

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE KENTUCKY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

(Revised September 2022)

## CONSTITUTION

Article I.	Name of the Association
Article II.	Purpose of the Association
Article III.	Component Societies
Article IV.	Composition and Meetings of the Association
Article V.	Officers
Article VI.	House of Delegates
Article VII.	Districts, Sections and District Societies
Article VIII.	Board of Trustees
Article IX.	Funds and Expenses
Article X.	Referendum
Article XI.	The Seal
Article XII.	Amendments
Article XIII.	Definitions

### Article I. Name of Association

The name and title of this organization shall be the Kentucky Medical Association.

### Article II. Purpose of the Association

The purpose of the Association shall be to federate and bring into compact organization the entire medical profession of the State of Kentucky and to unite with similar associations in other states to form the American Medical Association, with a view to the extension of medical knowledge; the advancement of medical science and charity; the evaluation of the standards of medical education; the enactment and enforcement of just medical laws; the promotion of friendly intercourse among physicians and the guarding and fostering of their material interests; the protection of the members thereof against unjust assaults upon their professional care, skill or integrity; and to the enlightenment and direction of public opinion in regard to the great problems of state medicine so that the profession shall become more capable and honorable within itself and more useful to the public in the prevention and cure of disease and in prolonging and adding comfort to life.

### Article III. Component Societies

Component societies shall consist of those medical societies which hold charters from this Association.

### Article IV. Composition and Meetings of the Association

The Association shall consist of the members of the component societies, but the House of Delegates shall have authority to adopt such bylaws regulating the admission and classification of members as it may deem advisable. The Association shall hold an Annual Meeting and such Special Meetings as may be called pursuant to the bylaws.

### Article V. Officers

**Section 1.** The officers of this Association shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Speaker and Vice-Speaker of the House of Delegates, a Trustee and an Alternate Trustee from each district that may be established; and such other officers as may be provided for in the Bylaws.

**Section 2.** The eligibility, duties and terms of office of all officers of the Association shall be as prescribed in the Bylaws.

**Section 3.** All officers shall serve until their successors have been elected and installed.

**Section 4.** All officers shall be elected by the House of Delegates at its Regular Session and shall take office on the last day of the Annual Meeting.

### Article VI. House of Delegates

**Section 1.** The House of Delegates shall be the legislative body of the Association and shall have power, by a two-thirds vote of all the Delegates present at that session, to adopt bylaws to carry out the provisions of this Constitution and to provide for the government of the Association in any other manner not inconsistent with this Constitution. It shall meet in Regular Session, annually during the Annual Meeting of the Association, and may be called into Special Session under such conditions as may be prescribed in the bylaws.

**Section 2.** Delegates shall be members of and elected by component county societies in such a manner as may be provided in the Bylaws. The following members shall be designated as ex-officio members of the House of Delegates of the Kentucky Medical Association and entitled to vote: Officers of the Association, Delegates and Alternate Delegates of the American Medical Association, and five immediate Past Presidents; the Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine; the Dean of the University of Louisville School of Medicine; the Dean of the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine; a representative of the Resident and Fellows Section of the Kentucky Medical Association; a student representative of each medical school of Kentucky; and a representative of the Organized Medical Staff Section of the Kentucky Medical Association. All other Past Presidents and Vice-Presidents and Past Chairmen of the Board of Trustees shall be ex-officio members of the House. They shall have the right to

speak and debate on the floor of the House but shall not have the right to make a motion, introduce business or an amendment, or vote.

**Section 3.** The House of Delegates shall elect a Speaker and a Vice-Speaker, one of whom shall preside during the meetings of the House of Delegates. The presiding officer shall not be entitled to a vote except in the event of a tie.

**Section 4.** The House of Delegates shall be the final judge as to the qualification of its members.

### Article VII. Districts, Sections and District Societies

The House of Delegates shall divide the state into Districts composed of one or more counties, for administrative purposes. It may also provide for a division of the scientific work of the Association into appropriate Sections, and for the organization of such District Societies, composed exclusively of members of component societies, as will promote the best interests of the profession.

### Article VIII. Board of Trustees

The House of Delegates shall make provision in the bylaws for a Board of Trustees composed of one Trustee from each District and such of the other officers of the Association as the House may deem appropriate, which shall be charged with the general direction of the Association's affairs during the interim between meetings of the House. The House may delegate such powers to the Board of Trustees as are not specifically required by this Constitution to be exercised by the House, and may limit the Board's powers to such extent as it may determine to be necessary or desirable, provided, however, that in no event shall the Board of Trustees have power to commit the Association to any course of action which is contrary to or at variance with any policy established by the House of Delegates.

### Article IX. Funds and Expenses

The House of Delegates shall provide funds for meeting the expenses of the Association by such methods and from such sources as it may select. Funds may be appropriated by the House of Delegates to defray the expenses of the annual session, for publications, and for such other purposes as will promote the welfare of the Association and the profession.

### Article X. Referendum

The membership of the Association, by written petition signed by not less than 10% of the active membership, may obtain a referendum on any question pending before the House of Delegates. The Secretary-Treasurer, upon the presentation of such a petition to him shall cause the question to be submitted to the active membership by mail, and if a majority of the active members shall signify its approval or disapproval of a certain policy or course of action with respect to the question thus submitted, the will of the majority shall determine the question and shall be binding upon the House of Delegates and the Association upon certification of the result of the vote by the Secretary-Treasurer to the President and Board of Trustees.

### Article XI. The Seal

The Association shall have a common Seal with power to break, change or renew the same at pleasure.

### Article XII. Amendments

The House of Delegates may amend any article of this Constitution by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates registered at the Regular Session, provided that such amendment shall have been presented in open meeting at the previous regular session, and that it shall have been sent officially to each component county society at least two months before the session at which final action is to be taken.

### Article XIII. Definitions

Whenever used in this Constitution, the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws—

(a) "County society," "component county society," or "component medical society" means "component society."

(b) "Annual Meeting" means the annual 3-day meeting of the Association.

(c) "Scientific Sessions" mean those sessions during the Annual Meeting at which scientific subjects are programmed and discussed.

(d) "Regular Session" means the regular session of the House of Delegates which is held during the Annual Meeting.

(e) "Special Session" means a special, called meeting or session of the House of Delegates.

## BYLAWS

Chapter I.	Membership
Chapter II.	Annual and Special Meetings of the Association
Chapter III.	The House of Delegates
Chapter IV.	Election of Officers
Chapter V.	Duties of Officers
Chapter VI.	Board of Trustees
Chapter VII.	Standing Committees and Councils
Chapter VIII.	Assessments and Expenditures
Chapter IX.	Rules of Conduct

Chapter X.	Rules of Order
Chapter XI.	County Societies
Chapter XII.	Amendments

## CHAPTER 1. MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** Membership in this Association shall be coterminous with membership in a component county society. No physician shall be eligible for membership in this Association unless they are a member, in good standing of a component society, nor may they maintain membership in a component county society unless they are a member, in good standing of this Association.

When a physician who meets the qualifications hereinafter set forth, is certified to the Secretary-Treasurer as a member in good standing of a component society, properly classified as to type of membership, and when the dues pertaining to their membership classification have been received by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, the name of the member shall be included in the official roster of the Association and they shall be entitled to all the privileges of their class of membership. Provided, however, that members in good standing from other state societies may, if admitted to membership by a component society, be accepted by KMA for membership without paying dues for the remainder of the calendar year in which the transfer is made. Provided further, that the Board of Trustees shall have power, upon written application, approved annually by the county society of which the applicant is a member, to excuse any member from the payment of dues because of financial hardship.

**Section 2.** Membership in the Association shall be divided into nine classes, to wit: Active, Life, In-Training, Associate, Inactive, Student, Service, Honorary and Special.

(a) Active Members. The active membership of the Association shall consist of the active members of the various component medical societies. To be eligible for active membership in any component society, the applicant must be a physician who holds an active or limited license to practice medicine and surgery in this state, or a military physician who holds an active license in any US state or territory and who is posted or stationed in a military facility within the Commonwealth (to include Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, Fort Campbell, Kentucky) and who is of good moral, ethical and professional standing. Nothing contained herein shall prevent a component society from requiring new members to occupy provisional status for a reasonable time after their admittance to membership under any classification.

(b) Life Members. Component societies may elect as a life member any doctor of medicine or osteopathy who has served their profession with distinction and who has reached the age of 70 and has retired from active practice. Further, any member who has 25 years of continuous membership in a state medical society affiliated with the American Medical Association, who has reached the age of 65 and is fully retired, also may be elected as a life member. However, any member who had qualified as a life member at the time of the adoption of this amendment, September 26, 1990, shall continue to qualify as a life member. Life members shall have the right to vote and be entitled to the benefits of Chapter VI, Section 8, of these Bylaws, but shall not pay dues. They shall receive *The Journal* and other publications of the Association.

(c) Resident and Fellows Section. Doctors of medicine or osteopathy who have complied with all pertinent regulations of the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure and who are serving in AMA approved training programs in Kentucky shall be eligible for membership in the Resident and Fellows Section of the Kentucky Medical Association. The Resident and Fellows Section shall be governed by its own Constitution and Bylaws, which shall not be in conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws and Board policies of the parent Kentucky Medical Association. Should any questions arise regarding the existence of a conflict, the KMA Board of Trustees shall be the final arbiter of such questions. In-Training members in good standing shall have the right to vote and receive all publications of the Association. In-Training members shall not be counted in determining the number of Delegates to which their county society is entitled in the House of Delegates. The Resident and Fellows Section will be represented in the KMA House of Delegates by one voting representative elected by the Governing Council of the Resident and Fellows Section. The KMA Resident and Fellows Section President, elected by the Governing Council of the KMA Resident and Fellows Section, will represent the Section as a voting member of the KMA Board of Trustees.

(d) Associate Members. The associate membership of the Association shall consist of the associate members of the various component medical societies. To be eligible for associate membership in any component society, the applicant must qualify under one or more of the following groups:

(1) Medical officers of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Veterans Administration, Public Health Service, or other federal governmental service while on duty in the State, but shall not be deemed to include physicians employed on a full-time basis by the Veterans Administration.

(2) Dentists may be invited to become Associate members.

(3) Physicians residing and/or practicing in communities bordering Kentucky who are active members of their home state and county society and who wish to become members of KMA on an other than active basis may become Associate Members.

Associate members shall not have the right to vote nor to hold office, but shall receive *The Journal* and other publications of the Association.

(e) Inactive Members. The inactive membership of the Association shall consist of the inactive members of the various component county societies. Any doctor of medicine licensed to practice medicine in Kentucky who is not engaged in the practice of medicine but who is otherwise eligible for active membership in the

Association may be admitted to inactive membership by any component county society. Inactive members shall not have the right to vote nor hold office, but shall receive *The Journal* and other publications of the Association.

(f) Student Members. Any student in an accredited medical school in Kentucky or any resident of Kentucky who is a student in an accredited medical school in the United States shall be eligible for membership in the Medical Student Section of the Kentucky Medical Association. This Medical Student Section shall be governed by its own Constitution and Bylaws, which Constitution and Bylaws shall not be in conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws and Board policies of the parent Kentucky Medical Association. Should any questions arise regarding the existence of a conflict, the KMA Board of Trustees shall be the final arbiter of such questions. Membership shall be coincident with the academic enrollment of the student. Student members may hold office within the Student Section in accord with the provisions of that Section's Constitution and Bylaws. The Student Section will be represented in the KMA House of Delegates through one voting representative each from the University of Louisville School of Medicine, the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, the University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, and any four-year regional campus of said schools with a minimum of 80 (eighty) students across the 4 (four) years. The KMA Medical Student Section President, elected by the Governing Council of the KMA Medical Student Section, will represent the Section as a voting member of the KMA Board of Trustees.

(g) Service Members. Members of the Association in good standing who enter military service and are ineligible for Associate membership shall be classified as service members. Service Members shall not be required to pay dues. If a member in good standing enters service prior to March 1 and has paid their dues for that year, they shall receive all publications and other benefits applicable to their class of membership in the Association and shall owe no further dues until January 1 following their release. If a member in good standing enters service prior to March 1 without paying their dues for that year, they shall receive publications and other benefits but shall owe the dues applicable to their class of membership immediately following their release from active duty. Members whose dues have not been received by March 1 are not in good standing.

(h) Honorary Members. Any physician possessed of scientific attainments who is a member of a constituent state medical association and who has participated in the program of the scientific session and who is not a citizen of Kentucky may by unanimous vote of the House of Delegates be elected to honorary membership. Honorary members shall be entitled to the privileges of the floor in all scientific sessions.

(i) Special Members. Component societies may invite pharmacists, funeral directors, or other professional persons to become special members. Special members shall have no rights or obligations under these Bylaws, but may be accorded the privilege of attending and participating in the scientific meetings of the society, provided, however, that a registration fee may be required of special members who desire to attend the Annual Meeting of the Association.

**Section 3.** Hospital Medical Staff Section. There shall be a special section for hospital medical staff physicians who already hold membership in KMA. The Hospital Medical Staff Section (HMSS) shall be governed by its own Constitution and Bylaws, which Constitution and Bylaws shall not be in conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws and Board policies of the parent Kentucky Medical Association. Should any questions arise regarding the existence of a conflict, the KMA Board of Trustees shall be the final arbiter of such questions. The Hospital Medical Staff Section shall elect a Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the KMA House of Delegates. The Delegate to the KMA House of Delegates, or their Alternate as the case may be, shall be a voting member of the House and may present Resolutions on behalf of the HMSS.

**Section 4.** Guests of Honor. Any distinguished physician not a resident of this State may become a guest of honor during any Annual Meeting upon invitation of the Board of Trustees and shall be accorded the privilege of participating in all of the scientific work of that meeting.

## CHAPTER II. ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

**Section 1.** The Association shall hold its annual and special meetings at such times and places as may be determined by the House of Delegates.

**Section 2.** The Annual Meeting shall consist of one or more education sessions, at least one meeting of the House of Delegates, and such other gatherings as may be authorized by the Board of Trustees. Each education session shall be presided over by the President or in their absence or disability or at their request by the President-Elect or such officers as the Board of Trustees may direct.

**Section 3.** The name of a physician upon the properly certified roster of members or list of Delegates of a component society which has paid its annual assessment, shall be prima facie evidence of their right to register at any meeting of this Association.

**Section 4.** Each member in attendance at any meeting shall register indicating the component society of which they are a member. When their right to membership has been verified by reference to the roster of the society, they shall receive the appropriate credentials to participate which shall be evidence of their right to all privileges of membership at that meeting. No member or delegate shall take part in any of the proceedings of any meeting until they have complied with the provisions of this section.

## CHAPTER III. THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

**Section 1.** The House of Delegates shall meet in Regular Session at the time and place of the Annual Meeting, and shall, insofar as is practicable, fix its hours of meeting so as to give Delegates an opportunity to attend the education sessions and

other proceedings. Provided, however, that if the business interests of the Association and profession require, the Speaker, with the consent of the Board of Trustees, may convene the Regular Session in advance of the Annual Meeting, and the House may remain in session after the final adjournment thereof.

**Section 2.** The House may be called into Special Session by the President with the approval of the Board of Trustees, and a special session shall be called by the President on the written request of fifty duly elected Delegates of the Association. The purpose of all special sessions shall be stated in the call, and all business transacted at any such special session shall be germane to the stated purpose.

**Section 3.** When a special session is called, the Secretary-Treasurer shall provide the appropriate notice of the time, place, and purpose of such meeting to the last known address of each delegate at least ten days before such session.

**Section 4.** The Speaker shall, by virtue of their office, be responsible for making all arrangements for all sessions, regular or special, of the House.

**Section 5.** The members of the House of Delegates shall be elected by the various component societies in the manner prescribed in Chapter XII of these Bylaws.

**Section 6.** In the event a component society is not represented at any meeting of the House, the Speaker shall consult with any officer of the component society who is in attendance and, with the approval of the Credentials Committee, may appoint an active member of such component society who is in attendance, as its alternate delegate. If no officer of such society is present, the Speaker may make the appointment without consultation, but with the approval of the Credentials Committee. All such appointments shall also be subject to the approval of the House.

**Section 7.** Forty percent of the qualified Delegates, as defined by Article VI of the Constitution, shall constitute a quorum and all of the meetings of the House shall be open to the members of the Association. The House shall have the right to go into executive session whenever in its judgment such action is indicated; except that active members of the Association shall have the right to attend all executive sessions.

**Section 8.** Each Resolution introduced into the House shall be in writing and signed by the author and presented to the Secretary-Treasurer following its introduction. If the author presenting the Resolution presents it as an individual member of the Kentucky Medical Association, the Resolution shall be signed by him. If the author be a group of members or component society, the Resolution shall be signed by the authorized spokesman for that group. Prior to the meeting of the regular session of the House of Delegates, it shall be referred to the proper Reference Committee before action thereon is taken.

**Section 9.** No Resolution shall be introduced at the regular session of the House of Delegates by any member or group of members other than the Board of Trustees unless a copy thereof was furnished to the Headquarters Office at least thirty days prior to its introduction. Resolutions furnished after the deadline will be considered as new business at the regular session of the House of Delegates and must include a showing that the issue addressed by the Resolution either did not exist or was unknowable until after the deadline. New business shall be introduced in the House only by unanimous consent, except when presented by the Board of Trustees. All new business so presented shall require the affirmative vote of three-fourths of those Delegates present and voting, for adoption.

**Section 10.** The House shall give diligent attention to and foster the scientific work and spirit of the Association, and shall constantly study and strive to make each Annual Meeting a stepping stone to further ones of higher interest.

**Section 11.** It shall consider and advise as to the material interests of the profession, and of the public, in those important matters wherein the public is dependent upon the profession, and shall use its influence to secure and enforce all proper medical and public health legislation, and to diffuse information in relation thereto.

**Section 12.** It shall make careful inquiry into the condition of the profession of each county in the State, and shall have authority to adopt such methods as may be deemed most efficient for building up and increasing the interest in such county societies as already exist and for organizing the profession in counties where societies do not exist. It shall especially and systematically endeavor to promote friendly intercourse between physicians of the same locality and shall continue these efforts until every physician in every county of the State who will agree to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws and other rules and regulations of the Association and the appropriate component society, has been brought under medical society influence.

**Section 13.** It shall encourage postgraduate work in medical centers as well as home study and research and shall endeavor to have the results of the same utilized and intelligently discussed in the county societies.

**Section 14.** It shall elect representatives to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of that body.

**Section 15.** It shall, upon application, provide and issue charters to county societies organized in conformity with the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association.

**Section 16.** The state shall be divided into the following districts:

No. 1 — Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, McCracken, and Marshall.

No. 2 — Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster.

No. 3 — Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Hopkins, Lyon, Muhlenberg, Todd, and Trigg.

No. 4 — Breckinridge, Bullitt, Grayson, Green, Hardin, Hart, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Taylor, and Washington.

No. 5 — Jefferson.

No. 6 — Adair, Allen, Barren, Butler, Cumberland, Edmonson, Logan, Metcalf, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren.

No. 7 — Anderson, Carroll, Franklin, Gallatin, Grant, Henry, Oldham, Owen, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble.

No. 8 — Boone, Campbell, and Kenton.

No. 9 — Bath, Bourbon, Bracken, Fleming, Harrison, Mason, Nicholas, Pendleton, Scott, and Robertson.

No. 10 — Fayette, Jessamine, and Woodford.

No. 11 — Clark, Estill, Jackson, Lee, Madison, Menifee, Montgomery, Owsley, Powell, and Wolfe.

No. 12 — Boyle, Casey, Clinton, Garrard, Lincoln, McCreary, Mercer, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, and Wayne.

No. 13 — Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Morgan, and Rowan.

No. 14 — Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Perry, and Pike.

No. 15 — Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, Laurel, Leslie, and Whitley.

District meetings may be held as desired, and District Medical Associations may be organized as desired, according to the districts outlined above.

**Section 17.** It shall have authority to appoint committees for special purposes from among members of the Association who are not members of the House of Delegates and such committees may report to the House of Delegates in person, and may participate in the debate thereon.

**Section 18.** It shall approve all Memorials and Resolutions issued in the name of the Association before the same shall become effective, except as provided in Chapter VI, Section 4, and except for the selection of the recipient of the Kentucky Medical Association Award (Outstanding Layman), Distinguished Service Award (Outstanding Physician), and Community Service Award (Outstanding Physician), which selections shall be made by the KMA Awards Committee, and except for up to two Outstanding Advocacy Awards, which selections shall be made by the KMA Board of Trustees.

**Section 19.** A digest of proceedings of the House of Delegates shall be published and distributed to the membership annually.

#### CHAPTER IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DELEGATES TO THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**Section 1.** The President-Elect and the Vice President shall be elected from the state at large for a term of one year, the President-Elect succeeding to the presidency at the expiration of their term as President-Elect. A majority vote of those attending and voting shall be required for the election of the President-Elect and the Vice President and on any ballot where a majority is not obtained, the candidate with the least votes shall be dropped and further balloting held until such time as one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. Delegates to the AMA and their alternates shall be elected from the state at large for terms of two years with the provision that no more than one delegate and no more than one alternate delegate shall be elected from one component society except in the instance that a member of the Kentucky delegation is elected to the office of Speaker or Vice-Speaker of the American Medical Association House of Delegates, in which case, no more than two delegates and two alternate delegates shall be elected from any component society. All delegate and alternate terms shall be coterminous; all positions shall expire at the same time and all candidates must run for office at the same time every two years. The Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Vice-Speaker and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for terms of three years. Trustees and their Alternates shall be elected for terms of three years and Trustees shall be limited to serving for not more than two consecutive full terms. The terms of the Trustees and their Alternates shall coincide and be so arranged that one-third of the terms expire each year, insofar as possible, provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall preclude an Alternate Trustee from serving two full terms as a Trustee. No member shall be eligible for the office of President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Speaker or Vice-Speaker of the House of Delegates, Trustee or Alternate Trustee who has not been an active member of the Association for at least three years. Representatives of the KMA Resident and Fellows Section and the KMA Medical Student Section to the KMA Board of Trustees shall be elected for a term of one year.

**Section 2.** The Immediate Past President shall serve as the Nominating Review Authority to verify the eligibility and willingness to serve of each candidate nominated. Should the Immediate Past President be nominated for an elected office or is not available to serve as the Nominating Review Authority, the Speaker shall appoint another KMA officer who is not nominated for an elected office that year to serve as the Nominating Review Authority. The Nominating Review Authority shall accept and post for information all eligible and willing candidates proposed for offices elected from the state at large on the day prior to the start of the House of Delegates and shall formally present said nomination, or nominations, to the House at the time of the election. Additional nominations may be made from the floor by submitting the nominations without discussion or comment.

**Section 3.** The election of officers and Delegates to the AMA and their alternates shall be held at the meeting of the regular session of the House of Delegates.

**Section 4.** All elections shall be by secret ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect, provided, however, that when there are more than two nominees, the nominee receiving the least number of votes on the first ballot shall be dropped and the balloting shall continue in like manner until an election occurs.

**Section 5.** Any member may make known their availability for any office within the Association. However, it would be regarded as unseemly for any member to actively campaign for their own election.

## CHAPTER V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS OTHER THAN TRUSTEES AND ALTERNATES

**Section 1.** Except as provided in Chapter II, Section 2 hereof, the President shall preside at all scientific sessions of the Association and shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for. They shall deliver an annual address at such time as may be arranged and shall perform such duties as custom and parliamentary usage may require. They shall be the real head of the profession in the State during their term of office and so far as practicable, shall visit or cause to be visited on their behalf, the various sections of the State and assist the Trustees in building up the county societies and in making their work more practical and useful. They shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary travel expense incurred in the performance of their duties as President.

**Section 2.** The President-Elect shall assist the President in visitation of county and other meetings. They shall become president of the Association at the next Annual Meeting following their election as president-elect. In the event of their death or resignation, or if they become permanently disqualified or disabled, their successor shall be elected by the House of Delegates and shall be installed as President of the Association at its next regular session.

**Section 3.** The Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of their duties, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall succeed to the office of the President.

**Section 4.** The President-Elect and the Vice-President, when acting for and in behalf of the President, may be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in such amounts as may be available out of the sum appropriated in the annual budget for traveling expenses.

**Section 5.** The Speaker of the House shall preside at all meetings of the House of Delegates. They shall appoint all committees of the House of Delegates with the approval of the House of Delegates. They shall be a nonvoting member of said committees, and shall perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage may require.

**Section 6.** The Vice Speaker shall assume the duties of the Speaker in their absence and shall assist the Speaker in the performance of their duties. In the event of the death, disability, resignation, or removal of the Speaker, the Vice Speaker shall automatically become Speaker of the House of Delegates.

**Section 7.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall advise the Executive Vice President in all administrative matters of this Association and shall act as the corporate secretary insofar as the execution of official documents or institution of official actions are required. They shall perform such duties as are placed upon them by the Constitution and Bylaws, and as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees. The Secretary-Treasurer shall demand and receive all funds due the Association, including bequests and donations. They shall, if so directed by the House of Delegates, sell or lease any real estate belonging to the Association and execute the necessary papers and shall, subject to such direction, have the care and management of the fiscal affairs of the Association. All vouchers of the Association shall be signed by the Executive Vice President or their designee and shall be countersigned by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. If the Secretary-Treasurer is unavailable to sign vouchers, the President shall perform that function. The Secretary-Treasurer shall report the operations of their office annually to the House of Delegates, via the Board of Trustees, and shall truly and accurately account for all funds belonging to the Association and coming into their hands during the year. Their accounts shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant appointed by the Board of Trustees. The Association's annual audit shall be made available to the membership.

## CHAPTER VI. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Section 1.** The Board of Trustees shall be the executive body of the House of Delegates and between sessions of the House of Delegates shall exercise the powers conferred upon the House of Delegates by the Constitution and Bylaws. The Board of Trustees shall consist of the duly elected Trustees and the President, the President-Elect, the Vice-President, the immediate Past-President, the Speaker, and Vice-Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the American Medical Association, the President of the KMA Resident and Fellows Section, and the President of the KMA Medical Student Section. The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the President-Elect, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and two Trustees to be elected annually by the Board of Trustees. A majority of the full Board, and a majority of the full Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business by either body. Between sessions of the Board, the Executive Committee shall exercise all the powers belonging to the Board except those powers specifically reserved by the Board to itself.

**Section 2.** The Board shall meet daily, or as required, during the Annual Meeting of the Association and at such other times as necessity may require, subject to the call of the Chairman or on petition of three Trustees. It shall meet on the last day of the Annual Meeting for reorganization and for the outlining of the work for the ensuing year. It shall, through its Chairman, make an annual report to the House of Delegates outlining the Association's activities for the previous year, including reports from each commission, along with a financial report. By accepting or rejecting this report, the House may approve or disapprove the action of the Board of Trustees in whole or in part, with respect to any matter reported upon therein. In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of President, the Board may fill the same until the annual election.

**Section 3.** Each Trustee shall be the representative of their district.

**Section 4.** The Board shall have the authority to communicate the views of the profession and of the Association in regard to health, sanitation, and other important matters, to the public and press.

**Section 5.** The *Journal of the Kentucky Medical Association* shall be the official organ of the Association and shall be published under the supervision of the Board. The Editor of the *Journal* shall be elected by the Board. All money received by the *Journal* or by any member of its staff on its behalf, shall be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer on the first of each month. The Board shall provide for and superintend the publication and distribution of all proceedings, transactions, and memoirs of the Association, and shall have authority to appoint such assistants to the Editor as it deems necessary.

**Section 6.** All commercial exhibits during the Annual Meeting shall be within the control and direction of the Board.

**Section 7.** In the event of the death, resignation, removal or disability of a Trustee, between sessions of the House of Delegates, the Alternate Trustee shall succeed to the office of Trustee. In the case of disability, the Alternate shall serve until the disability is removed or the Trustee's term expires, and in the absence of the Trustee, the Alternate Trustee shall vote in their place and stead.

**Section 8.** The Board shall employ an Executive Vice President whose principal duty shall be to carry out and execute the policies established by the House of Delegates and the Board. Their compensation shall be fixed by the Board. The Executive Vice President shall act as general administrative officer and business manager of the Association and shall perform all administrative duties necessary and proper to the general management of the Headquarters Office, except those duties which are specifically imposed by the Constitution and Bylaws upon the officers, committees, councils and other representatives of the Association. They shall refer to the various elected officials all administrative questions which are properly within their jurisdiction.

They shall attend the Annual Meeting, the meetings of the House of Delegates, the meetings of the Board, as many of the committee and council meetings as possible, and shall keep separately the records of their respective proceedings. They shall, at all times, hold themselves in readiness to advise and aid, so far as is possible and practicable, all officers, committees, and councils of the Association in the performance of their duties and in the furtherance of the Association. They shall be allowed traveling expenses to the extent approved by the Board.

They shall be the custodian of the general papers and records of the Association (including those of the Secretary-Treasurer) and shall conduct the official correspondence of the Association. They shall notify all members of meetings, officers of their election, and committees and councils of their appointment and duties.

They shall account for and promptly turn over to the Secretary-Treasurer all funds of the Association which come into their hands. It shall be their duty to receive all bills against the Association, to investigate their fairness and correctness, to prepare vouchers covering the same, and to forward them to the Secretary-Treasurer for appropriate action. They shall keep an account with the component societies of the amounts of their assessments, collect the same, and promptly turn over the proceeds to the Secretary-Treasurer. They shall annually submit their financial books and records to a certified public accountant, approved by the Board, whose report shall be made available to the membership.

They shall keep a record of all physicians in the State by counties, noting on each their status in relation to their county society, and upon request shall transmit a copy of this list to the American Medical Association.

They shall act as Managing Editor, or otherwise supervise the publication of *The Journal of the Kentucky Medical Association* and such other publications as may be authorized by the House of Delegates, under the guidance and direction of the Board.

They shall perform such additional duties as may be required by the House of Delegates, the Board, or the President, and shall employ such assistants as the Board may direct. They shall serve at the pleasure of the Board, and in the event of their death, resignation, or removal, the Board shall have the power to fill the vacancy. From time to time, or as directed by the Board, they shall make written reports to the Board and House of Delegates concerning their activities and those of the Headquarters Office.

## CHAPTER VII. COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

**Section 1.** The Board of Trustees shall have authority from time to time to appoint, fix the duties of, and abolish such standing committees and commissions as it deems necessary or desirable to assist in carrying on the Association's activities in the fields of business and scientific meetings, medical education and hospitals, legislation, medical services, communications and public service, and governmental medical services.

**Section 2.** The Executive Committee shall serve as the nominating committee for all standing committee and commission appointments, but the trustees may make additional nominations. When the Executive Committee sits as such nominating committee, the President-Elect shall serve as Chairman.

**Section 3.** The President, with the advice and consent of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, may appoint temporary ad hoc committees to perform specified functions. All such committees shall expire at the end of the term of the President by whom appointed.

**Section 4.** No committee or commission shall have power or authority to fix or determine Associational policy or to commit the Association to any course of action, such powers being expressly reserved to the House of Delegates and the Board of Trustees.

## CHAPTER VIII. ASSESSMENTS AND EXPENDITURES

**Section 1.** The annual dues for membership in this Association shall be as follows: (1) Active Members, \$530, (except (a) those physicians elected to KMA membership within six months of the completion of their residency, fellowship or fulfillment of government-obligated service shall pay only one-half of the full active member rate their first full year of membership; (b) those physicians in their second year of practice shall pay only three-fourths of the full active member rate for their second full year of membership; and (c) those physicians who have reached the age of 70 and work 20 hours or less per week shall pay only one-half of the full active member rate per year for their KMA membership); (2) Life Members, no dues; (3) Associate Members, \$100; (4) Physician In-training Members, \$25 one-time fee for the duration of residency and fellowship in an approved residency program in Kentucky, except that physician In-training Members joining prior to September 10, 2003, shall not be liable for additional dues for the duration of residency and fellowship; (5) Inactive Members, \$100; (6) Student Members, no dues; (7) Service Members, no dues; (8) Special Members, no dues. The dues during the first year for any active member shall be prorated on a quarterly basis as determined by the date of the application. Dues fixed by these Bylaws shall constitute assessments against the component societies. Unless otherwise instructed by the Board of Trustees (which may institute centralized billing) the Secretary of each component society shall forward its assessments, together with its properly classified roster of all officers and members, list of delegates, and list of nonaffiliated physicians of the county, to the Secretary-Treasurer of this Association as of the first day of January each year.

**Section 2.** Unless otherwise provided by the Board of Trustees pursuant to Section I hereof, any component society which fails to pay its assessments, or make the report as required, on or before the first day of March in each year, shall be held as suspended and none of its members or Delegates shall be permitted to participate in any of the business or proceedings of the Association or of the House of Delegates until such requirements have been met.

**Section 3.** All motions and Resolutions appropriating money shall specify a definite amount or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose, and must have prior approval of the Board of Trustees before they can become effective. No motion or Resolution, the adoption of which would require a substantial expenditure of funds, shall be considered by the House of Delegates unless the funds have been budgeted or are provided by the motion or Resolution.

## CHAPTER IX. RULES OF CONDUCT

The principles set forth in the Principles of Ethics of the American Medical Association, together with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and all duly adopted Resolutions of the House of Delegates, shall govern the conduct of members in their relation to each other and to the public.

## CHAPTER X. RULES OF ORDER

The deliberations of this Association shall be governed by parliamentary usage as contained in the latest edition of Sturgis's *Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*, unless otherwise determined by a vote of its respective bodies.

## CHAPTER XI. COUNTY SOCIETIES

**Section 1.** Except as provided in Section 3 of this Chapter, all county medical societies in this State which have adopted principles of organization not in conflict with this Constitution and Bylaws shall, upon application to the House of Delegates, receive a charter from and become a component part of this Association.

The House of Delegates shall have authority to revoke the charter of any component society whose actions are in conflict with the letter or spirit of the Constitution and Bylaws.

**Section 2.** As rapidly as can be done after the adoption of this Constitution and Bylaws, a medical society shall be organized in every county in the state in which no component society exists, and charters shall be issued thereto.

**Section 3.** Only one component society shall be chartered in any county. Membership in the component society thus created shall entitle the members thereof to all the rights and benefits of membership in the Kentucky Medical Association.

**Section 4.** In sparsely settled sections two or more component societies may join for scientific programs, the election of officers, and such other matters as they may deem advisable. The component societies thus combined shall not lose any of their privileges or representation. The active members of each component society shall annually elect at least a Secretary and a Delegate for the transaction of its business with the Association.

Two or more adjacent component societies may also combine into one multi-county component society by adopting Resolutions to that effect at special meetings called for that purpose on at least ten days' notice. Copies of the Resolution, certified as to their adoption by the Secretary of each society, shall be forwarded to the Headquarters Office. If approved by the Board of Trustees, the multi-county society shall thereupon be issued a charter, the consolidating county societies shall cease to exist and the multi-county society shall become a component society of this Association; provided, however, that the active members residing in each county comprising the multi-county society shall be entitled to elect a delegate or Delegates to the House of Delegates, as if each such county constituted a component society within the meaning of Section 11 of this Chapter; and provided, further, that multi-county societies may elect, at large, one alternate delegate for each delegate to which it is entitled under this section and such alternate may serve in the absence of the delegate for whom they are the designated alternate.

A multi-county component society may be disaggregated so that an individual county society may regain independent status when a majority of the members in that

county indicate their desire to reorganize. At that time the members from the withdrawing county shall forward a petition containing the signatures of a majority of the members in that county to be validated by KMA. The withdrawing county shall further forward a Resolution to the KMA Headquarters Office to be submitted to the House of Delegates at its next regular meeting, requesting recognition as a county society and issuance of a charter, in accord with Chapter XII, Section 1 of the KMA Bylaws. Once this charter is issued, the new county society shall become a recognized entity at the beginning of the following KMA dues year and those counties remaining with the original multi-county unit may continue to function under their pre-existing charter.

**Section 5.** Each component society shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of its own members. All members of component societies shall be members of the Kentucky Medical Association and shall be classified in accordance with Chapter I, Section 2 of these Bylaws, provided, however, that no physician who is under suspension or who has been expelled shall thereafter, without reinstatement by the Board of Trustees be eligible for membership in any component society. Any physician who desires to become a member of the Kentucky Medical Association shall first apply to the component society in the county in which they practice or reside, for membership therein. Except as hereinafter provided in Section 6 of this chapter, no physician shall be an active member of a component society in any county other than the county in which they practice or reside.

**Section 6.** Any physician who may feel aggrieved by the action of the component society of the county in which they practice or reside, in refusing them membership, shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Trustees, which, upon a majority vote, may permit them to apply for membership in a component society in a county which is adjacent to the county in which they practice or reside.

**Section 7.** When a member in good standing in a component society moves to another county in the State, their name, upon request, shall be transferred without cost to the roster of the component society into whose jurisdiction they move, if they are admitted to membership therein.

**Section 8.** Each component society shall have general direction of the affairs of the profession in the county, and its influence shall be constantly exerted for bettering the scientific, moral and material conditions of every physician in the county. Systematic efforts shall be made by each member, and by the society as a whole, to increase the membership until it embraces every qualified physician in the county.

Upon reasonable notice and after a hearing, component societies may discipline their members by censure, fine, suspension or expulsion, for any breach of the Principles of Medical Ethics or any bylaw, rule or regulation lawfully adopted by such societies or this Association. At every hearing, the accused shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and to cross-examine witnesses, and the society shall cause a stenographic record to be made of the entire proceedings. The stenographer's notes need not be transcribed unless and until requested by the respondent member.

The resignation of a member against whom disciplinary charges are pending or who is in default of the disciplinary judgment of their county society, a district grievance committee or the Board of Trustees shall not be accepted and no member who is suspended or expelled may be reinstated or readmitted unless and until they comply with all lawful orders of their component society and the Board of Trustees.

**Section 9.** Frequent meetings shall be encouraged and the most attractive programs arranged that are possible. Members shall be especially encouraged to do postgraduate and original research work, and to give the society the first benefit of such labors. Official positions and other references shall be unstintingly given to such members.

**Section 10.** At the time of the annual election of officers, each component society shall elect a delegate or Delegates to represent it in the House of Delegates. The term of a delegate shall commence on the first day of the regular session of the House following their election, and shall end on the day before the first day of the next regular session, provided, however, that component societies may elect Delegates for more than one term at any election. Each component society may elect one delegate for each 25 voting members in good standing, plus one delegate for one or more voting members in excess of multiples of 25, provided, however that each component society shall be entitled to at least one delegate regardless of the number of voting members it may have and that each multi-county society shall be entitled to the same number of Delegates as its component societies would have had. The secretary of the society shall send a list of such Delegates to the Secretary-Treasurer of this Association not later than 45 days before the next Annual Meeting. It shall be the obligation of a component society which elects Delegates to serve more than one year, to provide the KMA Headquarters Office with a certified list of its Delegates each year.

## CHAPTER XII. AMENDMENTS

**Section 1.** These bylaws may be amended at the meeting of the regular session of the House of Delegates by a majority vote of the Delegates present if the amendment proposed is presented in writing to the Delegates thirty days prior to the meeting.

**Section 2.** An amendment to or change in the bylaws may be proposed by a reference committee or by the Board of Trustees at the meeting of the regular session of the House of Delegates and may be voted on at that meeting. Passage requires a two-thirds vote.

**Section 3.** An amendment to these bylaws may be proposed in writing by an individual Delegate at the meeting of the regular session of the House of Delegates. If such an amendment is proposed, the proposal will be postponed definitely and studied by the appropriate reference committee at that time, reporting their recommendation back to the House of Delegates before the meeting is adjourned. Passage of such an amendment requires a two-thirds vote.