

Bylaw Referendum Rationale

Article 1: Section 4 Senior Members

Summary of Changes:

- Changes Name of Senior Member to “Legacy” Member to differentiate from newly formed Senior Section.
- Changes eligibility from “attestation of retirement” to “age-based eligibility”.
- Establishes choice of tiered dues, benefits, privileges, and desired level of engagement based on age eligibility of 70 and 78.

Need and Rationale:

- The existing Bylaws regarding Senior Members have not been updated for several decades and were originally intended to support a small group of SVS members fully retired from patient care, no longer deriving professional income from practice, but wish to remain engaged with SVS. These members notified the SVS of career transition, were approved as “Senior Members” and waived of responsibility for paying dues.
- Over the past 20 years, due to many variables and factors, there has been an acceleration of SVS members choosing to retire from active practice earlier in their careers yet remain quite professionally active. The number of members approved for Senior Member Status under the current Bylaws has now increased to 867 members (approaching 25% of vascular surgeon members), with 60% under age 70, and a substantial number of these individuals remaining quite professionally active, though perhaps not seeing patients.
- With 867 members transitioning from paying Active Member Dues to \$0 dues, the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ of SVS members are subsidizing the continued engagement of these members and facing substantial future dues increases to offset the growing number of members now paying \$0. It is estimated that if the current Bylaws and process remains in place, over the next 10 years almost 50% of SVS members will be eligible to pay \$0 dues. This is not an equitable or sustainable model for the health and vitality of SVS.

Guiding Principles:

The Membership Committee and Executive Board have reached consensus that it is in the best interest of all dues paying members and the overall trajectory of SVS that:

- All members desirous to remain engaged in SVS pay dues at some level to contribute to the mission work of SVS, access benefits and retain rights and privileges of membership.
- All members should benefit from “ramp up” support in their early career stages and “ramp down” support in their later career stages.
- Change of status from Active Member to Legacy Member should be by member choice based on the level of privileges and benefits they wish to retain.
- The SVS will actively explore models to keep dues increases for all members to a minimum, and explore ways to add value for all members, with specific focus on early and later career transition, such as support for a Young Surgeon Section and Senior Section of SVS.

The Membership Committee, Executive Board, and Young Surgeon and Senior Section Chairs support this change to the SVS Bylaws to establish a new equitable model for the membership career cycle that applies and benefits all.

Implementation Plan (If Bylaws Approved):

- May 15-June 5: Place Bylaw change into Referendum for member vote.
- June 5-July 30, 2025: The SVS Executive Board has authority to set member dues rates, benefits and privileges. The Executive Board will work with the SVS Membership Committee and Finance Committee to:
 - 1) Establish Legacy Member Tier 1 (70) and Tier 2 (78) benefits, privileges, and dues options based on future demographic and financial modeling; and
 - 2) Establish a special transition option for those in the current group of 867 Senior Members to transition into the new Legacy Model.
- August-September, 2025: The SVS will send notice to all impacted members outlining the new plans, options, and dues rates.
- October, 2025: The new rates and process will go into operation with the 2025 dues billing cycle.