

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

CCB Report 10 -A-26

Subject: AMA Awards

Presented by: Jerry P. Abraham, MD, MPH, Chair

Referred to: Reference Committee on Ethics and Bylaws

1 The House of Delegates (HOD) adopted the recommendation of Board of Trustees Report 34-A-26
2 to amend the American Medical Association (AMA) Bylaws to remove reference to the Citation
3 for Distinguished Service.
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5 As part of its due diligence, the Council examined AMA Bylaws [Section 10, Awards and Honors]
6 and noted reference to only two awards, one of which is the Citation for Distinguished Service that
7 the House voted to discontinue. This and the Distinguished Service Award were originally the
8 purview of a Committee on Distinguished Service Awards, whose existence was acknowledged in
9 earlier bylaws and whose responsibility was to solicit nominations and present nominees to the
10 HOD for decision. This committee was disbanded in 1952 [by House action](#) and its functions
11 transferred to the Board of Trustees.
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13 Per the Board's Standing Rules, the Committee on Awards and Nominations advises the Board
14 regarding awards and nominations and screens or generates proposals for establishing additional
15 awards for recommendation to the Board. The AMA maintains documentation on all award
16 programs, including the names of the specific awards, the criteria for selection, the nomination and
17 selection process, the nature and amount of any prize or recognition, and eligibility requirements.
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19 Traditionally, bylaws contain only a high-level provision authorizing a body to grant awards, with
20 specific details about those awards specified elsewhere. Thus, the Council proposes that the AMA
21 Bylaws eliminate references to specific awards and provide enabling language under the Board's
22 duties and privileges. Appropriate bylaw language is included for House action. The Council
23 emphasizes that historical data on all Awards is maintained in the Board Office and in the AMA
24 Archives.
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26 RECOMMENDATIONS

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28 The Council on Constitution and Bylaws recommends that the following Bylaws amendments and
29 deletions be adopted, and that the remainder of the report be filed. Adoption requires the
30 affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the House of Delegates present and voting
31 following a one-day layover.
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33 1) That the following Bylaw language be amended by deletion (shown in red):
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35 ~~10—Awards and Honors~~

36 ~~10.1—Distinguished Service Award.~~
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~~10.1.1 Award. This award shall consist of a suitable medal and a citation selected and approved by the Board of Trustees.~~

~~10.1.2 Eligibility. This award may be made to a member of the AMA for meritorious services in the science and art of medicine.~~

~~10.1.3 Nominations and Selection. Names of prospective nominees, with a brief statement of their qualifications for the award, shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees by the date designated by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall select the recipient from the nominees submitted.~~

~~10.1.4 Endorsement. The name of the nominee selected by the Board of Trustees to receive the Distinguished Service Award shall be presented to the House of Delegates for its endorsement.~~

~~10.1.5 Presentation. The award shall be presented to the recipient selected by the Board of Trustees at a time and place designated by the Board of Trustees.~~

~~10.2 Citation for Distinguished Service.~~

~~10.2.1 Citation. This citation shall consist of a suitable certificate of citation selected and approved by the Board of Trustees.~~

~~10.2.2 Eligibility. This citation shall be made to a person who is not a physician and who has contributed to the achievement of the ideals of American medicine by aid and cooperation in advancing medical science, medical education, or medical care.~~

~~10.2.3 Nominations and Selection. Names of prospective nominees, with a brief statement of their qualifications for the citation, shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees by the date designated by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall select the recipient from the nominees submitted.~~

~~10.2.4 Endorsement. The name of the nominee selected by the Board of Trustees to receive the Citation for Distinguished Service shall be presented to the House of Delegates for its endorsement.~~

~~10.2.5 Presentation. The citation shall be presented to the recipient selected by the Board of Trustees at a time and place designated by the Board of Trustees.~~

[Subsequent sections to be renumbered accordingly]

- 2) That the following Bylaw amendments (shown in red and amended by insertion or deletion) be adopted:

5.3 Duties and Privileges. In addition to the rights and duties conferred or imposed upon the Board of Trustees by law and custom and elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws, the Board of Trustees shall:

5.3.1 Management. ***

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5.3.2 Planning. ***

5.3.3 Fulfillment of House of Delegates Charge. ***

5.3.4 Publication. ****

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**5.3.5 ~~Other Awards and Honors.~~ ~~Any other A~~wards and honors conferred by the
AMA shall be as authorized and approved by the Board of Trustees or House
of Delegates.**

[Subsequent sections to be renumbered accordingly]

(Modify Bylaws)