

# 2023 Bylaws Revision Proposals

Submitted by the Bylaws Revisions Committee

March 5, 2023

Thank you to all those who contributed feedback and suggestions for this year's revision proposals. Earlier this year the membership voted 46-1 to approve the merging of the Constitution into the Bylaws. Below are proposed revisions to the Bylaws. They were derived from a Critical Discourse Analysis based on [Okun's](#) characteristics of white supremacy, from the Anti-Opressive Accountability Ad Hoc [report](#), from community feedback, and from our committee discussions.

Minor grammatical changes like adding commas or taking out an "and" are not presented for the membership to vote on.

## CURRENT WORDING

### Article III - Membership

**Section 6.** Only professional members in good standing, student members who have been professional members but have returned to graduate school and student status, retired professional members and Honorary Life Members who are eligible for professional membership may hold office or vote.

**Section 7.** Student members in good standing shall have the privilege of holding the office of Student Representative to the Executive Board.

## PROPOSED WORDING

### Section 6.

Only Professional members in good standing, student members who have been professional members but have returned to graduate school and student status, retired professional members, and Honorary Life Members, who are eligible for professional membership may hold office or vote.

### **\*\*NEW\*\***

### Section 7.

Professional members, student members who have completed internship, retired professional members, and Honorary Life Members who are eligible for professional membership may hold office.

**Section 8.** Student members in good standing shall have the privilege of holding the office of Student Representative to the Executive Board.

## RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE

1. Increases equity and encourages participation
2. AMTA Bylaws, Article II, Section 4, states, in part, "Student rights at the regional level are specified by the regional bylaws."
3. Parallels sibling allied health organizations.
  - a. PSYCHOLOGY (APA) <https://www.apa.org/about/governance/bylaws/article-2>  
"II-8. Graduate Student members shall be persons who are pursuing graduate studies in the field of psychology and who have met the requirements described below. Graduate Student members may not vote or hold office in the Association but shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of the Association not specifically denied them in these Bylaws. Graduate Student members shall achieve voting privileges after one year in the status of Graduate Student membership."
  - b. COUNSELING (ACA) [https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/leadership-resources/bylaws--march-2015.pdf?sfvrsn=f805482c\\_0](https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/leadership-resources/bylaws--march-2015.pdf?sfvrsn=f805482c_0)  
"II-1-b: There shall be six classes of voting membership: Professional, Regular, Student, New Professional, New Professional Year 2, and Retired.  
II-1-g: Student members shall include individuals who are enrolled at least half-time in a regionally accredited college or university recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation."
  - c. SOCIAL WORK (NASW) <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=X93BPHmyM4E%3d&portalid=0>  
"III-A-3. Student Members  
Any person who is enrolled as a full- or part-time student in a graduate or undergraduate social work degree program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (or having achieved steps toward accreditation as determined by the Board of Directors) shall be eligible for student membership in the Association. The Board of Directors shall establish a dues rate for students that shall be lower than the dues rate for regular members.  
Student members shall be eligible for all rights and privileges of regular membership except holding national elective office other than such positions as are specifically designated to be held by students."
4. "Good standing" is implied and extra words are cumbersome.
5. Voting rights are increased, but rights to hold office are different, so these are separated into two different sections. (the current section 7 is renumbered to section 8.)
6. Changing "who have been professional members but have returned to graduate school and student status" to "completed internship" increases equity, inclusivity, and clarity.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **Article V - Duties of Elected Officers**

**Section 1.** The President shall: preside at all meetings of the Region; call and preside at all meetings of the Executive Board;

### **PROPOSED WORDING**

**Section 1.** The President shall: ~~preside at~~ facilitate all meetings of the Region; call and ~~preside at~~ facilitate all meetings of the Executive Board;

### **RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE**

1. To more accurately describe this as a responsibility and not a source of power.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **Article IX - Elections, Terms of Office, and Vacancies**

**Section 6.** Votes for Assembly Delegates will be tabulated and nominees will be ranked from highest to lowest. Primary Delegates will be those receiving the highest number of votes. Alternate Delegate positions will be filled from the remaining nominees in rank order until all positions have been filled. In the event of a tie for the final Assembly position, the members shall cast a deciding vote. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall present the results for publication in the first edition of the official regional publication following the election and shall notify AMTA of the election results.

### **PROPOSED WORDING**

The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall present the results for publication in the first edition of the official regional publication, ~~via email, and via social media~~ following the election and shall notify AMTA of the election results.

### **RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE**

1. To increase access to information
2. To reflect current practices

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **Article VIII - Executive Board**

**Section 2.** The Executive Board shall have the power to transact the general business of the Region and shall be responsible for the management and control of its funds. The Executive Board shall review and approve a budget for the forthcoming fiscal year at the Executive Board meeting at the national conference.

### **PROPOSED WORDING**

**Section 2.** The Executive Board shall ~~have the power to~~ transact the general business of the Region and shall be responsible for the management and control of its funds. The Executive Board shall review and approve a budget for the forthcoming fiscal year at the Executive Board meeting at the national conference. **The Executive Board shall seek input from the MAR community via email, social media, and/or town hall meetings about unusual financial decisions.**

### **RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE**

1. Seeking input from the community increases diversity of thought and increases transparency.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **Article XII - Regional Councils and Committees**

**Section 1.** There shall be two standing councils: The National Services Council, and The Regional Conference Council. Members to these councils shall be appointed by the President, with approval of the Executive Board, unless it is already a duty of an elected or appointed position.

**Section 2.** The National Services Council shall be chaired by the Immediate Past-President and include regional representatives to the AMTA standing committees, regional members who sit as members of the AMTA Board of Directors, and the regional representative to the Judicial Review Board.

#### **Article XI - National Standing Committees and Boards**

**Section 3.** Representatives to each of these committees and national boards shall commit themselves to attendance at all national meetings which occur during their terms, perform the functions of the committee, and submit a report to the National Services Council Chair prior to each Regional Executive Board meeting and at the regional conference.

#### **Article V - Duties of Elected Officers**

**Section 5.** The Immediate Past President shall: endeavor to effect a smooth transition of power by assisting and advising the new President as necessary; chair the National Services Council;....

### **PROPOSED WORDING**

#### **Article XII - Regional Councils and Committees**

**Section 1.** There shall be ~~two~~ **one** standing councils: ~~The National Services Council,~~ **and** The Regional Conference Council. Members to ~~these~~ **this** councils shall be appointed by the President, with approval of the Executive Board, unless it is already a duty of an elected or appointed position.

**Section 2.** ~~The National Services Council shall be chaired by the Immediate Past President and include regional representatives to the AMTA standing committees, regional members who sit as members of the AMTA Board of Directors, and the regional representative to the Judicial Review Board.~~

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#### **Article V - Duties of Elected Officers**

**Section 5.** The Immediate Past President shall: endeavor to effect a smooth transition of power duties by assisting and advising the new President as necessary; chair the National Services Council;...

#### **RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE**

1. This Council has not functioned this way in many years, if ever.

#### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **Article XI - National Standing Committees and Boards**

**Section 2 1.** The National Standing Committees are: Academic Program Approval Committee; Association Internship Approval Committee; Clinical Practice Networking Committee; Continuing Education Committee; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee; Government Relations Committee; International Relations Committee; Interprofessional Collaborative Resources Committee; Membership Committee; Professional Advocacy Committee; Reimbursement Committee; Research Committee; Standards of Clinical Practice Committee; Technology Committee; and Workforce Development and Retention Committee.

#### **PROPOSED WORDING**

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Standards of Clinical Practice Committee; Technology Committee; and Workforce Development and Retention Committee.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **Article XIII - Regional Committees and Auxiliary Organizations**

**Section 7.** The MAR Cultural Humility, Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (CHADI) shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, a minimum of one (1) student representative, and a minimum of three (3) additional members of the MAR. Duties of the CHADI Committee are to increase knowledge as it pertains to diversity, accessibility, and inclusion for the region; serve as a resource for the MAR on issues pertaining to cultural humility, accessibility, diversity and inclusion; and collaborate with the MAR President and Vice President for Membership to address human rights disasters that negatively impact members of our region. One of the co-chairs of the CHADI Committee will represent the MAR on the AMTA Disaster Relief Committee and the AMTA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

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### **RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE**

1. To correlate to AMTA changes