ARTICLE II  MEMBERSHIP

Section 2: Member Organizations
(a) Member Organizations include duly organized community based not-for-profit ambulance services, rescue squads/company, emergency medical first response organizations with trained volunteer and/or career personnel and equipment necessary for the emergency care and/or transportation of the sick and injured that provides regular service and is certified by the NYS Department of Health or recognized by a local Regional EMS Council or County EMS/Fire Coordinator as a bona-fide part of its local emergency response system.

(b) Search & Rescue Teams and Medical First Responses Organizations that are currently in this class of membership may continue in this class so long as they keep their dues current.

(c) A member organization in good standing is one whose current dues are paid, has no outstanding arrears to the Association and whose current Member Organization Report is on file with the Association. Current Member Organization Report shall mean the most recent Member Organization Report on file if such report is not more than three (3) years old by the date of the Annual Meeting and is either entered into the membership data base or hard copy signed or authorized by the Chief Administrative or Operations Officer, Secretary or duly authorized agent of the member Organization.

Section 2A: Associate Member Organizations
(a) As may be provided for in the Procedure, Associate Member Organizations may include CERT organizations, Search & Rescue Teams, Tactical Units and other similar organizations that provide first aid/emergency medical care as part of their local emergency response system.

(b) Associate Members are entitled to the privileges of Association membership except those of voting, holding office or chairing committees. Dues shall be as set in the Procedure Manual but shall not exceed those of Member Organizations.

Section 3: Individual Members
(a) Individual Members include NYS residents or military personnel, certified by a Federal Agency, NAEMT or NYS as EMS providers, past NYS residents who have been NYSVARA members, retired certified EMS providers who had been individual members, students in certified EMS courses, licensed NYS practitioners involved in EMS; as well as administrative/board/cadet/junior/life/dispatcher/driver/first aider members of community based not-for-profit ambulance services, rescue squads/company, emergency medical first response organizations that provide regular service and is certified by the NYS Department of Health or recognized by a local Regional EMS Council or County EMS/Fire Coordinator as a bona-fide part of its local emergency response system.

(b) An individual member in good standing is one whose current dues are paid and has no outstanding arrears to the Association.
Section 3A: Subscribing Members
(a) As may be provided for in the Procedure Manual, Subscribing Members of the Association shall be those individuals with an interest and involvement in EMS who desire to support the mission of the Association and receive general Association newsletters and information, but who do not meet the criteria to be eligible for Individual Membership.

(b) Subscribing Members are entitled to the privileges of Association membership except those of voting, holding office or chairing committees. Dues shall be as set in the Procedure Manual but shall not exceed those of the Individual Members.

Section 7: Emeritus
(a) The Board of Directors may designate a person who has theretofore served as a director and/or officer for at least fifteen years who has a long history of outstanding service to the Association, as a director/officer emeritus, to hold such title at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. A director/officer emeritus shall have the right, while holding such designation, to be present in a non-voting capacity at meetings of the Board of Directors. A Director or an Officer Emeritus (who may use the proper title, e.g. President Emeritus, Director Emeritus) shall have none of the obligations of office, shall not be counted in determining the quorum of the board and shall not have any of the duties of a director/officer under law.

(b) The Board of Directors may make or rescind such designation by a 2/3 vote.

Section 8: Application Process
(a) Applications for membership in the Association shall be made in writing or on-line and shall be accompanied by the first year's dues.
(b) Applicants must meet the criteria for membership and conform to the Association’s Code of Conduct and Ethics.
(c) Application process may be further defined in the Procedure Manual.

Current Sections

ARTICLE II  MEMBERSHIP

Section 2: Member Organizations
(a) A duly organized ambulance service, rescue squad/company, emergency medical first response organization with trained volunteer personnel and equipment necessary for the emergency care and/or transportation of the sick and injured that provides regular service and is certified by the NYS Department of Health or recognized by a local Regional EMS Council or County EMS/Fire Coordinator or the Association as a bona-fide part of its local emergency response system is eligible for membership.

(b) A member organization in good standing is one whose current dues are paid, has no outstanding arrears to the Association and whose current annual Member Organization Report is on file with the Association. Current Member Organization Report shall mean the most recent Agency Report on file as long as such report is not more than three (3) years old by the date of the Annual Meeting and signed by the Chief Administrative Officer, Secretary or duly authorized agent of the member Organization.
Section 3: Individual Members

(a) An individual who is a volunteer member of a duly organized ambulance service, rescue squad/company, emergency medical first response organization with trained volunteer personnel and equipment necessary for the emergency care and/or transportation of the sick and injured that provides regular service and is certified by the NYS Department of Health or recognized by a local Regional EMS Council or County EMS/Fire Coordinator or the Association as a bona-fide part of its local emergency response system is eligible for membership.

(b) An individual who is trained and volunteers his or her time to the emergency care and/or transportation of the sick and injured, the training of volunteer EMS personnel or related activity, is eligible for membership.

(c) An individual member in good standing is one whose current dues are paid and has no outstanding arrears to the Association.

Section 4: Sustaining Members

Individuals or business concerns interested in financially supporting the Association may apply for sustaining membership. Sustaining members are not entitled to vote at Association meetings.

Section 7: Application Process

Applications for membership in the Association shall be made in writing and shall be accompanied by the first year’s dues. Applications shall be presented to the secretary of the district in which the applicant is geographically located. An affirmative vote of the majority of the member organization delegates and individual members present shall be required to elect the applicant to membership.

Explanation

This bylaw amendment is designed to help retain and expand membership. EMS has evolved significantly since NYSVARA was established in 1939. In addition, there have been significant changes is how and where people work, in work and volunteer demographics and in the realities of how people live, work and volunteer. Most services that have historically been NYSVARA members now consist of a combination of volunteer and career (paid) personnel. At the same time other related organizations have often approached NYSVARA about membership opportunities. The concerns of NYS EMS providers are similar across the different sectors (volunteer, proprietary, combination, etc.).

This amendment will help NYSVARA retain many traditional member organizations and open membership to their career as well as their volunteer providers. It also establishes a non-voting associate member organization category for related organizations, like local CERT and Search and Rescue Teams.

The amendment also adds an Emeritus class of membership to provide for recognition of officers and directors who have provided significant years in service to the association.