are deemed “late.” They require a two-thirds vote of the Assembly to be debatable on the floor.

- **Emergency resolutions** - Resolutions that are submitted within 7 days of the meeting or after the meeting has been called to order require a three-fourths vote of the Assembly to be debatable on the floor. The Rules Committee then makes a recommendation to the Assembly on whether or not they should be considered for business. Emergency resolutions approved for consideration will be debated on the floor of the Assembly without referral to the Reference Committee.
Parliamentary procedure

The YPS Assembly transacts its business according to a blend of rules imposed by its bylaws, and generally pursuant to the principles outlined in *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice Sturgis. No rigid codification of its rules exists. Parliamentary law ensures free and fair debate, the right of the majority to decide, and the right of the minority to protest and be protected.

### Parliamentary procedure at a glance—Principal motions (listed in order of precedence)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TO DO THIS</th>
<th>YOU SAY THIS</th>
<th>May you interrupt Speaker?</th>
<th>Must you be seconded?</th>
<th>Is the motion debatable?</th>
<th>What vote is required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Adjourn the meeting</td>
<td>&quot;I move the meeting be adjourned&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES (RESTRICTED)</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Recess the meeting</td>
<td>&quot;I move that the meeting be recessed until...&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES**</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complain about noise, room temperature, etc.</td>
<td>&quot;I rise to the question of personal privilege&quot;</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postpone temporarily (Table)</td>
<td>&quot;I move that this motion be tabled&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>MAJORITY (REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS IF IT WOULD SUPPRESS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End debate</td>
<td>&quot;I move to vote immediately&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>TWO-THIRDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Limit debate</td>
<td>&quot;I move that each speaker be limited to a total of two minutes per discussion&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES**</td>
<td>TWO-THIRDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postpone consideration of an item to a certain time</td>
<td>&quot;I move to postpone this item until 2:00pm...&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES**</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Have something referred to committee</td>
<td>&quot;I move this matter be referred to...&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES**</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Amend a motion</td>
<td>&quot;I move to amend this motion by...&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Introduce business (the Main Motion)</td>
<td>&quot;I move that...&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Amend a previous action</td>
<td>&quot;I move to amend the motion that was adopted...&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratify action taken in absence of a quorum or in an emergency</td>
<td>&quot;I move to ratify the action taken by the Council...&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconsider</td>
<td>&quot;I move to reconsider...&quot;</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES**</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescind (a main motion)</td>
<td>&quot;I move to rescind the motion...&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resume consideration of a tabled item</td>
<td>&quot;I move to resume consideration of...?&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Amendable, **Debatable if no other motion is pending
### Parliamentary procedure at a glance

Based on *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice Sturgis

#### Incidental Motions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TO DO THIS</th>
<th>YOU SAY THIS</th>
<th>May you interrupt Speaker?</th>
<th>Must you be seconded?</th>
<th>Is the motion debatable?</th>
<th>What vote is required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vote on a ruling by the Chair</td>
<td>&quot;I appeal the Chair's decision&quot;</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider something out of its scheduled order</td>
<td>&quot;I move to suspend the rules and consider…&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>TWO-THIRDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To discuss an issue without restrictions of parliamentary rules</td>
<td>&quot;I move that we consider informally…&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>MAJORITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To call attention to a violation of the rules or error in procedure, and</td>
<td>&quot;I rise to a point of order&quot;</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to secure a ruling on the question raised</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To ask a question relating to procedure</td>
<td>&quot;I rise to a parliamentary inquiry&quot;</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To allow the maker of a motion to remove the motion from consideration</td>
<td>&quot;I move to withdraw my motion&quot;</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To separate a multi-part question into individual questions for the</td>
<td>&quot;I move division of the question&quot;</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>purpose of voting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To verify an indecisive voice or hand vote by requiring voters to rise</td>
<td>&quot;I move to divide the Assembly&quot;</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and be counted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Amendable, **Debatable if no other motion is pending*
The chief purpose of motions

From *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice Sturgis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
<th>MOTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present an idea for consideration and action</td>
<td>Main motion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consider informally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve a pending motion</td>
<td>Amend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Division of question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulate or cut off debate</td>
<td>Limit or extend debate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Close debate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delay a decision</td>
<td>Refer to committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postpone to a certain time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postpone temporarily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suppress a proposal</td>
<td>Table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Withdraw a motion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet an emergency</td>
<td>Question of privilege</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suspend rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain information on a pending motion</td>
<td>Parliamentary inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Request for information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Request to ask member a question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Question of privilege</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question the decision of the presiding officer</td>
<td>Point of order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appeal from decision of chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforce rights and privileges</td>
<td>Division of assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Division of question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parliamentary inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Point of order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appeal from decision of chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider a question again</td>
<td>Resume consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reconsider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rescind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renew a motion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amend a previous action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ratify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change an action already taken</td>
<td>Reconsider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rescind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amend a previous action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminate a meeting</td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parliamentary strategy

From *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice Sturgis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TO SUPPORT A MOTION</th>
<th>TO OPPOSE A MOTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Second it promptly and enthusiastically.</td>
<td>1. Speak against it as soon as possible. Raise questions; try to put proponents on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Speak in favor of it as soon as possible.</td>
<td>the defensive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Do your homework; know your facts; have handouts, charts, overhead projector</td>
<td>2. Move to amend the motion so as to eliminate objectionable aspects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slides, etc., if appropriate.</td>
<td>3. Move to amend the motion to adversely encumber it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Move to amend motion, if necessary, to make it more acceptable to opponents.</td>
<td>4. Draft a more acceptable version and offer as amendment by substitution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Vote against motion to table or to postpone, unless delay will strengthen your</td>
<td>5. Move to postpone to a subsequent meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>position.</td>
<td>6. Move to refer to committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Move to recess or postpone, if you need time to marshal facts or work behind the</td>
<td>7. Move to table.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scenes.</td>
<td>8. Move to recess, if you need time to round up votes or obtain more facts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. If defeat seems likely, move to refer to committee, if that would improve chances.</td>
<td>9. Question the presence of a quorum, if appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. If defeat seems likely, move to divide question, if appropriate, to gain at least</td>
<td>10. Move to adjourn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a partial victory.</td>
<td>11. On a voice vote, vote emphatically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Have available a copy of the organization's standing rules, its bylaws, and</td>
<td>12. If the motion is adopted, move to reconsider, if you might win a subsequent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. If motion is defeated, move to reconsider, if circumstances warrant it.</td>
<td>13. If the motion is adopted, consider trying to rescind it at a subsequent meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. If motion is defeated, consider reintroducing it at a subsequent meeting.</td>
<td>14. Have available a copy of the organization's standing rules, its bylaws, and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Precedence and rank of motions

The following is the order of precedence in which motions must be proposed, considered, and disposed. Motions are listed from the highest ranking to the lowest ranking.

Pursuant to *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice Sturgis

![Diagram of motion precedence]
Leadership opportunities and resources

A complete description of open leadership opportunities and applications can be found on the AMA website.

Applications are made available on the website for various leadership opportunities usually about a month in advance of deadlines. Applications are considered complete when all materials associated with applying for the position are received by the Section by the posted deadline. The materials usually require (in addition to the application) a statement of interest, CV, and signed statement that you’ve reviewed the AMA Conflict of Interest Policy and Principles. Incomplete applications may not be considered. The process of how these positions are filled varies depending on the position.

Leadership positions and how they are filled

As an AMA member, there are many ways for you to get involved and become a leader.

View a comprehensive listing of all AMA leadership positions.

Appointed by the Board of Trustees

There are several positions in which the AMA Board of Trustees makes the final selection of the appointee. Applications are reviewed by the BOT and a candidate is selected to hold the position.

Council on Legislation (COL)

Appointed by the Board of Trustees and the Speaker of the House of Delegates

Submitted applications are reviewed by the GC. Up to two candidates are then nominated for that position and their applications, along with all others received, are forwarded to the BOT and the Speaker of House to make a final selection.

Council on Long Range Planning and Development (CLRPD)

Elected by the House of Delegates

Applications for these positions may be submitted to the YPS or directly to the BOT Office. Candidates who run for these positions usually apply for the endorsement of the YPS Assembly. Elections are then held in the HOD. AMA Election process and campaign rules must be followed. The positions elected by the HOD include:

AMA Board of Trustees (BOT)
AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws
AMA Council on Medical Education (CME)
AMA Council on Medical Service
AMA Council on Science and Public Health (CSAPH)
Nominated by the President and elected by the House of Delegates

Candidates may be recommended for that position and their applications, along with all others received, are forwarded to the AMA President for nomination. Elections are then held in the HOD.

Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA)

Elected by the governing body

Submitted applications are reviewed by the YPS GC. Up to two candidates are then nominated for that position and forwarded to the corresponding group or Section for inclusion in their elections.

International Medical Graduates Governing Council
Women Physicians Section Governing Council

Appointed by the YPS Governing Council

Applications are submitted to the Section. They are reviewed by the GC who then appoints to the position based on their qualifications to serve.

Minority Affairs Section (MAS) Governing Council
AMA Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Issues
Surgical Caucus Executive Committee

YPS candidate endorsement/nomination processes

The following information on the endorsement/nomination process may be found in the YPS Internal Operating Procedures.

Governing Council rules for endorsing AMA Board of Trustees and elected Council Candidates

The Governing Council will consider endorsements of candidates for AMA Board of Trustees and elected Councils who have been nominated by another organization (e.g., state or specialty society). Preference shall be given to current young physician AMA members, however all AMA members (including non-section members) who have demonstrated a clear history of service to the YPS may be considered at the Governing Council’s discretion.

Only those candidates formally asking for an endorsement will be considered. Candidates must be nominated by a current Assembly member. Candidates must submit a formal request for YPS endorsement, along with their curriculum vitae and a completed questionnaire on current YPS issues. The questionnaire shall be composed and updated as needed by the Governing Council. All applications for endorsement must be submitted by January 31 one year prior to the election for which endorsement is sought. Applications will be reviewed by the Governing Council subsequent to January 31 and decisions will be made on endorsement. Candidates endorsed through this process may include the YPS endorsement on cards and other promotional materials. If no candidates are endorsed, a second opportunity to obtain endorsement will be held in the year of the election. To apply for this endorsement, all application materials must be received by the Governing Council no later than January 31 the year of the election for which endorsement is sought. Applications will be reviewed by the Governing Council subsequent to January 31 and decisions will be made on endorsement in a timely manner.

The Governing Council will consider all qualified candidates formally requesting an endorsement from the YPS, but will endorse no more than the available number of positions on the Council or Board. The YPS Governing Council will submit an informational report on any endorsements to the Assembly at the YPS meeting just prior to the House of Delegates elections. The Governing Council will consider only candidates with the following qualifications:

- Must be an AMA member at the time the endorsement is requested;
- Should be active in organized medicine or involved in community or national medical entities;
- Should have experience related to office sought; and
- Should demonstrate knowledge of and commitment to issues pertinent to the YPS.
Governing Council rules for endorsements of appointed AMA Councils/ Committees/ RRC/AMPAC Board Candidates

The GC will consider endorsements of candidates who have been nominated by another organization (e.g., state or specialty society). Preference will be given to current young physicians. However alumni of the YPS Assembly who have demonstrated a clear history of service to the YPS may be considered at the governing council’s discretion.

Only those candidates formally asking for an endorsement will be considered. Candidates must submit a formal request for endorsement, along with their CV, and the letter of nomination from sponsoring organization to the governing council for decision.

The governing council will give its endorsement to all qualified candidates formally requesting an endorsement from the YPS. The GC will consider candidates with the following experience:

- Must be an AMA member at the time the endorsement is requested;
- Should be active in organized medicine or involved in community or national medical entities;
- Should have experience related to position sought; and
- Should demonstrate knowledge of and commitment to issues pertinent to the YPS.

Depending on the specific position and the number of vacancies, the governing council may consider requests for endorsement as requests are submitted, and will notify candidates of endorsement in a timely manner.

Governing Council rules for nominations for appointed AMA Councils/ Committees/ RRC/AMPAC Board Candidates

The GC may consider nominating a YPS candidate for appointed AMA councils, committees, RRCs and the AMPAC Board. The YPS will consider only individuals who meet the AMA definition of young physician at the time position commences.

Only those candidates formally asking for the YPS nomination will be considered. Candidates must submit a formal request for nomination, CV, letter of support from a Federation organization, and any other required documents for the nomination committee to the governing council for decision.

The GC will consider nominating candidates with the following experience:

- Must be an AMA member and qualify for the YPS (under age 40 or any age if in the first eight years of practice following completion of a residency) at the time position commences;
- Should be active in organized medicine or involved in community or national medical entities;
- Should have experience related to position sought; and
- Should demonstrate knowledge of issues pertinent to the YPS.

Depending on the specific position and the number of vacancies, the governing council may consider requests for endorsement as requests are submitted, and will notify candidates of endorsement in a timely manner.
Leadership development

In addition to the various leadership positions, there are programs, grants and awards which promote young physician leadership development. These include:

- AMA Foundation Seed Grant Research Program
- AMA Foundation Leadership Award
- AMA-WPS Inspirational Physician Award
- Doctors Back to School program

Contact information

For additional questions regarding the information in this handbook, or any other information necessary, email yps@ama-assn.org.