

SAF Constitution

(Adopted by membership referendum December 6, 1969. Amended December 5, 1970; December 4, 1971; December 15, 1973; December 13, 1975; November 15, 1979; November 4, 1981; November 9, 1983; November 4, 1986; November 3, 1989; November 1, 1990; November 1, 1991; November 2, 1992; November 1, 1996; January 1, 2007; and November 5, 2008)

NAME

Article I

The name of the Society shall be SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS.

OBJECTIVES

Article II

Sec. 1. The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

Sec. 2. The Society shall adopt a statement on forest policy which shall be implemented in accordance with Bylaws established by the Council. The statement and substantive amendments to the statement shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of members voting.

MEMBERSHIP

Article III

Sec. 1. The membership of the Society shall consist of Professional Members, Conditional Professional Members, Associate Members, Technician Members, and Student Members. *All members may vote on any questions before the Society.*

Sec. 2. Standards and procedures for membership admission, change, termination, and reinstatement shall be established by the Council in accordance with the following sections.

Sec. 3. Professional Members shall be graduates of an SAF-accredited forestry curriculum or of a candidate curriculum for accreditation; OR recipients of a graduate degree in forestry from an institution that has an SAF-accredited forestry curriculum or one that is a candidate for accreditation; OR scientists or practitioners who hold a bachelor's or higher degree within the broad field of forestry, based

on a curriculum that is neither SAF-accredited nor a candidate for accreditation, and who have three or more years of qualifying experience within the broad field of forestry. *Professional Members may hold any office and vote on any questions before the Society.*

Sec. 4. Conditional Professional Members shall be scientists or practitioners who hold a bachelor's or higher degree within the broad field of forestry, based on a curriculum that is neither SAF-accredited nor a candidate for accreditation, and who have less than three years of qualifying experience within the broad field of forestry.

Sec. 5. Fellows shall be Professional Members who have rendered outstanding service to forestry and to the Society.

Sec. 6. Associate Members shall be scientists or practitioners who hold a bachelor's or higher degree in a subject area not within the broad field of forestry but who work in a position that strongly influences the profession of forestry (excluding elected officials).

Sec. 7. Technician Members shall be graduates of an associate degree program within the broad field of forestry.

Sec. 8. Student Members shall be undergraduate or graduate students in forestry, preforestry, or a forest technician program, or in another program within the broad field of forestry.

Sec. 9. Honorary Members shall be individuals, not eligible to be a Professional Member, Conditional Professional Member, Fellow, or Associate Member, who have rendered distinguished service to forestry. They shall not have the right to hold office or vote on questions in front of the society and shall not be considered members as defined in Sec. 1.

Sec. 10. International Members shall be members who are not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, its possessions, Canada, or Mexico.

DUES

Article IV

Rates and schedules for membership dues and fees shall be established by the Council after consultation with delegates of state, multistate, and intrastate societies at a meeting of the House of Society Delegates.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

Article V

Sec. 1. The officers of the Society shall be a president, a vice-president, and an executive vice-president.

Sec. 2. The president shall preside at meetings of the Society, serve as chair of the Council, appoint members of such committees as may be established by the Council, and perform all other duties incident to the office. The president shall serve for a one-year term, having succeeded to that office from the office of vice-president. If the president is absent, or is unable to serve, the president's duties shall be performed by the vice-president. If the president resigns or is unable to serve, the vice-president shall succeed as president to serve the remainder of the term, as well as serving the next term as president. If both the president and vice-president resign or are unable to serve, the Council, by affirmative vote of at least 10 of its members, shall appoint a president pro tempore from present or past members of the Council to serve until a new president and vice-president are elected at the next general election and take office, or until the president or vice-president is able to resume those duties. If appointed from the present Council, the president shall resign as an elected Council member.

Sec. 3. The vice-president shall be a Professional Member elected by the voting membership for a two-year succession, without eligibility for reelection, as follows: one year as vice-president, one year as president. If the vice-president resigns or is unable to serve, a president and a vice-president shall be elected at the next general election.

Sec. 4. The executive vice-president shall be the executive officer of the Society under the general direction of the Council, and shall perform the duties of secretary and treasurer and be custodian of the funds and securities of the Society. The executive vice-president shall be appointed by the Council for a term of two years starting January 1 of even-numbered years.

Sec. 5. The Society shall be governed by a Council comprising the president, vice-president, immediate past-president, and 11 elected members.

The Council shall control the funds and properties of the Society, and perform such duties as prescribed by the Constitution.

The Council may, by affirmative vote of at least 10 of its members, establish, revise, or abolish bylaws, but no such bylaws shall abrogate or be inconsistent with any part of the Constitution.

Any action of the Council may be brought before the Society at large on written petition of not fewer than 250 voting members representing at least five state, multistate, or intrastate societies with at least 25 petitioners from each. This provision shall not apply to cases of disciplinary action nor to administrative matters, including the appointment or dismissal of the executive vice-president, in which cases the decision of the Council shall be final.

Eight members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 6. The Council shall provide procedures for nomination of Members and Fellows as candidates for election as officers or Council members and shall provide procedures for elections.

Sec. 7. The members of the Council representing voting districts shall be nominated from Professional Members and elected for a three-year term, and shall not serve consecutive terms nor be elected for more than two terms. Terms of Council members shall be staggered as described herein.

Election of the Council shall be by voting districts, and one Council member shall be elected from each voting district. The Council shall establish 11 voting districts for Council elections, each to conform insofar as possible to state, multistate, and intrastate society boundaries, and each to contain insofar as possible not fewer than 7 nor more than 11 percent of the members of the Society eligible to vote. The Council shall review the voting districts at least every 10 years and reestablish boundaries as necessary.

The staggered three-year terms for Council members shall commence with the election of Council members from voting districts II, V, VIII,

and XI elected in 1983; I, IV, VII, and X in 1984; and III, VI, and IX elected in 1985.

Sec. 8. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The terms of elected officers and Council members shall commence on January 1 following election.

Sec. 9. The immediate past-president shall serve one year as a voting member of the Council representing the entire Society membership and, as requested, shall provide counsel to the president. The immediate past-president shall assist in assuring continuity of Society programs during the change of the presidency.

STATE, MULTISTATE, OR INTRASTATE SOCIETIES

Article VI

Sec. 1. State, multistate, or intrastate Societies of American Foresters may be authorized by the Council in all states and the District of Columbia where viable units can be formed, and when the affected section or sections agree to do so. The boundaries of all state, multistate, or intrastate societies shall follow state lines except in unusual cases of need as approved by the Council.

The Council may, upon affirmative vote of at least 10 of its members, rescind the authorization of either a state, multistate, or intrastate society, or a section.

Provisions in the *SAF Constitution and Bylaws* that apply to state, multistate, or intrastate societies shall also apply to a section not converted to a state, multistate, or intrastate society. Such a section should change its name to "society."

To retain its authorization, a state, multistate, or intrastate society shall hold at least one meeting each year.

The officers of each state, multistate, or intrastate society shall include a chair, a vice-chair, a past chair, a secretary, and a treasurer, or a secretary/treasurer, and such other officers as may be found necessary. Officers of state, multistate, or intrastate societies shall be voting members of the Society.

Standard minimum bylaws for state, multistate, or intrastate societies shall be established by the Council. Any state, multistate, or intrastate society may adopt additional bylaws for its

government, subject to the approval of the Council, provided that no part thereof shall conflict with the *Constitution and Bylaws* of the Society or the standard minimum bylaws.

Sec. 2. The state, multistate, and intrastate societies shall convene a meeting of the House of Society Delegates at least annually at the time of the SAF annual meeting to advise the Council on Society affairs. The House of Society Delegates shall consist of a student representative, and the chair of each state, multistate, or intrastate society, or the official delegate approved by the executive committee of the unit. A chair and vice-chair of the House of Society Delegates shall be elected from among the state, multistate, and intrastate society delegates present at the annual meeting of the House of Society Delegates to serve terms of office as specified in the bylaws. The executive vice-president shall appoint a member of the staff to act as secretary of the House of Society Delegates.

Sec. 3. A state or multistate division may be authorized by the executive committee of a multistate society. The boundaries of a state or multistate division shall follow state lines except in cases approved by the Council. The authorization for a state or multistate division may be rescinded by the executive committee of the multistate society or upon the affirmative vote of at least 10 members of the Council.

The officers of each state or multistate division shall include a chair, a vice-chair, a past chair, a secretary, and a treasurer, or a secretary/treasurer, and such other officers as may be found necessary. State or multistate division officers shall be voting members of the Society.

State or multistate divisions may adopt bylaws subject to the approval of the multistate society's executive committee and of the Council, provided that no part thereof shall conflict with the *Constitution and Bylaws* of the Society.

Sec. 4. A chapter within a state may be authorized by the executive committee of a state, multistate, or intrastate society upon written petition of 15 or more of its voting members resident in an area where a strong local organization may be affected. The boundaries of a chapter shall be established by the executive committee of the state, multistate, or intrastate society. Where a viable chapter can be sustained only by including members

from both sides of a state boundary, the chapter shall be affiliated with the state, multistate, or intrastate society within whose boundaries a majority of the chapter members are resident.

A student chapter may be authorized within the boundaries of a state, multistate, or intrastate society by its executive committee upon written petition of 15 or more student members at an institution designated as SAF-accredited or as a candidate institution for accreditation or an SAF-recognized forest technician training program, or upon written petition of 15 or more voting members of the state, multistate, or intrastate society.

The authorization for a chapter may be rescinded by the executive committee of the state, multistate, or intrastate society or upon the affirmative vote of at least 10 members of the Council.

The officers of each chapter shall include a chair, a secretary, and a treasurer, or a secretary/treasurer, and such other officers as may be found necessary. Chapter officers shall be voting members of the Society. Student chapter officers shall be students or graduate students who are members of the Society.

Chapters may adopt bylaws subject to the approval of the state, multistate, or intrastate society executive committee and the Council, provided that no part thereof shall conflict with the *Constitution and Bylaws* of the Society.

Sec. 5. Existing groups are authorized to convert to chapters upon the approval of the executive committees of the state, multistate, or intrastate societies involved.

Sec. 6. Only those units authorized and provided for herein are units of the Society and authorized to represent themselves as such.

FOREST SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Article VII

The Society shall establish a strategy for identifying science needs, identifying new and emerging science, technology transfer, on-the-ground applications of science and technology, interfacing with scientists and practitioners from allied fields and professions dealing with forest resources, and identifying and engaging in issues related to forest science and forest resource management.

The means of implementation are set forth in the Bylaws.

ETHICS

Article VIII

The Society shall adopt a Code of Ethics governing the ethical conduct of its members. Unethical conduct by a member is conduct which violates the Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics shall be published at least annually in the *Journal of Forestry*, *The Forestry Source*, or other suitable SAF publications.

The Council shall establish and set forth in the Bylaws procedures for review of alleged unethical conduct charges made by a member. The accused shall be informed of charges against them, the contents of the charges, and the identity of those making the charges and shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard.

A member may be reprimanded, censored, expelled, or otherwise disciplined upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Ethics Committee. The president shall administer such discipline. Appeal by the accused may be made to the Council within 90 days of the Ethics Committee decision.

PUBLICATIONS

Article IX

The Society shall publish professional journals and other periodicals as approved by Council for dissemination of general, professional, and scientific information pertaining to forestry and natural resources. The Council shall establish the objectives and policies for these publications.

MEETINGS

Article X

Sec. 1. The Society shall hold an annual meeting and such other meetings as the Council may direct. The place and date of the annual meeting shall be selected by the Council and notice given to the members.

Sec. 2. Resolutions adopted at the annual meeting shall represent the consensus of those voting members present and shall not be binding on the Society.

Sec. 3. The National Assembly of the Society shall be the official annual meeting of the Society and is held at the time of the national convention. Members of the National Assembly are the SAF members present for the meeting. Officers of the National Assembly shall

include the president as chair, the vice-president as vice-chair, and the executive vice-president as secretary.

The National Assembly shall provide a forum for reporting and discussing the official business of the Society. Actions of the National Assembly shall be limited to expressions of opinion and recommendations to the Council. Opinions and recommendations originating in a meeting of the House of Society Delegates or a meeting of the Forest Science and Technology program representatives may be presented for

information but are not subject to National Assembly action.

AMENDMENTS

Article XI

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members voting. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to all voting members at least four weeks in advance of the date set for counting the ballots. Amendments shall be effective immediately upon their approval unless otherwise provided.