

MOTIONS FOR 2024 AGM RELATING TO SAA CONSTITUTION

MOTION #	Clause / By-Law	ISSUE	ISSUE/DISCUSSION	MOTION	OUTCOME
1	4.1	<p>Endorsement of membership applications by the National Executive.</p>	<p>This is not the process which has been occurring, as the NEC meets at best six monthly. Currently applications are processed and approved by the National Treasurer and the National Secretary in isolation of the Full Executive or the NEC.</p> <p>It is considered that this is the most efficient and expedient way of doing business, and it requires a change to the constitution.</p>	<p>Delete the second paragraph in Paragraph 4.1 and replace with</p> <p><i>“Any person seeking membership shall make application to the National Executive. The application will be reviewed by the Secretary and National Treasurer who shall determine whether the application is successful or not and advise the appropriate state branch and NEC.”</i></p>	<p>PASSED</p>

2	4.1.1 (iii 7 iv).	Overseas members	<p>This means that overseas members only receive information from the National Secretary plus what is on the website. Feedback from overseas members is that over the last few years they have heard little from the SAA. This raises the real possibility that we may lose these members as they feel neglected.</p> <p>This will reduce the workload on the National Secretary and provide a better flow of information to each overseas member.</p>	<p>Delete Paragraph 4.1.1 in its entirety and replace with:</p> <p><i>4.1.1 BRANCH MEMBERSHIP</i> <i>Once accepted as a member of the SAA, the member will also be classified as a 'Member of their nominated Branch'.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. Members residing in a State or Territory with more than one (1) Branch must nominate a preferred Branch.</i> <i>ii. Members residing overseas must nominate a preferred Branch.</i> <i>iii. Members may nominate in writing to transfer their Membership to a preferred Branch.</i> 	PASSED
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<p>3</p>	<p>4.2.3 & 5.1, 5.1 & By-Law 5</p>	<p>Associate Members ineligible to sit on The National Executive.</p> <p>Role of CIM nor reflected in Para 5.1.viii</p>	<p>As a number Associate members already hold, or have held, Secretary and Treasurer positions at Branch level this should be reviewed with a view to open up some National Executive positions to Associate members.</p> <p>We may have excellent Associate members some of whom may be happy to take on the National Sec/Treasurer/Communications Information Manager roles.</p> <p>And at a time where we have an aging membership base, it is becoming more and more difficult to attract Ordinary Members to take on National Executive positions, therefore the opening up of positions it should be considered.</p>	<p>That the Constitution be amended to:</p> <p>Delete dot point 4 in paragraph 4.2.3 and replace with new dot point;</p> <p><i>"Associate members shall not hold the office of President or Vice President.</i></p> <p>Delete sub paragraph 5.1.iii and insert new sub-paragraph iii.</p> <p><i>"The National President and Vice President must be Life or Ordinary Members of the SAA and that up to <u>one</u> of the National Secretary, National Treasurer and the Communications Information Manager positions may be filled by an Associate Member".</i></p> <p>Delete existing para 5.1.viii and replace with;</p> <p><i>"Any casual vacancy occurring in the office of President, Vice- President, Secretary, Treasurer or Communications Information Manager (CIM), shall be filled by an Ordinary or Life Member, or Associate (Secretary, Treasurer or CIM only) appointed by a majority vote of the National Committee, until the next election."</i></p> <p>By-Law 5 – Paragraph 1.</p> <p>Delete "Clause 5", insert "Clause 4".</p>	<p>FAILED</p>
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4	4.3 (iv)	Subscriptions for members over 80 years of Age.	This discriminates against Associate Members, some of whom have literally spent decades assisting in the organisation of functions and in some cases working on Branch Executives.	That existing Constitution clause 4.3.(iv) be deleted and replaced by; <i>“ Membership subscriptions shall be waived for Ordinary and Associate Members reaching the age of eighty (80) years”.</i>	PASSED
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5	4.4.1	Suspension of Membership.	<p>There are many members whose membership has lapsed, some because they were in financial difficulties, others because of a breakdown in communications. The imposition of a penalty is a disincentive for members to rejoin.</p> <p>In the spirit of fairness, the National Treasurer has not been enforcing either the requirement to pay arrears or a joining fee (unless the member requires a new SAA Badge as that is what the joining fee covers).</p>	<p>That the constitution be amended to;</p> <p>Delete existing Paragraph 4.4.1 dot points two and three and replace with a new dot point stating;</p> <p><i>“Privileges may be restored by the National Executive on request from a member and on payment of the current year’s dues. A rejoining fee is not required, however if a member requires a replacement SAA Badge they have to procure it at the price set annually by the National Committee.”</i></p> <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The requirement to be a financial member for a minimum of 12 months to access the Welfare Fund should remain. 2. The requirement that a replacement badge needs to be procured has been inserted here, as it relates to members re-entering the association. 	<p>PASSED</p>
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6	5.5	<p>No provision in Constitution for the National Secretary to make changes of a grammatical or administrative nature.</p>	<p>This an unrealistic clause, noting that the Constitution contains a number of a purely administrative sections that will change over time.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact details for the Treasurer and Secretary • Membership Application Form • Subscription Fee schedules • <p>To provide flexibility for the National Secretary and National Treasurer, whilst allowing them to work within the constitution a new sub paragraph needs to be included.</p>	<p>That the following be included after the words “Annual General Meeting” in Para 5.5 (i)</p> <p><i>“Except where allowed under Para 5.5 (vi) below”.</i></p> <p>That the constitution be amended by inserting a new sub-paragraph 5.5 (vi).</p> <p><i>“The National Secretary, with the approval of the National Executive, can make and promulgate amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws to branches which are of a purely administrative or grammatical nature, where the intent of the sentence is not legally changed by an amendment or correction”.</i></p> <p>That the existing sub-paragraph 5.5(vi) be retained and renumbered 5.5 (vii).</p>	<p>PASSED</p>
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7	5.5	<p>There is no provision for a member of the National Executive to propose a Constitutional Change other than as a private member through their branch.</p>	<p>The members of the National Executive are the very members who work most closely with the SAA National Constitution and therefore are most aware of any deficiencies or inconsistencies in the document. It does not make business sense that to propose changes that they have to firstly convince their branch members of the need for change before any proposal is distributed to other branches for consideration.</p> <p>As all motions once received by the National Secretary are sent out to branches prior to the National AGM for discussion at Branch meetings there is no value added for a member of the National Executive to have to raise a motion to change the constitution through his or her branch.</p>	<p>Delete existing sub-paragraph 5.5 (iii) and replace with</p> <p><i>“Motions relating to amendments, alterations, additions to the Constitution and By-Laws can be proposed by the National Committee, any Branch or member.”</i></p>	<p>PASSED</p>
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8	6.1 (i)	<p>Approval of SUBCON Venue and program.</p>	<p>This has not been the case over the last four to five years, the decision has not gone to a vote at the AGM, simply the members have been advised of the timing and location at the AGM as it impracticable that the time and venue of SUBCON should be subject to an AGM vote.</p> <p>What has happened over the last decade is that the Branch responsible for hosting SUBCON has presented a proposal to the NEC. This needs to be formalised in the constitution.</p> <p>The setting of this date then activates the “AGM Milestone” Table” and sets the dates for when all actions are required.</p>	<p>That new paragraphs 6.1 (i-iii) be inserted to reflect;</p> <p>(i) <i>Will be held annually as part of the National Conference known as SUBCON, on the Sunday of the Conference.</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>Shall be organised and hosted by Branches;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>on a rotation basis, or</i> • <i>as appointed by the National Committee.</i> <p>(iii) <i>The Branch hosting SUBCON is to make a presentation to the NEC on their proposal for hosting SUBCON prior to the preceding AGM, and if approved by the NEC outline their proposal to the AGM.</i></p> <p>That the existing paragraphs (iii) through to (xi), be retained and renumbered (iv) to (xiii) accordingly.</p> <p>That existing subparagraph (xii) be renumber (xiv) and amended to read;</p> <p><i>“(xiv) Once the date of SUBCON is confirmed the National Secretary is responsible for promulgating AGM milestone dates iaw the table at APPENDIX G.”</i></p>	<p>PASSED</p>
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9	6.1 (viii)	Quorum for AGM	<p>At the 2023 AGM we only just managed to meet the requirements, we had just 51 Life and Financial Members at the AGM. With a shrinking membership base we may find ourselves without a Quorum and unable to vote on motions or hold elections.</p> <p>The constitution, as written, fails to address how business can be conducted in the event that insufficient members attend to constitute a quorum. The proposed amendment provides a means where interim decisions can be made and ratified by each branch within three months</p>	<p>Delete existing sub paragraphs 6.1 I, ii & iii and replace them with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>“Will be held annually as part of the National Conference known as SUBCON, on the Sunday of the Conference.</i> ii. <i>Shall be organised and hosted by Branches</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>on a rotation basis,</i> ■ <i>as appointed by the National Committee.</i> iii. <i>The Branch hosting SUBCON is to make a presentation to the NEC on their proposal for hosting SUBCON prior to the preceding AGM, and if approved by the NEC outline their proposal to the AGM”</i> <p>Delete existing sub paragraph 6.1.viii and replace with;</p> <p><i>viii. “A quorum for an Annual General Meeting shall be forty (40) Life and Ordinary financial Members. Where a quorum cannot be met, the meeting can vote and make interim decisions which have to ratified by the majority of SAA Branches within three months of the AGM”</i></p> <p>Insert new sub paragraph 6.1.ix and renumber remaining sub paragraphs accordingly.</p> <p><i>“ix. Where possible, members may attend and vote virtually at the meeting.”</i></p> <p>Insert new sub-paragraph 6.1.xiv.</p> <p><i>“xiv. A table of milestones for the AGM is contained as APPENDIX G”.</i></p>	<p>PASSED with an amendment that the Quorum remains at Fifty</p>
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10	7.2	<p>Annual Allocation of National funds to Branch funds.</p>	<p>The constitution by virtue of its wording implies that the disbursements are made on a per capita basis, which has not been the case in recent years.</p> <p>There needs to be clarity on how funds are disbursed to branches.</p>	<p>That members be asked to vote on two options:</p> <p>Option 1.</p> <p>Delete existing sub - paragraph 7.2 and replace with;</p> <p><i>ii. The National Executive Committee (NEC) has sole responsibility for determining how much money is disbursed to each state or as allocated yearly as appropriate to support SUBCON</i></p> <p>Option 2.</p> <p>Delete existing sub - paragraph 7.2 and replace with:</p> <p><i>“ii. That the disbursements are made on a per capita basis to reflect that the money raised by membership fees is distributed back to the members own branch, with the exception of funds approved by the National Executive Committee (NEC) allocated to support SUBCON.</i></p>	<p>PASSED with Option 1.</p>
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<p>11</p>	<p>By-Law #3</p>	<p>Life Membership Nominations and approval.</p>	<p>The requirement at all Life Membership and National Award nominations be the subject to open debate at Branch and national AGMs is impracticable for confidentiality reasons and has not been occurring.</p> <p>A review of the Life membership process of other service organisations indicated that the community norm is nominations are initiated at branch executive levels and reviewed and approved at their equivalent to the NEC.</p>	<p>That By-Law #3 be replaced in its entirety with Enclosure 1.</p> <p>Appendix C Life Membership Nomination Form.</p> <p>Delete:</p> <p><i>"Date of meeting where seventy five percent of (75%) of members recommended the nomination"</i></p> <p>Insert</p> <p><i>"Date of meeting where the majority of the Branch Executive recommended the nomination"</i></p>	<p>PASSED</p>
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<p>12</p>	<p>Para 4.2.2 & By-Law #3</p>	<p>Life Membership – Associates.</p>	<p>There are several long serving Associate Members who are integral to the running of their Branches who are deserving of recognition by the award of Life Membership.</p>	<p>Replace the existing Paragraph 4.2.2 opening statement and first dot point with.</p> <p>The Award of Life Membership is the highest honour, which can bestowed upon an Ordinary or Associate Member of the SAA, and therefore, all recommendations should be thoroughly considered in that light, prior to submission;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Executive or a Branch may recommend an Ordinary or Associate Member who has given long, continued and outstanding service to the Association, to be awarded a Life Member. <p>That the existing By-Law # 3 Governing Life Membership, be replaced with enclosure 1, to this motion.</p>	<p>PASSED</p>
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<p>13</p>	<p>Paragraphs 3.8, 3.9, By-Law #2 & By-Law #6</p>	<p>The title of the Welfare Fund. Association Legacy.</p>	<p>The constitution reflects the title of the Original Welfare Fund.</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.8 Delete "SAA Welfare Foundation" insert "Submarines Association Australia Welfare Successor Foundation".</p> <p>Paragraph 3.9 Delete "SAA Welfare Foundation" insert "Submarines Association Australia Welfare Successor Foundation".</p> <p>By-Law #2 Agenda item 8 – Reports' Delete "Welfare Foundation" Insert "Submarines Association Australia Welfare Successor Foundation"</p> <p>By-Law #6 That the existing heading of By-Law #6 be replaced with: "SUBMARINES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA SUCCESSOR WELFARE FOUNDATION – Clause 3.9."</p>	<p>PASSED</p>
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14	By-Law #8	Postal/online voting	The current constitution currently provides for both Postal and on-line voting.	<p>By-Law #8</p> <p>Delete existing By-Law #8 Paragraph 6 (on-Line Voting).</p> <p>By-Law #8 Paragraph 7.</p> <p>Insert new sub-paragraph (i)</p> <p><i>“ Members who wish to make a postal vote are to apply to the National Secretary, by email or letter, no less than 21 days prior to the AGM”, or download a postal vote from the SAA website”.</i></p> <p>Re-Number By-Law #8 Paragraphs and sub-paragraphs 7-15 to 6-14 to reflect the deletion of para 6.</p>	PASSED
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