

St. Louis Surgical Society

founded in 1892

Constitution

Article I

The name of the Society, located in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, shall be, "The St. Louis Surgical Society."

Article II

The objective of the Society shall be to foster, encourage and promote the study and practice of surgery in all its divisions and specialties.

Article III

There shall be the following classes of memberships:

1. **Active Members:** shall hold the degree of M.D., M.B., or D.O. and shall be graduates of recognized or accredited schools of medicine or osteopathy. They shall be of good moral character, and shall abide by the Code of Ethics established by the American Medical Association. They shall be licensed for and engaged in the practice of surgery. They shall be certified by an American specialty board, or shall have reached a degree of attainment which the Executive Committee considers equivalent thereto. They shall be liable for dues and assessments as provided for in the By-laws of the Society, and they shall have the right to vote, and hold office.
2. **Life Members:** Active members in good standing may apply for life membership upon retirement or disability, or because of other extenuating circumstances. They shall have the right to vote and hold office in the Society, but shall not pay membership dues.
3. **Corresponding Members:** Former active members residing outside the metropolitan area of St. Louis may be eligible for corresponding membership. They shall not be required to pay dues or assessments and shall not have the right to vote or to hold office in the Society.
4. **Honorary Members:** Shall be distinguished individuals with outstanding attainments in surgery or in its related specialties, and upon whom the Society wishes to confer special recognition. They shall not be required to pay dues or assessments and shall not have the right to vote or to hold office in the Society.
5. **Candidate Members:**
 - a. The requirements for candidate membership status shall be:
 - i. Graduation from an LCME-accredited or equivalent medical school.
 - ii. Current status as either:
 1. A resident or fellow enrolled in an accredited program of surgical education or research.

2. A surgeon who has completed an accredited surgical education program and is awaiting Board certification.
- iii. A letter from the Program Director of the applicant's institution attesting to enrollment in or completion of a surgical education program.
- iv. A letter of sponsorship from a current SLSS member.
- b. Annual dues are waived for candidate members.
- c. Candidate status may continue for up to three years following completion of a general surgery residency or until board certification is attained and training is completed, whichever is first.
- d. Candidate Members in good standing who obtain certification by the American Board of Surgery, the American Board of Osteopathic Surgery, the Royal College of Surgeons, Canada, or become a fellow of the American College of Surgery shall automatically be inducted to active membership upon providing evidence satisfactory to the Society.

Article IV

The method and procedure of election to any of the classes of membership shall be provided for in the By-laws.

Article V

Officers - The officers of the Society shall be:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

Officers shall be elected for one year. On July 1 of each year, the President shall retire, and the other officers are automatically promoted to the next level.

Councilors - Councilors are distinguished active members who serve in an executive capacity to the Society. Three councilors are elected each year, each having a three-year term (for a total of nine councilors). Terms begin on July 1. Upon completion of the three-year term, councilors may submit their names for consideration by the Executive Committee for a second three-year term. Councilors may only serve for a maximum of two three-year terms (i.e., maximum of six years).

Executive Committee - There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of 16 voting members:

- The four officers
- The three immediate past-presidents
- The nine councilors

Article VI

The Society shall meet at least twice annually for the purpose of electing officers and transacting such business as may be properly brought before the Society. This meeting shall be held in the City or County of St. Louis. The Executive Committee shall determine the place and time of other scientific and business meetings and shall have authority to call any special meeting. A special meeting must be called within thirty (30) days after receiving written request for such a meeting signed by twenty-five (25) or more active and/or life members stating the purpose of such a meeting.

Article VII

The membership, by majority vote of those present at a duly authorized and constituted meeting, shall have the right to enact By-laws for the government of the Society, its officers and Executive Committee, provided, however, that such By-laws shall not be contrary to or inconsistent with these Articles of Association.

Article VIII

The process for amendment of the constitution must include:

- An amendment proposal signed by five (5) or more active or life members.
- Presentation at any prior Executive Committee meeting of the Society.
- Distribution to the active and life members at least thirty (30) days prior to the next meeting of the general membership.
- An affirmative vote of three-fourths of all active or life members present at a general membership meeting.

Article IX

The duration of the existence of the "St. Louis Surgical Society" as a body corporate and politic shall be perpetual.