

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

ARTICLE I NAME

The name and title of this Association shall be the "Association of the United States Navy, Inc." and shall be referred to as "Association" within the Constitution.

ARTICLE II POLICY

2.01 The Association of the United States Navy, Inc. shall be a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and nonsectarian organization.

2.02 The general policies of the Association shall be established either by members at the Annual Meeting or by the Board of Directors.

2.03 The Association's ~~of the United States Navy~~ name shall not be used in connection with party politics, personal activities or international affairs.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be:

3.01 To promote the interest of the ~~Department of the Navy~~ United States Navy and the Navy Reserve to the advantage of the country's welfare and security.

3.02 To support the military and naval policies of the United States ~~to the end~~ so that the national defense and national security be are developed and strengthened through the means of an adequate naval establishment, including a well-trained and readily available Navy and Navy Reserve.

3.03 To provide an informative and professionally helpful educational program ~~designed to be informative and professionally helpful to for~~ Navy personnel and Navy Reserve personnel and/or to potential members entering the Naval Service as commissioned officers and enlisted personnel.

3.04 To encourage and promote the interest and activity of Navy ~~and Navy Reserve~~ personnel in understanding and attaining the highest professional standards in the Navy.

3.05 To collect, evaluate, and disseminate information to our countrymen and members of the bodies politic relating to our nation's welfare and security.

- 3.06 To promote a deep sense of individual obligation ~~of to the Navy and Navy Reserve and its personnel, to the Navy and the interest of the Navy in its personnel.~~
- 3.07 To stimulate and support the naval sciences and programs and to maintain the traditions of the Naval Service.
- 3.08 To promote its ~~V~~ision and achieve its ~~M~~ission as defined in the current ~~S~~trategic P~~plan.~~

ARTICLE IV GOVERNANCE

- 4.01 The Board of Directors shall be the governing authority for the Association and shall be responsible for carrying-out the purposes of the Association.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

- 5.01 There shall be the following classes of membership in the Association: Regular, AssociateElectronic, Honorary, Meritorious Life, Complimentary, Friends of the Navy, Life Benefactor and Admiral's Club and Affiliate.

5.01.1 **Regular Membership.** Regular Membership will be offered to any current or former uniformed service member ~~or civilian employee~~ of the United States Navy, ~~United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Merchant Marine or civilian employee of these associated services who has not been separated under adverse or other than honorable conditions.~~

~~5.1.2 Electronic Membership. Electronic Membership will be offered to any current or former uniformed service member or civilian employee of the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Merchant Marine or civilian employee who has not been separated or discharged under other than honorable conditions.~~

- ~~5.1.1 Associate Membership: The following persons are eligible for Associate membership but shall not be entitled to vote or hold national office:~~

~~5.1.1.1 Any current or former uniformed service member or civilian employee of the United States armed services (not listed in Article V Section 5.01.1) who has not been separated under adverse or other than honorable conditions.~~

~~5.1.1.2 Members of the Naval Association of Canada (NAC).~~

~~5.1.1.35.1.1.1 Any current or former uniformed service member of the armed forces of other nations who are specifically accepted for membership by the National Executive Committee. Spouses/Companions of Regular and Associate members, and spouses/companions of deceased persons who were former members or were eligible for membership in the Association.~~

5.01.23 **Honorary Membership.** Honorary Membership may be conferred by the National President at the discretion of the Board of Directors upon a persons for meritorious service to the national defense, Navy, ~~Navy Reserve,~~ or the Association. Such Honorary Membership is for the life of the member and does not carry the right to vote or hold elective office.

5.01.34 **Meritorious Life Membership.** Meritorious Life Membership may, upon application, be conferred upon the members who have maintained continuous paid ~~active~~ membership in the Association for a period of twenty (20) years and who are seventy-five (75) years of age or older.

5.01.45 **Complimentary Membership.** At the discretion of the National President, Complimentary Memberships may be offered by the National Executive Director for a period, not to exceed one (1) year, to individuals eligible for ~~regular~~ Regular Membership or associate membership. Complimentary ~~memberships~~ Memberships are to be used for the sole purpose of creating interest in becoming paid ~~regular~~ Regular Members or associate members. Complimentary ~~members~~ Members shall not be entitled to vote, hold national office, or be counted towards District Region ~~V~~oting Strength.

~~5.1.5 **Electronic Membership** will be offered to any current or former uniformed service member or civilian employee of the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Merchant Marine who has not been separated or discharged under other than honorable conditions.~~

~~5.1.6 **Affiliate Membership.** Affiliate Membership may be offered by the National Executive Director for the period of matriculation at the U. S. Naval Academy, any Merchant Marine academy or NROTC unit in the case of Midshipmen, or for the period of first enlistment for junior enlisted personnel. Following such period of time, Affiliate Members will be solicited to become regular members. Affiliate Members shall not be entitled to vote, hold national office, or be counted towards Region voting strength.~~

5.01.576 **Friends of the Navy Membership.** Designated members of a corporate entity that has a working partnership with the Association under the Corporate Associates program to ensure a strong Navy and Navy Reserve. Friends of the Navy Membership will be offered to Any person not meeting the criteria for Regular Membership, Electronic Membership, Honorary Membership or Meritorious Life Membership yet is interested in supporting, is eligible for Friends of the Navy Membership the United States Navy.

~~5.01.7 **Life Benefactor Membership and Admirals Club.** Life Members may apply for Life Benefactor Status and Admirals Club in accordance with terms and benefits specified in the Operations Manual. Life Members who are in good standing may apply for Life Benefactor Status. Members may choose from two levels to participate as a Life Benefactor; \$500 (Blue Level) and \$800 (Gold Level). Life Benefactor members will receive all rights and recognition as deemed by the Board of Directors.~~

~~5.01.67 **Affiliate Membership.** Affiliate Membership may be offered by the National Executive Director ~~for during the period of matriculation at the U. S. Naval Academy, any Merchant Marine Academy or NROTC unit.~~ ~~in the case of Midshipmen, or for the period of time, Affiliate of first enlistment for junior enlisted personnel.~~ **Following such period of time matriculation, Affiliate Members will be solicited to become Regular Members. Affiliate Members shall not be entitled to vote, hold national office, or be counted towards Region voting strength.**~~

~~5.01.9 **Admiral's Club.** A multi-level giving campaign that enables members to contribute monthly to the organization above their members due on a sustaining basis. Pledged amounts are automatically collected and are non-designated funds to be assigned as deemed appropriate by the Executive Director.~~

ARTICLE -VI ORGANIZATION

6.01 The Association shall be organized in Regions and these, in turn, in Chapters.

6.02 Regions shall be established as follows:

Northwest Region Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

Southwest Region Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah

Midwest Region Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin

Southeast Region Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, North Carolina

Mid Atlantic Region

Northeast Region Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, ~~North Carolina~~, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, ~~Virginia~~, West Virginia

Washington D.C.
Metropolitan Region
Washington Region
Washington, Maryland
~~and OCONUS Region.~~

District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia (City of Alexandria
~~and ONLY Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William,~~
~~Stafford, and King Georges Counties),~~ and all geographical
areas (OCONUS) of the world not included in any Region set
forth above.

6.03 Chapters may be established in all Regions.

ARTICLE VII

ANNUAL MEETING

7.01 **Governance.** The governing body of the Association shall be the Board of Directors. The legislative body of the Association shall be the Annual Meeting whose membership shall consist of delegates as defined in Articles 7.03, 7.04 and 7.06 below. Such Annual Meetings shall transact any and all business properly coming before them.

7.02 **Time and Place.** There shall be one (1) Annual Meeting held between July 1 and October 31. ~~Future locations~~ shall be recommended by the National President and approved by the Board of Directors.

7.03 **Attendance at Sessions.** Every member in good standing on the records maintained of at the National Headquarters of the Association, who is present at any regular session, shall be recognized as a delegate with the right to speak on any issue on the floor.

7.04 **Region Voting Delegates:**

7.04.1 ~~Only Regular m~~Members in good standing, who are registered, shall be certified as voting delegates and entitled to introduce and vote upon issues on the floor.

7.04.2 ~~Eligibility for e~~Certification as a voting delegate ~~is shall be~~ determined by ~~the~~Credentials Committee AUSN staff using the last ALPHA alphabetical membership printout prepared prior to the opening day of the annual Meeting, ~~and recorded on the~~annual Meeting Registration form. In addition, the ~~Credentials Committee AUSN staff~~ will certify those non-registered members attending the meeting; and, ~~maintain~~ a master list of both voting and non-voting delegates will be maintained.

7.04.3 The ~~Credentials Committee AUSN staff~~ shall submit its initial written report to the delegates assembled, with appropriate copies to the Region Presidents, at the opening session on the second day. ~~and thereafter aAs additional voting delegates are certified~~by the President as well as a complete list of all delegates will be presented at the conclusion of the annual Meeting.

7.05 **Quorum.** A quorum shall exist at the ~~A~~Annual ~~M~~meeting when a majority of the certified region votes are present.

7.06 **Region Voting Strength:**

~~7.06.1~~ Each Region shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each fifty (50) ~~R~~regular members, ~~or major fraction thereof,~~ listed on the last ~~ALPHA~~ alphabetical membership printout prepared prior to the opening day of the ~~M~~meeting.

7.07 **Voting Procedure:**

7.07.1 ~~Region With Certified Voting Delegates.~~ The total number of Region votes shall be divided equally among the certified voting delegates of the ~~district~~ Region present at the time the vote is taken.

7.07.2 ~~Regions Without Certified Voting Delegates.~~ In cases where there are no certified voting delegates from any given ~~R~~Region present at the time the vote is taken, no votes will be registered for the ~~R~~Region. In matters of voting, proxies are not authorized from outside the Region.

~~7.1.1~~ ~~Fractional Voting not Permitted.~~ ~~When the number of region votes to be apportioned in accordance with Articles 7.07.1 and 7.07.2 above, will result in a remaining fraction, those remainder votes shall be drawn for by lot among the region voting delegates, such that each person shall be eligible to receive only one additional region vote. Votes shall be tallied and reported by region.~~

7.07.3 Votes shall be tallied and reported by ~~R~~Region.

7.07.4 A majority vote shall determine the action to be taken on any matter, ~~not specifically provided for otherwise.~~

7.08 **Qualifications.** ~~Only Regular m~~Members may be elected or appointed to any national office or to ~~national~~ any national committee chairmanship. ~~Regular m~~Members may be appointed to ~~any national committee membership. Associate members may be appointed to any national committee except the Nominations Committee. Friends of the Navy are not eligible to hold elected national office.~~

ARTICLE VIII

OFFICERS

8.01 **National Officers:** Elected National Officers of the Association shall be the National President, the National ~~Executive~~ Vice President, and the National Treasurer, ~~National Vice President of Budget and Finance.~~

8.01.1 Other National Officers such as ~~Treasurer,~~ Chaplain, Historian, Parliamentarian, Librarian, and Vice Presidents, such as Officer Affairs, Government Relations, Membership, Communications and Retired Personnel, ~~and other such officers and Vice~~

~~Presidents~~ deemed necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Association shall be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the National President. Other such Officers and Vice Presidents may also be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the National President. The National Executive Director serves as the National Secretary in accordance with Article IX, 9.02.

8.02 **Region Officers:** ~~The elected officer(s) shall include at a minimum~~ Region President. ~~S~~shall be elected by Chapters of that ~~r~~Region. ~~If no rRegion President is elected, a Region President may be appointed by the National President.~~

8.02.1 ~~Other Elected/Appointed Officers.~~ ~~In keeping with interests of the Region membership and to assist national goal and objective achievements,~~ ~~t~~The Region President may appoint Region Officers as required. ~~counterparts to the nationally elected and appointed officers listed in Article 8.01 and 8.01.1 above. Such appointed officers shall serve at his pleasure.~~

8.02.2 Each Region ~~Executive~~-Vice President (if appointed or elected) shall be a member of the respective National Standing Committee of the like title and function.

8.03 **Chapter Officers.** The Chapter Officers shall be those set forth in the AUSN By-Laws and such other officers as the respective Chapter By-Laws may provide.

8.04 **Installation of Officers.** National, Region and Chapter Officers, upon being elected or appointed to office, shall be installed by administering the following oath of office:

“I solemnly promise that I will uphold the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association of the United States Navy; that I will abide by the decisions of its ~~A~~annual ~~M~~meetings and of the Board of Directors; and, that I will faithfully perform the duties incumbent upon me as an officer of this Association, so help me God.”

ARTICLE IX

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

9.01 **Employment.** The Board of Directors shall have the authority to employ or discharge a National Executive Director. The National Executive Director shall have the authority to employ such executive assistants personnel including a National Deputy Executive Director as may be required for the proper administration and management of the Association. The terms of employment and authority to discharge shall be as determined by the National Executive Director.

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9.02 **National Secretary.** The National Executive Director shall automatically concurrently serve as the National Secretary of the Association.

9.03 **Bond.** The National Executive Director and such other staff members as the National Executive Director may authorize to sign checks shall furnish bond at the expense of the Association of such amount and upon such corporate surety as the Board of Directors shall direct.

9.04 **Vacancy.** In the event the National Executive Director is temporarily unable to perform ~~his~~the duties, the Board of Directors shall appoint an interim Acting National Executive Director. ~~if the Deputy position is unfilled~~

~~ARTICLE X~~

~~EMERGENCY GOVERNING BODY~~

~~10.01 **Emergency Governance.** In the event a national emergency, declared by the President or Congress, results in such large numbers of members of the Association being deployed or called to active duty, that the probability of insufficient attendance would make the calling of an Annual Meeting impractical, the Board of Directors will act for and on behalf of the Association as the exclusive governing body.~~

~~ARTICLE XI~~

~~FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS~~

~~11.10.01~~ **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal ~~Y~~year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

~~11.210.02~~ **Revenue.** The revenue of the Association shall be derived from membership dues, corporate sponsorships, and voluntary contributions from members and others, ~~and from such other sources as may be approved by the Board of Directors.~~

~~11.310.03~~ **Membership Dues:**

~~11.10.03.1~~ **National.** The dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors, ~~and~~ be specified in the By-Laws Operations Manual, and be payable by the member directly to National Headquarters. ~~Honorary, Meritorious Life, and Complimentary members shall pay no dues.~~

~~11.10.03.2~~ **Chapter.** No portion of the dues received by the Association shall be remitted to any local chapter of the Association. Each local chapter of the Association may bill its Chapter members for dues in such amount as may be determined by the local chapter through its own membership.

~~11.10.4~~ **Fund-Raising Activities:**

~~11.10.04.1~~ **Solicitation.** Fund-raising programs shall be briefed to the Board of Directors as a part of the annual budget submission submitted for approval. Significant adjustments to the programs during the year, if any, require approval by the Board of Directors.

~~11.10.04.2~~ **The National Executive Director** is charged under his contract with the responsibility of conducting all fund-raising activities done by or on behalf of the Association.

~~110.04.3~~ **Fund Raisers.** All persons engaging in fund raising for the Association shall be selected by the National Executive Director under terms established by him, ~~and approved by the National President.~~

~~110.05~~ **Written Reports Monthly Financial Reports.** ~~of all fund-raising activities. Monthly financial reports~~ shall be ~~filed~~ shared with the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days of completion, ~~of the fund raising activity so that the Board may assess and make the recommendations concerning effectiveness and continuation of approved activities and consideration for modifications and/or new endeavors.~~

~~110.06~~ **Unsolicited Contributions.** ~~Unsolicited contributions~~ tendered on a voluntary basis are always welcome. The Association reserves the right to reject any unsolicited contribution not in compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws. ~~Members when offered donations should, when in doubt, consult the National Executive Director for clarification.~~

~~110.07~~ **Accounts and Books:**

~~110.07.1~~ **National Treasurer.** The accounts and financial records shall be maintained by the Headquarters Chief Financial Officer and ~~reviewed by the National Treasurer.~~

~~110.07.2~~ **Treasurer's Report.** A report of the finances of the Association shall be posted and orally made by the ~~National~~ Treasurer of the Association at each ~~Annual~~ Meeting and at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

~~110.07.3~~ **Audit.** The books of the Association shall be audited ~~bi-~~annually by a certified public accountant selected by the Board of Directors. ~~Reviews shall be made in the interim years by a CPA.~~

~~110.08~~ **Fiduciary Trust - Conflict of Interest.** Any individual serving as an elected or appointed Board member, ~~N~~national officer, ~~R~~regional officer, ~~or C~~chapter officer ~~or C~~committee member, ~~employee, or any Association employee~~ or agent, who engages in activities or interests, which taint the image of propriety, or give the appearance of being counter to the goals and objectives of the Association ~~shall incur a conflict of interest which will be considered a violation of the fiduciary trust of the office. Also, any of the above individuals or which who~~ personally benefit ~~the individual by from~~ bringing the ~~Association individual~~ into conflict or competition with the best interests of the Association, ~~thereby shall~~ incurs a conflict of interest, ~~and also which will be considered a violates violation of~~ the fiduciary trust of ~~the~~ office. Such activity shall result in the immediate suspension of the individual from the position held, pending final action ~~by the Board of Directors or the National Executive Director.~~ Final determination concerning any paid employee or agent shall be made by the ~~employer authorizing person or body.~~

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ARTICLE XII

~~AUSA~~ ENDOWMENT FUND

~~12.01~~ There shall be created and established a separate fund to be known as the ~~AUSA~~ Endowment Fund. Contributions thereto shall be held in trust and income therefrom shall be applied from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Directors for the advancement of the

~~purposes of the Association.~~

ARTICLE XIII

ausn AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended ~~or repealed~~ at any ~~A~~annual ~~M~~meeting by a two-thirds ~~(2/3)~~ affirmative vote, provided that the proposed amendment has been ~~submitted in accordance with Appendix 1 to this Constitution and has been~~ reviewed by the Board of Directors and published to the delegates at least twenty-four (24) hours before being brought to a vote. ~~or, if not previously considered by the Board or not approved by the Board provided that two thirds of the voting delegates authorize the introduction of the amendment which shall have been published to the delegates at least twenty-four (24) hours before being brought to a vote.~~ However, minor changes of language, correction of manifest errors, or removal of ambiguities, not affecting substance, may be ~~made approved to by the Constitution by the Constitution and By Laws Committee.~~ Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIV

SEAL AND INSIGNIA

The Association ~~may has~~ adopted a distinctive seal ~~that is as described below: and a distinctive badge or insignia. Ribbons and rosettes may also be adopted. Members of the Association in good standing are permitted to wear such badges, insignia, ribbons, or rosettes on such occasions and in such manner the Association's published protocol proscribes.~~

~~14.1.01~~ **Seal or Logo.** The Association of the United States Navy ~~s~~Seal ~~is shall be circular or~~ oval in shape, consisting of the letters “*ausn*” and the words “Association of the United States Navy.” ~~Letters and words may be either in capitalization or non-capitalization. As much as practical, The seal should shall~~ maintain a blue and gold color theme.

~~14.1~~ **Badge or Medal:** The Association of the United States Navy may produce and distribute to members in good standing a badge, ribbon or medal. As much as practical, the badge, ribbon or medal will contain the letters “*ausn*” and the words “Association of the United States Navy.” A color theme of blue and gold is appropriate and should be used to the maximum extent as possible.

~~14.2~~ **ausn Insignia Protocol:** The appropriate Association insignia to be worn at any function is determined by the military uniform/civilian dress code prescribed and the organizations hosting the function.

~~14.2.1~~ **Hosting organization.** The Association insignia may be worn at functions hosted by:

- ~~1.~~ any Navy Association group;
- ~~2.~~ any Association group jointly with another paramilitary organization;
- ~~3.~~ another paramilitary organization; or
- ~~4.~~ the Navy Department, but only when acting in an official capacity representing the Association.

ARTICLE ~~XV~~^{XIII}

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The National Headquarters of the Association shall be in the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C.

ARTICLE ~~XIV~~

RATIFICATION

All acts performed under any former Constitution are hereby ratified and confirmed.

ARTICLE ~~XV~~^{XVI}

REVOCATION

All prior Constitutions and amendments thereto are revoked and shall become null and void immediately upon the adoption of this Constitution.

Appendix I

to

CONSTITUTION

I. Procedures for changing the Constitution

PROCEDURES FOR CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

A. ARTICLE XIII of the Constitution provides that:

1. The Constitution may be amended ~~or repealed~~ at any Annual Meeting by a ~~2/3~~ two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote ~~respectively~~, provided that:

a. The proposed amendment has been published to the Delegates at least twenty-four (24) hours before being brought to a vote, and

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b. Either has been previously reviewed by the Board of Directors, or if not so approved, ~~the reviewed, the~~ same majority required to adopt the amendment authorizes its introduction.

2. Minor changes of language which correct manifest errors, ~~or remove ambiguities, and which~~ do not affect substance, may be made by the Board of Directors. ~~Constitution and By Laws Committee.~~

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B. Procedure. Proposed changes to the Constitution should normally be submitted to the Board of Directors for its consideration and review prior to consideration by the ~~Meeting~~ Delegates, but this is not mandatory. Further, if the proposed change is considered by the Board of Directors and not recommended by that body, the ~~Meeting~~ Delegates can vote to hear the proposed amendment.

1. Submit proposed changes to ausn Headquarters, 1619 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or by FAX (703) 683-3647, or by E-mail <admin@ausn.org>.

2. The Board of Directors will review the proposal and submit it to the Annual Meeting. ~~via the Constitution and By Laws Committee.~~

C. Format. The proposed change must include the existing language and the new language inserted in its proper place in the text. Letters or words to be deleted from the existing text will have a line through them, e.g. delete. Letters or words being added will be underlined, e.g. underlined. Immediately below the text, a brief statement of explanation for the need of this change and what it does should appear preceded by the word "RATIONALE." ~~See samples on following page.~~

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SAMPLE PROPOSED SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE TO ~~AUSA~~ CONSTITUTION

~~“6.08 **Qualifications:** Only regular members may be elected or appointed to national office or to National Committee Chairmanship, except as specified in Article B-8.0129. Regular members may be appointed to any~~

~~National Committee Membership. Associate Members may be appointed to any National Committee except the Nominating Committee.”~~

~~**RATIONALE:** Article B-8.0129 specifies that the Chairperson of the Anchors Committee shall be an Associate Member as defined in article 4.012 of the Constitution. This amendment will correct the discrepancy.~~

SAMPLE EDITORIAL CHANGE

~~“7.01 **Voting Members:** The Elected National Officers and Region Presidents, and Past National Presidents, or their duly authorized representatives as provided in Article 7.011; and Past National Presidents shall be voting members.”~~

~~**RATIONALE:** Clarity~~

Legend: underlining indicates letters or words added to text.
line through indicates letters or words deleted from text.
