

January 12, 2024

Changes to Colorado Scientific Society Constitution and Bylaws

This is a guide to the changes in the Colorado Scientific Society Constitution and Bylaws from the previous 2001 version to the updated 2023 version. The list is presented in the order that changes are first encountered, with all other related changes for that topic listed.

1. Update the Constitution to reflect our current practice on the Council

This occurs throughout both the Constitution and Bylaws. Examples:

Simplify Membership Categories (see below)

Electronic Communication (see below)

Annual Business Meeting see Constitution: Article IV

Multiple revisions to the Bylaws

2. Change the corporate name of the society, as registered with the Colorado Secretary of State from “THE COLORADO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY” to “COLORADO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY”.

This makes our Business and Charitable organization registrations with the Secretary of State consistent.

Affected Sections:

Constitution: Article I, Section 1.

3. Drop “of 1954” when discussing the Internal Revenue Code

The IRS rules for charitable, tax-deductible organizations have changed many times since 1954, and they continue to change.

(It does show that we have been around for a long time.)

Affected Sections:

Constitution: Article I, Section 2.

Bylaws: Article III, Section 2.

4. Simplify Membership Categories

Dropped the Corresponding Member category and added Lifetime Members.

We will continue to mail the Newsletter to anyone who needs it, as one or two people still do.

We have supported Lifetime members for some time, and we have multiple Lifetime members.

We did not add Corporate Members.

(We currently have none, and they are usually dependent on a person in an organization.)

Dropped Bylaws, Article I, Section 4. “Membership in the Society may be terminated for nonpayment of dues by July 31 of the year for which dues are payable.”

This is discussed in May, 2023 CSS Council Agenda/Minutes.

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Affected Sections:

Constitution: Article II, Section 2, removed (b)

Bylaws: Article I, Section 4

5. Allow student members to vote

Affected Sections:

Constitution: Article II; Article III, Section 3; Article V, Section 2

6. Add most recent Past President to the list of Officers.

The most recent Past-President is responsible for chairing the CSS Student Research Grants Committee, are usually on the Nominations Committee, and tabulate the vote for and present the Best Paper Award each year. They also may have some sage advice for the current President.

Affected Sections:

Constitution: Article III, Section 1

7. Add Newsletter Editor and Webmaster to CSS Council

The Colorado Scientific Society relies on them to inform members of upcoming events, updating the information when plans change. This means they need to be present at Council meetings and involved members of Council. Denying them a vote can kill the engagement needed to stay on top of changing events and deliver our message.

Affected Sections:

Constitution: Article III, Section 4

8. Recognize electronic communication as equivalent to a hard-copy, written submission.

Affected Sections:

Constitution: Article IV; Article V; Article VI, Section 1

Bylaws: Article V, Section 1 (c) return votes by email

9. Modernize Constitution: Article VI. Dissolution

Update the distribution of the assets of the society if the Colorado Scientific Society is dissolved.

10. Update Bylaws: Article I. Admissions, Resignations, and Expulsions of Members

Remove complimentary memberships and the specifics of removal of membership for non-payment of dues.

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11. Update Bylaws: Article III. Duties and Authority of Council and Officers

Section 4: Define a voting quorum for the Council.

Section 7: Clarify that the President-elect selects the Emmons Lecturer for the year of their tenure.

Section 9: Make the audit of the Treasurer's accounts optional. The report to be presented at the annual **business** meeting.

12. Updates to Bylaws: Article IV. Agent of the Society

Identify the Treasurer as the Registered Agent per the meaning of the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act.

13. Updates to Bylaws: Article V. Nomination and Election of Officers and Councilors

Update Nominations and Elections sections, including requirements for the membership of the Nominating Committee..

14. Updates to Bylaws: Article VI, Meetings

Remove:

“Section 2. A majority vote of regular and honorary members present shall be decisive at any regular or special meeting, except as otherwise herein required and provided that at least twelve qualified members constitute a quorum for decisive action.”

15. Updates to Bylaws: Article VII. Memorial Funds

Section 1. Update process for establishing new Memorial Funds. Day-to-day investment of the Memorial Funds is now handled by an investment firm.

Section 2. The income (interest) from the funds is still used to fund the Student Research Grants, while the principal remains untouched.

16. Updates to Bylaws: Article VIII. Committees

Section 1. The Memorial Funds Committee is now named the Student Research Grants Committee.
The Nominations Committee is now listed here as well as in Article V of the Bylaws.
The Program Committee is now optional.

Section 3. Details about the optional Program Committee.

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Section 4. Details about the Student Research Grants Committee.