

OEMA Constitution and ByLaws Committee  
December 18, 2023

Committee Meeting on Proposed ByLaws Amendments for 2024 Annual Meeting

## Changes to Types of Members

*Submitted by Debi Wagner, Midwest City*

**Summary:** Changes would eliminate both “Affiliate” and “Corporate” members, combining those with “Member”. Eligibility to be a “Member” would be extended to “Any person interested in furthering the profession of Emergency Management in the State of Oklahoma, whose dues for the current year have been paid...”. If approved, the Association would be composed of “Members”, “Honorary Members”, and “Lifetime Members”. Note that the submitted wording also changes “Life Member” to “Lifetime Member”.

Specific wording:

### ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

#### Section I: Member

Membership in the OEMA shall be extended to any person interested in furthering the profession of Emergency Management in the State of Oklahoma, whose dues for the current year have been paid in accordance with Article 6, Section I. ~~representatives of governmental entities within the territorial limits of the State of Oklahoma, who are actively engaged in an Emergency Management or Civil Defense Agency of an affiliated public safety or public health agency, and whose dues for the current year have been paid in accordance with Article 6, Section I.~~

Membership is for a period of one (1) year.

#### Section II: Affiliate Member

~~“Affiliate” membership shall be accorded to persons interested in furthering Emergency Management and Civil Defense Programs within the State of Oklahoma, but do not meet the requirements for Member in Section I above, and whose dues for the current year have been paid in accordance with Article 6, Section I. Affiliate membership will be for a period of one (1) year.~~

#### Section III: Honorary Member

“Honorary” membership shall be accorded by majority vote of the Executive Board for outstanding contributions to the advancement of Emergency Management and Civil Defense. Honorary Membership will be for a period of one (1) year, unless otherwise specified by the Executive Board.

#### Section IV: Lifetime Member

Lifetime membership shall be accorded each Member who has been continuously, for fifteen (15) years or more, a designated representative of a member governmental entity as set forth in Article 4, Section I, and provided that the Member is no longer ~~associated with a governmental entity employed~~ in a capacity which would make them eligible for other membership.

### Section V: Corporate Membership

~~Businesses, corporations or other business-related groups wishing to directly support the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association through association membership are offered "Corporate Membership" for their organization. Corporate Membership shall include four (4) individual membership positions specifically identified within the named organization, with additional individual memberships available at an additional cost. Corporate Membership is for one year and does not allow individual membership voting rights in any election or business matter of the OEMA. Individual memberships listed under Corporate Membership are nontransferable.~~

### Section VI: Transfer of Membership

Should a member's emergency management duties, responsibilities or assignment change and another person be assigned in their place, membership may be transferred to the incoming person for the remainder of the one-year membership period. A written request for membership transfer shall be provided to the Executive Board on letterhead from the involved governmental agency, office or department, documenting the change in duties, position or assignment.

### Section VII: Member in Good Standing

An OEMA Member, ~~Affiliate Member~~, Honorary Member, or Lifetime Member ~~or Corporate Member~~ as described in this Article and who consistently displays a professional commitment to the OEMA by supporting the OEMA goals, objectives, activities and the OEMA Constitution and Bylaws, and further supports and routinely practices the OEMA Code of Ethics, and is current in their dues payment (as applicable), shall be considered a "Member in Good Standing. The Nomination and Credentialing Committee shall determine if the member is in good standing.

## ARTICLE 5: CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Section II: Voting: Strike the paragraph, "With the exception of Corporate Members, all Members in good standing may vote on all issues presented to the general membership."

## ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP FEES

### Section I: Annual Dues

The dues period for the OEMA will run from 1 January until 31 December. The dues amount shall be determined by simple majority vote of the members ~~(not including Corporate Members)~~ at the Annual Meeting. Members who have not paid the annual dues, or submitted a purchase order by the end of the day preceding the Annual Business Meeting of the Association shall be considered to not be in good standing, and therefore have discontinued their membership. ~~Membership types required to pay annual dues include "Member," "Affiliate Member," and "Corporate Member."~~

### Section II: Lifetime Members

Lifetime Members shall not be required to pay a fee for their Lifetime Membership but shall have full voting rights.

### Section III: Honorary Members

Honorary Members shall not be required to pay a fee for their one (1) year Honorary Membership and shall have full voting rights.

## **Allow Electronic Voting**

*Submitted by Debi Wagner, Midwest City*

Add paragraph amending Article 5: Conduct of Business / Section II: Voting to state,  
"Voting may be conducted electronically when possible."

(Committee note: We believe that with the current ByLaws being silent on how votes are conducted (paper ballot, voice, show of hands, etc.) that this is moot.)

*(Update after Committee meeting: Kitch visited with Ms. Wagner; she concurs that this should stay silent. Will not be presented to membership.)*

## **Eliminate Potential for Secretary and Treasurer Positions to be Combined**

*Submitted by Debi Wagner, Midwest City*

Strike note in Article 7: Officers / Section I: Designation of Officers, as well as in Section III: Method of Selection, that states:

" \* The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined."

## **Wording Change for Lifetime Membership**

*Submitted by Gayland Kitch, Parliamentarian*

Change entire paragraph of Article 4: Membership / Section IV: Lifetime Member to read:  
"Lifetime membership shall be accorded to each person who has been a Member for at least 15 continuous years and is no longer eligible for membership as provided for in Article 4 Section 1: Member."

*(Kitch note: Cleans up clunky wording.)*

## **Determination of Membership Fees**

*Submitted by ByLaws Committee*

The current ByLaws in Article 6: Membership Fees/Section I: Annual Dues read:  
"The dues amount shall be determined by simple majority vote of the members..."

Proposal changes this to read:

"The dues amount shall be determined by the Executive Board."

## **Membership Period End**

*Submitted by ByLaws Committee*

The current ByLaws in Article 6: Membership Fees/Section I: Annual Dues read:

“Members who have not paid the annual dues, or submitted a purchase order by the end of the day preceding the Annual Business Meeting of the Association shall be considered to not be in good standing, and therefore have discontinued their membership.

Proposal strikes “the end of the day preceding”, so to read:

“Members who have not paid the annual dues, or submitted a purchase order by the Annual Business Meeting of the Association shall be considered to not be in good standing, and therefore have discontinued their membership.”

(Kitch note: Discussion in the Committee centered this around voting at the Annual Meeting. However further thought after the meeting wonders if this isn't simply a declaration of when membership is terminated if dues aren't paid.)

## **“Fall” vs. “Annual” Conference**

*Submitted by ByLaws Committee*

The current ByLaws in Article 7: Officers/Section IV: Nomination of Officers read in part:

“It shall be their responsibility to accept and to solicit applications so as to present a list of qualified candidates to the members present for election of said officers at the Fall Conference. “

Proposal changes this to read:

“It shall be their responsibility to accept and to solicit applications so as to present a list of qualified candidates to the members present for election of said officers at the Annual Conference.”

## **Renumbering as Needed**

*Submitted by ByLaws Committee*

If any changes are approved, approval of a motion to renumber the Table of Contents and any Sections as appropriate will be needed.