

# Rationale Document for Proposed Amendments

**Proposed by:** Core Circle

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**Reviewed by:** ASDAA President Sandra McLennon & Director of Operations Kathy Falco

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## **I. Proposed Amendments: Table of Contents, Historical Record of Amendments, & Amendment Process (See pages 1, 10, and 11)**

**Proposed Action:** This amendment is a comprehensive revision to the Association's governing documents, addressing both the overall structure of the Constitution and Bylaws and the process for making future amendments.

### A. Restructure and Re-number:

1. Adopt a continuous numbering system for all articles, starting with the Constitution and continuing into the Bylaws, to eliminate duplicate article numbers.
2. Add three new, top-level categories to the Table of Contents to organize the document into distinct sections:
  - i. A - Constitution
  - ii. B - By-Laws
  - iii. C - Amendments to Constitution & By-Laws.
3. Relocate the historical record of amendments to the conclusion of the document, following all active articles and sections.

### B. Unify the Amendment Process:

1. Remove Article IX, Section 1 from the Constitution and Article VI, Section 1 from the Bylaws.
2. Add a new unified provision, "Amendments to Constitution & By-Laws", that will apply to both the Constitution and Bylaws, with new Sections 1, 2, and 3.

**Rationale:** This amendment is a foundational revision designed to eliminate confusion and significantly improve the overall clarity and accessibility of the governing documents.

**Improved Document Structure:** By adopting a continuous numbering system and categorizing the content into distinct, top-level sections, the Association's members will find it much easier to navigate, interpret, and cross-reference the Constitution and Bylaws. This change establishes a seamless and logical flow, which is crucial for maintaining the accuracy and integrity of the Association's rules. Furthermore, relocating the historical record of amendments to the end of the document streamlines the main body by separating the historical context from the current governing rules, ensuring members can easily access the most up-to-date and relevant information. This combined approach makes the document more user-friendly and consistent with professional practices for organizational governance documents.

**Streamlined Amendment Process:** The new unified amendment provision simplifies and clarifies the process for all future changes. The original text was redundant and confusing. This revised language simplifies the submission process for amendments by clearly stating who they should be submitted to,

the specific deadline, and the timeline for making them public. This consolidation eliminates redundancy, clarifies the distinct voting thresholds for Constitutional versus Bylaws provisions, and enhances the document's overall user-friendliness and accessibility for all members. It also removes ambiguity and ensures a standardized, transparent process that aligns with the official communication channels of the Association, clarifying when amendments will take effect upon approval by ASDAA members and providing a precise roadmap for the entire procedure.

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## **II. Proposed Amendments: Constitution, Article V - Reunion/Homecoming (See page 3)**

### **Section 1 through Section 5. Reunion/Homecoming Purpose & Agenda**

**Proposed Action:** This amendment proposes a comprehensive revision of Article V. The specific actions are to move and revise language relative to elections to Article VII as follows:

1. Revise the existing language of Section 1 that combines the purpose and agenda.
2. Remove Section 3 in its entirety.
3. Relocate the word "biannually" from Section 2 to Article VII, Section 1, removing the entire section 2.
4. Relocate Section 4 to Section 4 under Article VII - Election of Officers and revise its language to align with the new election cycle.
5. Renumber the current Section 5 under Article V - Reunion/Homecoming as the new Section 2.
6. The current Sections 4, 5, and 6 under Article VII - Elections Of Officers will be renumbered to become the new Sections 5, 6, and 7, respectively.

**Rationale:** This amendment is a major step toward streamlining and clarifying the governing documents. It achieves a more logical structure by relocating all provisions related to officer elections to a single, dedicated article. This change eliminates redundant and outdated language in the bylaws, ensuring that members can easily find the most up-to-date and relevant information. By requiring a business meeting at every annual event, the revised provision ensures a consistent and predictable platform for all members to engage in formal association activities while aligning with the election cycle. Ultimately, this amendment ensures the governing documents are clear, concise, and do not contain conflicting instructions, allowing for greater flexibility in meeting planning.

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## **III. Proposed Amendments: Constitution, Article VI - Core Circle (See pages 3 and 4)**

### **Section 1 through 6. Core Circle and Meta Circle**

**Proposed Action:** This amendment seeks to update the roles and responsibilities of the Core Circle and formally introduce the concept of the Meta Circle. The proposed changes are to:

1. Remove the word "biennial" from Section 2 of Article VI.
2. Add a new sentence to Section 4 regarding a post-Reunion/Homecoming Core Circle meeting.
3. Add a new Section 7 to Article VI defining the Meta Circle.

**Rationale:** These amendments are proposed to modernize the ASDAA's operational framework, ensuring the organization remains agile, transparent, and highly effective.

- Removing "biennial" from Section 2 of Article VI: This change provides the Core Circle with continuous administrative authority between reunions without the limitation of a two-year cycle. The original language is outdated and could create an unnecessary constraint. Removing this term ensures the Core Circle can consistently manage the association's affairs and respond to its needs in real-time.
  - Adding a new sentence to Section 4 regarding a post-reunion/homecoming Core Circle meeting: This amendment formalizes the practice of holding a critical post-reunion meeting. It establishes a necessary procedure for the Core Circle to immediately review, provide feedback, and follow up on events. This practice ensures a smooth transition, enhances accountability, and promotes continuous improvement for all future association activities.
  - Adding a new Section 7 to Article VI defining the Meta Circle: This change introduces a formal structure for empowering members and distributing the workload. By authorizing Core Circle members to establish their own committees (Meta Circles), the association can tap into a wider pool of talent and expertise. This not only prevents burnout among Core Circle members but also fosters greater member engagement and strengthens the overall community.
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#### **IV. Proposed Amendments: Constitution, Article VII-Election of Officers (See pages 4 & 5)**

##### **New Section. Staggered Officers Election Cycle and Term Limits**

**Proposed Action:** Revise the existing language of Section 3.

**Rationale:** This motion implements a staggered election cycle, ensuring greater continuity in leadership. The revision also adjusts the term length from two to four years, which provides officers with more time to develop and execute long-term initiatives, while the updated term limit of two terms maintains a healthy rotation of leadership. This aligns the association with best practices for non-profit governance.

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#### **V. Proposed Amendment: Constitution, Article VII - Election of Officers (See pages 4 and 5)**

##### **Section 5. ASDAA President Eligibility**

**Proposed Action:** New sentence to the end of this section.

**Rationale:** This amendment ensures the integrity and independence of the ASDAA leadership. By preventing a potential conflict of interest, the Association's president can make decisions that are solely in the best interest of the alum body, without any perceived or actual influence from the President's employment status with the school.

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## **VI. Proposed Amendments: By-Laws, Article IX-Duties of Officers, (See Pages 6 & 7)**

### **Section 1. President (See page 6)**

**Proposed Action:** Remove the current sub-section "g". This change removes the obsolete sub-section regarding the appointment of the Hall of Fame - Achievement and the Hall of Fame - Athletics Meta Circles as the association members now elect the Director of Hall of Fame and re-letters the subsequent sub-section accordingly.

**Rationale:** This amendment is necessary to eliminate redundant language and ensure the bylaws are consistent with the current organizational structure. Removing the obsolete sub-section for Hall of Fame appointments clarifies the duties of the President and streamlines the document.

### **Section 2. Director of Operations (See pages 6 & 7)**

**Proposed Action:** Remove section "g"

**Rationale:** This amendment is a direct follow-up to the establishment of the Membership Assistant role under the Director of Finance. By removing this specific duty from the Director of Operations, the bylaws will accurately reflect the new, centralized responsibilities for membership and financial management. This change eliminates ambiguity and streamlines the process of dues collection and membership drives by assigning them to a single, dedicated team.

### **Section 4. Director of Finance (See page 7)**

**Proposed Action:** Add a new sub-section, "g," to Section 4.

**Rationale:** To establish and lead a Meta Circle dedicated to financial management. The Director of Finance shall appoint a Membership Assistant to this Meta Circle, subject to approval by the Core Circle. The Membership Assistant's responsibilities shall include membership drives to secure new members, maintaining accurate membership records, processing dues payments, and confirming members in good standing.

### **Section 5. Director of Community Outreach (See page 7)**

**Proposed Action:** Revise sub-section "c" to remove the phrase, "the Director of Operations."

**Rationale:** This amendment is a direct follow-up to the recent changes that have centralized membership-related duties under the Director of Finance and their appointed Membership Assistant. By removing the phrase "the Director of Operations" from this sub-section, the bylaws will accurately reflect the new, streamlined responsibilities for managing membership drives. This change eliminates ambiguity, improves cross-departmental clarity, and ensures the governing documents align with the Association's new operational structure.

### **Section 6. Director of Public Relations (See page 7)**

**Proposed Action:** Revise sub-section "c" to include the President in media relations strategies and communication.

**Rationale:** This amendment is designed to foster a direct and collaborative relationship between the Director of Public Relations and the President. By formally requiring the President's involvement in media relations strategies and communications, the association ensures that all external messaging is in direct alignment with the organization's overall vision and goals. This change strengthens the association's brand and public image by ensuring a unified and consistent voice across all platforms.

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## **VII. Proposed Amendment: By-Laws, Article XIII - Participation (See page 10)**

### **Section 3. Membership Dues for Different Membership Classifications**

**Proposed Action:** Add a new language to Section 3 of ARTICLE XIII. This change introduces a new concept of the completion of payment for membership dues by May 1st every year.

**Rationale:** This amendment is necessary to formalize and clarify the membership dues structure of the Association. By explicitly defining the types of membership (annual and lifetime) and their corresponding fees, the organization can establish a transparent and sustainable financial model. This change ensures that all members are aware of their financial obligations to be considered in good standing, which is essential for participation in key events like the Reunion/Homecoming business meeting and running for office.

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## **VIII. Proposed Amendment: By-Laws, Article XI - Quorum (See page 9)**

### **Section 1. Quorum for the Association Meeting**

**Proposed Action:** Revise the existing language of Section 1.

**Rationale:** This motion amends the quorum requirement from twenty-five to fifteen members in good standing. This change is proposed to facilitate more consistent and effective meeting attendance, ensuring the association can conduct its business efficiently. The current requirement has presented a challenge in achieving a quorum, and this adjustment will help to ensure the continued progress and success of the organization.

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