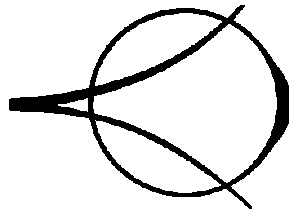


**ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF
EYE PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS**



Bylaws

As amended January 2016

BYLAWS
of the
Illinois Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

Amended June 9, 1999
Amended November 2, 2005
Amended October 26, 2011
Amended December 5, 2013
Amended January 28, 2014
Amended January 12, 2016

ARTICLE I
Name and Purpose

1
2
3
4 Section 1 - Name. The name of the association shall be the Illinois Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons (“ISEPS”) a not-
5 for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois.
6

7 Section 1.01 - Office and Registered Agent. The principal office of the association shall be a location as
8 determined by the Board of Directors. The registered office shall be maintained within the State of Illinois. The
9 registered agent shall be an individual or firm appointed by the Board of Directors.

10
11 Section 2 - Purpose. The purpose of ISEPS shall be as stated in the Articles of Incorporation.
12

13 Section 2.01 - Compliance. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, ISEPS shall not carry on any
14 activities which are not permitted to be undertaken by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under
15 Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code or the laws of the State of Illinois.
16

17 Section 2.02 - Financial Benefit. No part of the net earnings of ISEPS shall inure to the benefit of, or be
18 distributed to its members, directors, officers or other private persons except that ISEPS may be authorized and
19 empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in
20 furtherance of the purposes as set forth in these bylaws.
21

22
23 **ARTICLE II**
24 **Membership**
25

26 Section 1 - Eligibility. Membership in ISEPS shall be open to doctors of medicine or doctors of osteopathy who hold a
27 valid license to practice medicine in all its branches in the State of Illinois and who are actively engaged in the
28 practice of ophthalmology; doctors of medicine or doctors of osteopathy who are enrolled in an accredited
29 ophthalmology training program within the State of Illinois; doctors of medicine or doctors of osteopathy who are
30 retired from active practice in the specialty of ophthalmology; and others who in the opinion of the Board of
31 Directors have made significant contributions to the practice of ophthalmology in the State of Illinois.
32

33 Section 2 - Election to Membership. Anyone who meets the qualifications described in Section 1 of this Article shall, upon
34 application and payment of the application fee as prescribed by the Board of Directors, be considered for
35 membership. Such application shall be made to the Secretary on the form and in a manner determined by the
36 Board of Directors who shall then review the qualifications of applicants as described in Section 1. The Board of
37 Directors may consider all applications at any regular or special meeting of the Board and may grant or deny such
38 application by majority vote of those directors present and voting. In the event that an application is denied, the
39 application fee shall be refunded to the applicant in a timely manner.
40

41 Section 3 - Classes of Membership. Classes of Membership in ISEPS shall be as follows:
42

43 Section 3.01 - Active. Active members shall be those who are actively engaged in the practice of ophthalmology.
44 The Board of Directors may designate categories of Active members with corresponding dues rates.
45

46 Section 3.02 - Member in Training. Members in training are those who are enrolled in an accredited
47 ophthalmology residency training program or fellowship program in the State of Illinois.
48

49 Section 3.03 - Emeritus. Active members who have reached the age of 65 and who have retired from full-time
50 practice may apply to the Board of Directors for emeritus status. The retired member whose license to practice
51 medicine was in good standing at the time of retirement from active practice, shall not be disqualified from
52 continued membership by reason of loss of license due to retirement alone. Emeritus members shall not be eligible
53 to vote on matters coming before the members of the association, nor shall they be eligible to hold office.
54
55

56 Section 3.04 - Honorary. Individuals or organizations who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, have made a
57 significant contribution to the profession of ophthalmology in Illinois, may be elected to honorary member status.
58 Honorary members shall not be eligible to vote on matters coming before the members of the association, nor shall
59 they be eligible to hold office.
60

61 Section 3.05 – Practice. Medical practices in Illinois which have one or more ophthalmologists as owners or
62 employees who are eligible for membership as described in Section 1 may apply for and be granted membership in
63 the association. When a Practice is admitted to membership in ISEPS , all of the ophthalmologists who are owners
64 or employees of that practice shall be considered Active members of ISEPS . In addition, the Practice may receive
65 certain benefits of membership as determined by the Board of Directors.
66

67 Section 4 - Dues and Assessments. Annual membership dues shall be established by a vote of the Board of Directors. Such
68 dues shall be payable on or before the last day of January of the calendar year for which they are payable.
69

70 Section 4.01 - Non-payment of Dues. In the event that a member fails to pay dues or a special assessment within
71 30 days after due and payable, the Treasurer shall notify the member of the delinquency and demand payment. If
72 the delinquent member fails to make payment within 30 days of such notice, membership privileges may be
73 suspended. Suspended members shall be reinstated upon payment of dues or assessments.
74

75 Section 4.02 - Assessments. Special assessments may be levied upon members by the Board of Directors. Such
76 assessments may be either mandatory or voluntary. In the event that a mandatory assessment is levied, then the
77 procedures as stated in Section 4.01 of this Article shall apply.
78

79 Section 4.03 - Discounts. The Board of Director may waive or establish different rates of dues for certain classes
80 or groups of members or individual members.
81

82 Section 4.04 - Application Fee. Member applicants shall be required to submit with their application a fee equal to
83 the first year dues for the class of membership sought and which shall be applied to any dues payable upon
84 approval of membership. In the event that an application is received after June 30 and before November 1, then
85 one-half of the dues shall be payable and credited to the current calendar year; application fees received after
86 October 31 shall be credited for the balance of the current calendar year and for the entire following calendar year.
87

88 Section 4.05 - Resignation or Expulsion of Members. Members who resign, are suspended, or are expelled from
89 the association shall not be eligible for any refund of dues.
90

91 Section 5 - Termination of Membership. Membership in the association shall be continuous, provided all dues and
92 mandatory assessments are timely paid, except under the following circumstances:
93

94 Section 5.01 - Resignation. A member may resign at any time by delivering to the Secretary or the Executive
95 Director a notice of intent to resign. Such resignations shall be effective immediately, but shall not relieve the
96 member of the obligation to pay any dues, assessments or other charges theretofore accrued and unpaid.
97

98 Section 5.02 - Suspension. Membership privileges shall be suspended in the event that a member's license to
99 practice medicine is restricted, revoked or otherwise limited. Normal membership status shall be reactivated
100 automatically upon notice to the Secretary or the Executive Director that the suspended member's license to
101 practice medicine has been restored. Suspended members shall not be liable for payment of dues or assessments,
102 and they may not vote or hold office.
103

104 Section 5.03 - Expulsion. A member may be expelled from the association for good cause upon a vote of two-
105 thirds (2/3) vote of the directors present and voting at a properly constituted meeting of the Board of Directors.
106 Good cause shall include: (a) conduct on the part of a member that seriously impairs the ability of the association
107 to function effectively in furtherance of the purpose for which it is organized or which brings discredit to the
108 association; (b) gross misconduct of a member in relation to the association, to the profession of ophthalmology, or
109 the public at large; or (c) conviction of violation of any law or regulation of the State of Illinois, any other state, or
110 the United States relating to the practice of medicine or a crime of moral turpitude. Before taking action,
111 procedures for expelling a member shall be adopted by the Board of Directors and must provide for due process
112 and fair hearing.
113

114 Section 6 - Voting Rights. Active members and members in training shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted
115 for a vote of the membership.
116
117
118

ARTICLE III
Board of Directors and Officers

Section 1 - General Powers and Responsibilities. The affairs of the association shall be managed by or under the direction of the Board of Directors.

Section 1.01 - Responsibilities of Directors and Officers. All members of the Board of Directors and officers of the association shall act in good faith for the best interests of the association.

Section 1.02 - Acting as a Spokesperson. When asked to speak on behalf of the association in any public or private forum, directors and officers shall not attempt to use their position for personal benefit or financial gain. Directors and officers shall not represent personal views or opinions as those of the association, nor shall they give the appearance of acting as a representative of the association without the approval of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee or authorized officers.

Section 2 - Qualifications. All directors and officers shall be voting members in good standing of the association, and they shall adhere at all times to applicable federal and state laws and the policies of the association.

Section 3 - Officers. The officers of ISEPS shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Their duties and responsibilities shall be as follows:

Section 3.01 - President. The President shall be the principal executive officer of the association and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. In addition, he/she shall supervise and direct the affairs of the association and may, unless otherwise limited by the Board of Directors or by statute, execute contracts and sign documents on behalf of the association. The President shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees. In addition to the foregoing duties, the President shall lead strategic development efforts and public information activities for the association.

Section 3.02 - Vice President. The Vice President shall assist the President in the management of the association and, upon completion of the President's term of office, automatically succeed to the office of President. In the event of death, absence, resignation, removal or incapacity of the President, the Vice President shall act for and assume the duties of the office of President. The Vice President shall serve as the primary liaison to other medical societies in Illinois and shall carry out any other duties as may be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 3.03 - Secretary. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all official records of the association, including but not limited to: (a) minutes of meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors; (b) corporate records, Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, regulations, and the seal of the corporation; and (c) the official membership roster. The Secretary also shall assure that all notices are given in accordance with these bylaws or as required by law; attest to the execution of all duly authorized documents; and perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and other such duties as the Board of Directors may prescribe. The Secretary shall serve as Membership Coordinator with primary responsibility for recruitment and retention of members in the association.

Section 3.04 - Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the association and, as such, have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the association; receive and give receipts for all monies due and payable to the association from any source whatsoever; deposit all such monies in the name of ISEPS, and account for all receipts and expenditures. The Treasurer shall, before the beginning of each fiscal year, present to the Board of Directors a proposed annual budget for the coming fiscal year. The Treasurer also shall assure that dues notices are sent to members and collections are accounted for according to the schedule adopted by the Board of Directors.

Section 3.05 - Executive Director. The Board of Directors may designate an individual to serve as executive director, acting as the chief operating officer of the association, to assist in carrying out the affairs of the association with such authority as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The officers of the association are empowered to delegate to the executive director one or more of their respective duties under the officer's supervision subject to review of the Board of Directors. However, such delegation does not relieve the officer from responsibility for the duty as described in this section. The executive director need not be a member of the association, and may be an employee or an independent contractor with compensation as determined by the Board of Directors. The President shall supervise the activities of the executive director.

Section 4 - Composition and Duties. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the following voting members: President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Immediate Past-president three at-large directors; Councillors to the American Academy of Ophthalmology; and a resident or fellow enrolled in an accredited ophthalmology training program within the State of Illinois. The Executive Director shall serve as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

185 Section 4.01 - Additional Board Members. In addition to the foregoing voting members of the Board of Directors,
186 non-voting members of the Board shall include chairs of any committees appointed by the Board; Alternate
187 Councillors to the American Academy of Ophthalmology; and Past-presidents of ISEPS . They may attend and
188 participate in all properly constituted meetings of the Board of Directors subject to the provisions of Subsection
189 5.01, until they notify the Secretary of their desire to be removed from the meeting notification list, or resign their
190 position.
191

192 Section 4.02 - Number of Offices Held. No person shall hold more than one office at a time, except by vote of the
193 Board of Directors; however, the President may hold only that office and no other. Each individual Board member
194 shall have only one vote, even if serving in multiple offices. Past-presidents other than those named in Section 4
195 of this Article, may be elected to and serve as officers or voting directors.
196

197 Section 4.03 - Regions. The Board of Directors may define specific boundaries of regions for the purpose of
198 selecting at-large directors regionally or for other purposes.

199 Section 4.04 - At-large Directors. To the extent possible, at-large directors should represent diverse regions of the
200 state as determined by the Board of Directors. At-large directors also may be assigned functional duties of the
201 association such as (but not limited to) professional education, governmental affairs or health plan relations.
202

203 Section 4.05 – Illinois Medical Eye-PAC Chair. The chair of the Illinois Medical Eye-PAC shall be appointed by
204 the Board of Directors and shall serve until replaced by the Board. The PAC chair is a non-voting member of the
205 Board.
206

207 Section 5 - Terms of Office. Each officer shall serve a two-year term, and may be re-elected one time for a maximum of
208 four years of service; however, an officer filling a vacancy with an unexpired term of six months or less shall be
209 eligible to serve two full terms in the office in addition to the unexpired term of his/her predecessor. At-large
210 directors shall serve three-year terms for a maximum of two terms, and the terms shall be staggered so that one at-
211 large director term expires each year. Terms for AAO Councillors shall be as defined by the American Academy
212 of Ophthalmology. The resident/fellow representative shall have a renewable term of one year and may continue
213 to serve only while enrolled in an accredited residency or fellowship program. The term of office shall be
214 according to the calendar year, except that the resident/fellow representative term shall begin on July 1 and end on
215 June 30. Officers and directors shall serve until their successor is chosen or elected and qualified or until death,
216 resignation or removal.
217

218 Section 5.01 - Attendance. Officers and directors, including additional board members as described in Section
219 4.01 of this Article, shall be deemed to have vacated their office if they are absent from three or more consecutive
220 meetings of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee may waive this requirement for good cause.
221

222 Section 5.02 - Removal. When a director or officer has been elected by the membership, such director or officer
223 may be removed from office, with or without cause, only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the
224 membership votes present and voted, either in person or by electronic ballot, and after written notice, stating that a
225 purpose of the meeting or electronic ballot is to vote upon the removal of one or more officers or directors named
226 in the notice. All other directors, except duly chosen AAO Councillors, may be removed with or without cause,
227 upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors present and voting, after at least 20 days'
228 written notice, stating that a purpose of the meeting is to vote upon the removal of one or more directors named in
229 the notice. Such removal shall not bar the director or officer from seeking election to any office in the association
230 provided he/she is otherwise qualified to serve.
231

232 Section 5.03 - Resignation from the Board. A member of the Board of Directors may resign from the board by
233 delivering notice to the President, the Secretary or the Executive Director.
234

235 Section 6 - Election. All officers and directors of the association, except those named pursuant to Section 4.01, shall be
236 elected by a vote of the membership, either at an annual meeting of the membership, or by mail or electronic ballot,
237 in a manner as determined by the Board of Directors provided that such election is concluded no later than
238 December 15 each year. AAO Councillors shall be selected in accordance with the rules and bylaws of the
239 American Academy of Ophthalmology.
240

241 Section 6.01 - Nominations. The Nominating Committee shall, no later than November 15 of each year, nominate
242 one or more qualified members for each vacancy in elected office resulting from expired terms or for other reasons.
243 Nominations also may be submitted from the membership, provided that such nominations are received by the
244 Secretary no later than November 15 and are signed by at least five (5) voting members of the association. In the
245 event that AAO Councillors are required to be chosen by a vote of the membership, then the Nominating
246 Committee shall propose one or more qualified persons in accordance with the bylaws and rules of the American
247 Academy of Ophthalmology. No later than December 1, the Board of Directors shall confirm the slate of
248 candidates to include those proposed by the Nominating Committee and any other candidates properly submitted
249 by the general membership.
250

251 Section 6.02 -Vacancies. In the event that a vacancy occurs in any office of the association by reason of death,
252 disability, resignation, disqualification, expulsion, or for any other reason, the Board of Directors shall elect a
253 successor from among nominees submitted by members of the Board to fill the unexpired term.

254 Section 7 - Meetings and Rules of Order. The Board of Directors shall meet at least annually. Meetings of the Board may
255 be in person, by teleconference, by other electronic means allowing for all members to participate in the meeting,
256 or a combination thereof.

257
258 Section 7.01 - Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the voting members of the
259 Board of Directors.

260
261 Section 7.02 - Notice. Notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least five (5) days in
262 advance by written notice sent by U.S. mail, messenger or facsimile transmission to the director's mailing or
263 business address or by electronic communication. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of any
264 regular or spacial meeting of the board need be specified in the notice, unless specifically required by law or by
265 these bylaws.

266
267 Section 7.03 - Special Meetings. A special meeting of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of
268 the President or any four (4) directors.

269
270 Section 8 - Indemnification and Liability of Directors. No director or officer of the association shall be personally liable for
271 monetary damages resulting from the exercise of judgment or discretion in connection with the duties or
272 responsibilities of such director or officer unless the act or omission involved willful or wanton conduct. Each
273 officer and director of the association shall be indemnified and held harmless for all official actions taken and for
274 all failures to take action in connection with the officer's or director's official duties to the fullest extent as
275 permitted under law, except for the officer's or director's gross negligence, willful misconduct or criminal acts or
276 omissions. Such indemnification shall include claims, demands, liabilities, losses, damages or expenses, of any
277 kind and nature, including judgments, interest and attorney fees and all other reasonable costs, expenses and
278 charges.

279
280 Section 8.01 - Bonding. The Board of Directors may require, at the expense of the association, a good and
281 sufficient surety bond from any officer, director, employee or agent which the Directors deem advisable for the
282 faithful performance of their duties.

283
284 Section 9 - Compensation. Officers and members of the Board of Directors shall serve without compensation but may be
285 reimbursed for their reasonable and actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties, except
286 that such reimbursement shall not include lost income resulting from discharging the duties of office. The Board
287 of Directors may establish rules relating to the reimbursement of officers and directors.

288
289
290 **ARTICLE IV**
291 **Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees**

292
293 Section 1 - Committee Membership. Except as otherwise provided for in this Article: the number and composition of
294 committees shall be determined by majority vote of the Board of Directors; the President shall appoint committee
295 members who shall serve until their successor is appointed; committee members may be removed upon majority
296 vote of the Board of Directors present and voting at any properly constituted meeting of the Board.

297
298 Section 2 - Manner of Operating. Unless otherwise provided in these bylaws or the resolution creating a committee, a
299 majority of committee members shall constitute a quorum. Committees may fix their own time and place of
300 meetings, within the budget assigned to the committee, and agenda, provided that such items of business are within
301 the jurisdiction of the committee as stated in Section 4 of this Article.

302
303 Section 3 - Committees of the Board. The following committees of the Board are established:

304
305 Section 3.01 - Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, who serves as
306 chairman, the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Immediate Past-president. The Executive Director shall
307 serve as a non-voting member of the committee. The Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing the
308 ongoing management of the association and is vested with authority to transact business between meetings of the
309 Board of Directors unless otherwise prohibited by law or these bylaws. The Executive Committee shall meet at the
310 call of the President or a majority of its members. A quorum shall be three voting members.

311
312 Section 3.02 - Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Immediate Past-president,
313 who shall serve as chair, the current president and one other voting member of the Board of Directors selected by
314 the Board. The Nominating Committee is responsible for proposing one or more candidates for elective offices of
315 the association. The Committee shall carry out those duties as described in Article III, Section 6.01 of these
316 Bylaws.

317
318 Section 3.03 - Illinois Medical Eye-PAC. The Illinois Medical Eye-PAC is responsible for soliciting monetary
319 contributions from members of the association and others qualified under state law to make such contributions, and
320 to direct the expenditure of funds to qualified political committees in support of candidates for public office. The
321 Chair of the PAC shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and the Treasurer of the PAC shall be the Executive
322 Director unless another individual is appointed by the Board to serve in that capacity. A statement of organization

for Illinois Medical Eye-PAC and any other reports required under state or federal law shall be filed with the Illinois State Board of Elections or other entities as may be necessary. Procedures for approving expenditures from the PAC shall be adopted by the Board of Directors.

Section 4 - Ad Hoc Committees and Workgroups. The Board of Directors may establish, by majority vote, certain ad hoc committees or workgroups its deems necessary to carry out the business of the association. The motion establishing such committees shall specify the duties and responsibilities, number and composition of members, and a time by which the committee shall be subject to termination or renewal. The President shall appoint a committee chair, who is not a voting member of the Board of Directors but may attend and participate in meetings of the Board.

ARTICLE V
Meetings and Votes of the Members

Section 1 - Meetings. An annual business meeting of the membership shall be held at a time and place, and in a manner as determined by the Board of Directors. Any meeting of the membership may be held in person, by teleconference or by other electronic means as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 1.01 - Quorum. Ten percent (10%) of the voting members of the association shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

Section 1.02 - Notice. A notice of the time, place, and manner of all meetings of the general membership shall be at least twenty (20) days before the date of the meeting to the address (either physical or electronic) of each member as listed in the records of the association. Such notice need not state the purpose of the meeting or list any items of business to be considered, unless specifically required by law. Notices of membership meetings may be made by U.S. Mail or by electronic means in a manner determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 1.03 - Order of Business. The order of business at any duly constituted meeting of the membership shall be set by the President.

Section 2 - Voting. Each voting member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. For the transaction of any business coming before the membership, including election of officers and directors, voting may be in person at a duly constituted meeting of the membership, or by mail or electronic ballot in a manner determined by the Board of Directors. Proxy voting shall not be permitted on any matter presented for a vote to the general membership.

ARTICLE VI
Finances

Section 1 - Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the association shall be the calendar year unless otherwise specified by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 1.01 - Annual Budget. The Treasurer shall submit, and the Board of Directors shall approve, an annual budget listing anticipated revenues and expenditures of the association for the next fiscal year. The annual budget shall be approved by the Board of Directors no later than the start of the fiscal year.

Section 2 - Books and Records. The association shall keep correct and complete books and records of its accounts. Audits of the financial records of the association may be conducted at times and in a manner as directed by the Board of Directors at the expense of the association.

Section 3 - Contracts. The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers or agent, including the executive director of the association, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the association, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 4 - Checks, Drafts, Etc. All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the association shall be signed by such officer or officers, or their designees, as from time to time may be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 5 - Deposits. All funds of the association not otherwise employed shall be deposited in a timely fashion to the credit of the association in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee may authorize.

Section 6 - Loans. No loan may be contracted on behalf of the association nor any evidence of indebtedness issued in its name except upon approval by two-thirds of the entire Board of Directors. Short term charge accounts may be established in the name of the association without a vote of the Board to efficiently manage the day-to-day business of the association.

Section 7 - Contributions and Gifts. The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the association any contribution, gift, bequest or device for general purposes or for any special purpose of the association.

392 Section 8 - Use of Funds and Dissolution. The association shall use its funds only to accomplish the objectives and
393 purposes specified in its Articles of Incorporation, and no part of the funds shall inure to or be distributed to the
394 members of the association. Upon dissolution of the association, any funds remaining shall be distributed to one or
395 more regularly organized and qualified organizations operated exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific
396 purposes, to be selected by the Board of Directors.
397

398 **ARTICLE VII**
399 **Amendments, Policies, Procedures and Dissolution**
400

401
402 Section 1 - Bylaws. These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted at any meeting of
403 the Board of Directors by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the directors present and voting.
404

405 Section 2 - Policies and Rules of Procedure. The Board of Directors may adopt policies and rules of procedure as it deems
406 necessary; however, procedures governing all meetings of the association shall be consistent with Robert's Rules of
407 Order.
408

409 Section 3 - Dissolution. Dissolution of the corporation may be effected only upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of
410 the members of the association casting ballots on the question.