

# **SOCIETY OF THORACIC RADIOLOGY**

## **Bylaws**

Approved on March 9 , 2020

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Name**

The organization will be known as the Society of Thoracic Radiology.

## **ARTICLE II**

The principal business office of the Society of Thoracic Radiology (hereafter referred to as STR) shall be located in such a place as the President shall designate. The STR may establish and maintain other offices in any of the states or possessions of the United States, cities or towns therein, and at such other places as may from time to time be appointed by the Executive Committee. The registered office of the STR shall be located in Washington, District of Columbia.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Objectives**

- Section 3.1. To provide an organization which establishes Thoracic Radiology as an organized subspecialty in the areas of pulmonary and cardiovascular radiology
- Section 3.2. To develop and support standards for the teaching and practice of Thoracic Radiology
- Section 3.3. To foster research in all aspects of Thoracic Radiology
- Section 3.4. To promote fellowship and exchange of ideas among Thoracic Radiologists
- Section 3.5. To provide meetings for the presentation and discussion of papers and the dissemination of knowledge in Thoracic Radiology
- Section 3.6. To promote closer cooperation between Thoracic Radiology and other branches of medicine and the allied sciences
- Section 3.7. To foster the publications of scientific reports on Thoracic Radiology topics

## ARTICLE IV

### Membership

Section 4.1. The membership of the STR shall consist of:

1. Founding Members
2. Members
3. Members-in-Training
4. Emeritus Members
5. Honorary Members
6. Associate Members

New members will be elected per the criteria set forth by the Membership Committee. A general description of the member categories is listed below.

Section 4.2. **FOUNDING MEMBERS.** Founding Members shall be those thoracic radiologists who participated in the organization and founding of the STR, and shall be recognized as such. Their function in the STR shall be that of members (see Section 4.3).

Section 4.3. **MEMBERS.** A member shall at the time of his/her application to join the STR and at all times thereafter, fulfill all the following requirements.

A. A member shall be a radiologist certified or eligible for certification by the American Board of Radiology, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the United Kingdom or other Board or Tribunal which, in the judgment of the STR, is of equivalent rank.

B. A member must devote a major portion of his/her time to the professional practice of Thoracic Radiology and/or have a substantial interest in thoracic radiology.

C. A member in good standing must be current in his/her membership dues.

D. A member is not *in good standing* during the period of any disciplinary action.

Section 4.4. **MEMBERS-IN-TRAINING.** A member-in-training is a radiologist who is presently engaged in residency, fellowship, or equivalent Thoracic Radiology training. Members-in-Training will not vote or hold office.

Section 4.5. **EMERITUS MEMBERS.** Emeritus Members shall be designated from among the membership and shall be those individuals who have permanently retired from clinical practice. Emeritus members may continue academic activities and participate in occasional clinical service. They are exempt from all dues and assessments and have all the rights of members, except the right to vote or hold office. Designation of Emeritus Members shall be by the Membership Committee. Emeritus Members shall be selected from members who request such status. To be considered for selection to the Emeritus Members status, a member should have been an active member for at least 7 years.

Section 4.6. **HONORARY MEMBERS.** Honorary Membership is the highest honor the STR can bestow upon distinguished physicians, scientists, and other health professionals in disciplines outside of thoracic imaging whose work has made a lasting impact on the field of thoracic radiology, or the Society of Thoracic Radiology (including, but not limited to, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, public health specialists, medical oncologists, pulmonologists, pathologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, and other scientists).

Nominations can be made to the STR Membership Committee by an STR member in good

standing; candidates should hold doctorates or equivalent academic ranks. The nomination process is outlined in Article XV, Section 15.4 of the By-laws.

The STR Membership Committee will review the nominees and recommend qualified candidates to the STR Executive Council for final approval at the Fall Executive Council meeting; approved Honorary Members will be presented at the subsequent Annual Meeting. Honorary Members shall receive a Certificate of Honorary Membership and shall have all the rights of Members, except the right to vote and to hold office, and they shall be exempt from dues and assessments.

Section 4.7. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.** Associate Members are physicians and other health professionals at the doctoral level or individuals with equivalent academic ranks in disciplines outside of thoracic imaging (including but not limited to epidemiologists, biostatisticians, public health specialists, medical oncologists, pulmonologists, pathologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, and other scientists) with a strong and continuing interest in an area of Thoracic Radiology. Associate members will not vote or hold office.

Section 4.8. **AFFILIATED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS**  
Affiliated health professionals include but are not limited to technologists, advance practice providers, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurses, research assistants, and other health specialists who devote their professional activity to the care and treatment of patients with thoracic diseases. Affiliated Health Professional members will not vote or hold office.

## ARTICLE V

### Officers

Section 5.1. The officers of the STR shall be the President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 5.2. Officers shall be members or Founding Members of the STR in good standing and shall be elected according to the procedure outlined in Article XIII, Section 13.2.

## ARTICLE VI

### Duties of Officers

Section 6.1. **PRESIDENT.** The President shall be the presiding officer of the STR, Chairperson of the Executive Committee and the Executive Council, a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, and an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall perform all the duties that custom and parliamentary practice commonly associate with the office of President, and he/she shall appoint committees, committee chairs, and representatives as necessary except the Nominating Committee.

The President's term of office shall be one year or until the next annual business meeting or until successor takes office.

Section 6.2. **PRESIDENT-ELECT.** The President-Elect shall be a member of the Executive Committee, the Executive Council, and the Budget and Finance Committee. The President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President in the event of death, incapacitation, prolonged absence or resignation of the President. The President-Elect shall also serve as Chairperson of the Program Committee.

The term of office of the President-Elect shall begin at the adjournment of the annual business meeting after completion of his/her term as Secretary or Treasurer. If no annual meeting is held, his/her term of office shall begin as necessary for the succession of officers. The President-Elect shall serve for one year, and shall proceed to the office of the President, after the President's completion of his/her term.

Section 6.3. **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Committee, the Executive Council, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Program Committee, and an ex-officio member of the Rules Committee. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept a correct and permanent record of the annual proceedings of the STR. He/she shall cause to be distributed to each member of the STR a copy of the minutes of the annual meeting, which shall include the reports of all officers and committees. The Secretary will chair the Publications Committee. The Secretary shall serve for two years, and shall proceed to the office of President-Elect, in alternate years from the Treasurer.

Section 6.4. **TREASURER.** The Treasurer shall be the Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee, a member of the Executive Committee, the Executive Council, the Program Committee and an ex-officio member of the Rules Committee and the Development Committee and the Corporate Relations Committee. The Treasurer shall collect, receive and be accountable for all funds of the STR and shall disburse from the treasury such funds only upon authorization of the Executive Committee. He/she shall make a full financial report at the annual meeting of the STR, which shall be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting. The Treasurer shall identify members who are delinquent in dues payment and forward the information to the Membership Committee for further action. The Treasurer may have the assistance of staff in performing these duties. The Treasurer shall serve for two years, and shall proceed to the office of President-Elect, in alternate years from the Secretary.

Section 6.5. **VACANCY OF OFFICE.** If the office of President-Elect becomes vacant during the course of the year, the Secretary or Treasurer, whoever has been in office longer, will succeed to this office. The Executive Council, at its discretion, may then choose to leave the office of Secretary or Treasurer vacant or call a special election. In the latter event, an election shall proceed as outlined in Article XIII. If ballots are necessary, they shall be distributed by electronic mail and the tally overseen by the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

## ARTICLE VII

### Committees

Section 7.1. Standing committees of the STR shall be as follows:

1. Executive Committee
2. Executive Council
3. Budget and Finance Committee
4. Rules Committee

5. Program Committee
6. Awards and Abstracts Committee
7. Nominating Committee
8. Membership Committee
9. Research Committee
10. Big Data Committee
11. Practice Standards and Technical Guidelines
12. Education Committee
13. Fellowship Committee
14. Mentorship Committee
15. Electronic Media Committee
16. Publications Committee
17. Intersociety and Global Outreach Committee
18. Lifetime Achievement Awards Committee
19. Corporate Relations Committee
20. Development Committee

and other such committees upon completion of the process of the creation of a new STR committee, section 7.2. The President shall appoint the chairs and members of such committees, following the procedures listed in committee member selection section 7.3, when a committee is initially formed and whenever a vacancy occurs unless otherwise provided herein or directed by the STR with the approval of the Executive Committee. All chair and committee appointments are for a three-year term unless otherwise specified. Reappointments are at the discretion of the president. Actions of all committees shall be reported to the membership.

**Section 7.2 CREATION OF A COMMITTEE.** When STR leaders find it necessary to consider creating a new STR committee they should first consider whether the task at hand could be fulfilled by an ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee is formed for a specific task or objective and ceases to exist after the completion of the task or dissolution by the executive committee. If the ad hoc committee will be in charge of a long-term initiative that might require the creation of a standing committee, then the ad hoc committee should be allowed to function for the next three years. If, at the end of that time period, the executive committee agrees that a standing committee should be created, then a proposal should be voted on by the Executive Council after clearly outlining the committee's future charge and the committee's accomplishments during their existence as an ad hoc committee. The approval of a new standing committee requires a 2/3 vote of the Executive Council in favor for approval. Standing committees may choose to create internal divisions (e.g. subcommittees) and these should consist exclusively of existing members of that committee.

**Section 7.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER SELECTION.** Committee member selection and selection of committee chairs will be made with consideration of diversity in gender, race/ethnicity, geographic distribution, and after seeking a mixture of appointees from larger-programs, smaller programs and private practice programs. To ensure that a diverse group of potential applicants has been identified, executive council members will be asked to suggest names of potential candidates for open committee chair positions. The pool of candidates will be discussed by the Executive Committee prior to selection by the President. STR members can only serve on a maximum of two committees, with the exception of the Executive Committee members or those who serve as ex officio members. An ex officio member is a member of a committee by virtue of holding another office.

Section 7.4. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Society including the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the immediate Past President. The President shall be the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall provide leadership for the STR. The Executive Committee shall provide long-range and strategic planning for the STR. The Executive Committee shall act for the Executive Council in the interim between meetings of the Council. The Executive Committee will meet as many times as necessary over the course of the year in order to carry on routine decision-making for and conduct the business of the STR. Executive Committee meetings may be conducted via telephone. Any member of the Executive Committee may request a meeting of the committee by contacting the President who will then call a committee meeting.

The Chair of the Executive Committee shall report all decisions and recommendations to the Executive Council no later than at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 7.5. **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.** The Executive Council shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Chairpersons of all standing committees, and the two most immediate Past-Presidents. The editor of the *Journal of Thoracic Imaging* shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Council. The President shall be the Chairperson of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council shall perform the duties customarily expected of boards of directors of corporations, shall be empowered to carry out the business of the STR, and see to the safekeeping or sale of all its valuable property. No money or other valuable property of the STR shall be expended, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of without the sanction and approval of the majority of the Executive Council; provided, that any proposed expenditure, mortgage or other disposition approved by the Executive Council may be rejected by the vote of three fourths of the members present and eligible to vote at any meeting of the STR.

The Executive Council shall fix the time and place of STR meetings as well as the dues for the ensuing year, which shall be consistent with the operation of the STR.

The President, in consultation with the President-Elect, shall call meetings of the Executive Council as shall be necessary to conduct the business of the STR, but at least once a year.

The STR Executive Council is charged with making decisions regarding the future activities and focus of the Society of Thoracic Radiology.

The President will appoint one of the executive council members or Practice Standards and Technical Guidelines members as the STR representative to the American College of Radiology (STR councilor to the American College of Radiology) for a 1-3 year term, after approval by the executive committee.

The Executive Council shall have general supervision of the affairs of the STR not otherwise provided for.

The Executive Council may, from time to time, select and appoint or approve the selection and appointment of members of the STR as members of boards, commissions or intersociety organizations, if such vacancies exist, in accordance with the bylaws of such entities; but the STR shall not assume any responsibility or liability for the acts or omissions of said members of any of them, or for acts or omissions of the boards, commissions or organizations; and the Treasurer of the STR shall not be responsible or accountable for the funds of such boards, commissions or organizations.

Section 7.6. **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.** The Budget and Finance Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee.

The Budget and Finance Committee shall have general supervision of the finances of the Society and will meet at least once yearly to review the STR income and expenses. The Budget and Finance Committee shall present an itemized budget of income and expenses for the next fiscal year to the Executive Council for approval.

Section 7.7. **RULES COMMITTEE.** The Rules Committee shall consist of three to six members in good standing. The committee chair shall also serve as a member of the Nominating Committee. The President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be ex-officio members of the Rules Committee.

The Rules Committee is responsible for the Bylaws and may be called upon to interpret the same where questions arise subject to appeal by the assembly. To this end, the Rules Committee shall have the right to select a parliamentarian to assist the assembly during meetings. It shall, on order of the Executive Council, prepare and submit amendments to the Bylaws that are proposed by members of the STR, and may on its own motion, prepare and present to the members any amendments which it deems necessary or appropriate. It shall receive all resolutions introduced by members and may reword them or combine those having the same intent and otherwise edit and prepare them for presentation and shall present them to the members with the Committee recommendation thereon.

Section 7.8. **PROGRAM COMMITTEE.** The Program Committee shall consist of the President-Elect, who shall be its Chairperson, and the Chairs of the Education and Awards and Abstracts Committee. The Secretary, Treasurer, and President shall be ex-officio members. The Committee shall be appointed for a period of one year and may create subcommittees for assistance if needed.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to determine the character and the scope of the annual STR post-graduate course and to solicit potential topics for presentation from the membership. It shall have the right to accept or to reject topics for presentation at the meeting and shall exercise proper control over the format and arrangements for presentation. The Committee shall provide a completed program in a timely fashion to allow proper distribution. The Committee is also responsible for determining that the annual postgraduate course and on-line or enduring materials generated from the course meet the ACCME standards for continuing medical education.

Section 7.9 **ABSTRACTS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE.** The Abstracts and Awards Committee shall consist of five to seven Members in good standing. The committee shall review all scientific and educational abstract submissions for the annual meeting and/or post-graduate course(s) to create program sessions including but not limited to oral scientific, clinical conundrum, and scientific/educational exhibits. It shall have the right to accept or reject papers and exhibits submitted for presentation at the meeting and shall exercise proper control over the format and arrangements for presentation. The Committee shall set up criteria for awards that recognize the contributions of the members and attendees at the STR annual meeting (including scientific presentations and exhibits) and for recognizing member or attendee participation at the annual meeting. The chair of the Abstracts and Awards Committee shall also serve as a member of the Program Committee.

Section 7.10. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall consist of the Past-President (committee chair), the Chairperson of the Rules Committee, and one member in good standing appointed by the President from the membership at large. The Committee shall serve for a period of one year.

The Committee shall conduct its affairs in a timely fashion.



Section 7.11. **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.** The Membership Committee shall consist of three to six members in good standing. The Membership Committee shall receive completed applications for membership in the STR. The Committee shall review and screen all individuals suggested for membership in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of these Bylaws, to insure that they fulfill the requirements for membership in their appropriate category.

The Committee shall be responsible for overseeing requests for changes in membership categories from "Member-In-Training" to "Member" or from "Member" to "Emeritus Member". The Membership Committee will give an annual report of changes in membership status to the Executive Council. The Committee shall receive the names of members who are delinquent in dues payment and shall initiate proceedings to retain or terminate the membership of these individuals.

Section 7.12. **RESEARCH COMMITTEE.** The Research Committee shall consist of three to eight members in good standing, including the chair of the Big Data Committee. The committee shall oversee the Society of Thoracic Radiology Research and Education Fund (STR-REF) research budget and will set up criteria for grants with the approval of the Executive Committee. The STR-REF research budget will be reviewed and approved annually by the Executive Committee based on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. The Research Committee shall review all grant applications and shall select grant recipients. Selected grant recipients and grant proposals shall be forwarded to the Executive Committee for review and approval prior to disbursement of research moneys.

Section 7.13 **BIG DATA COMMITTEE.** The Big Data Committee shall consist of six to ten Members in good standing. The committee shall oversee issues pertaining to artificial intelligence (AI) and be the primary conduit to the various professional societies that oversee collaborations in machine/deep learning initiatives. The committee shall provide subspecialty expertise in image annotation and adjudication to create well curated thoracic imaging datasets and explore ways to establish cardiothoracic imaging case repository to support future research and validation efforts of AI tools. The chair of the Big Data Committee shall also serve as a member of the Research Committee.

Section 7.14. **PRACTICE STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL GUIDELINES COMMITTEE.** The Practice Standards and Technical Guidelines Committee shall consist of six to ten members in good standing. This committee shall oversee the development of guidelines for the performance of diagnostic thoracic imaging and nonvascular intervention as well as report communication on all medical imaging modalities. When and if a patient advocacy perspective is created, this advocate will report to the Practice Standards and Technical Guidelines Committee. This committee will be the STR's conduit for proposing guidelines or modifications to existing guidelines to the appropriate committees on standards or accreditation of the American College of Radiology. The STR representative to the American College of Radiology will be the chair or member of this committee.

Section 7.15. **EDUCATION COMMITTEE.** The Education Committee shall consist of six to 10 members in good standing, including the Chair of the Fellowship Committee. The chair will be a member of the Program Committee. The committee shall oversee issues pertaining to educational programs in thoracic (cardiopulmonary) imaging, including the curriculum for residency training in Diagnostic Radiology, and educational programs for physicians-in-training and physicians. The committee will oversee the historical legacy of the STR, and take the lead in organizing events that commemorate STR history.

The committee shall oversee the educational content of the annual meeting. This includes monitoring and recording all conflicts of interest disclosed by speakers. The committee shall solicit, record and review speaker evaluations and provide feedback to the speakers and the program committee. The committee shall select courses for development of self-assessment modules (SAMs) and solicit review and approval from the American Board of Radiology. The committee shall monitor the creation and implementation of the SAMs. The committee shall review, evaluate and update educational offerings available on the STR web site. The committee shall be responsible for interacting with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education for the purpose of securing and maintaining STR's accreditation.

**Section 7.16 FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE** The Fellowship Committee shall consist of five to seven Members in good standing. The committee shall oversee issues pertaining to Cardiothoracic Imaging fellowship programs and be the primary conduit to the various national societies that oversee fellowship program regulation and accreditation. The committee will maintain an updated listing of cardiothoracic imaging fellowship training programs that will be available on the STR website, update the STR Fellowship Core Curriculum and seek methods to encourage more trainees to pursue Cardiothoracic Imaging fellowship. The chair of the Fellowship Committee shall serve as a member of the Education Committee.

**Section 7.17 MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE.** The Mentorship Committee shall consist of six to eight members in good standing. The committee shall oversee issues pertaining to mentorship offered to the society's members (including but not limited to members, members-in-training, associate members and affiliated health professional members). The committee seeks to strengthen the culture and community of mentorship with activities including but not limited to the formation of mentoring dyads (mentor-mentee) and the planning of social interaction around mentorship at annual meetings. The committee shall solicit, record and review feedback evaluations from mentorship dyads to optimize the pairing process, and assess the efficacy and outcomes of the mentorship model. The committee shall select educational material for a library of mentorship resources.

**Section 7.18. ELECTRONIC MEDIA COMMITTEE.** The Electronic Media committee shall consist of three to six Members in good standing. The committee shall oversee all aspects of the STR web site and STR Online. The committee will communicate with the site administrator on matters pertaining to any electronic educational materials such as continuing medical education, STR standards and training recommendations, announcements and publications of research awards supported by the STR, distribution of the STR fellowship registry, industry advertising, links with other professional societies, and the provision of a medium for the exchange of ideas among those interested in thoracic imaging, etc. The committee will be responsible for making recommendations to the Executive Council on the administration of the STR web site.

**Section 7.19. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE.** The Publications Committee shall consist of the Secretary and two to nine members in good standing. A member of the educational committee may be appointed as historian at the discretion of the committee chair to produce historical vignettes for publication in the STR Newsletter. The Secretary will chair this committee and will be the editor of the STR Newsletter. Additional members will be appointed by the President on the advice of the Chairperson.

The STR Newsletter is published at least twice a year as a member benefit of the Society of Thoracic Radiology and shall include information regarding issues within the STR and in cardiopulmonary imaging that are of interest to the membership. The content of the

Newsletter is at the discretion of the Publications Committee. The editor of the *Journal of Thoracic Imaging* will be an ex-officio member of this committee.

Section 7.20. **INTERSOCIETY AND GLOBAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE.** The Intersociety Relations and Global Outreach Committee shall consist of three to nine members in good standing. The committee members shall act as STR representatives to improve interactions with other medical societies such as the American Thoracic Society, Fleischner Society, American College of Chest Physicians, North American Society for Cardiac Imaging, Radiological Society of North America, American Roentgen Ray Society, American Board of Radiology, American College of Radiology, and other national and international societies. A committee member may be assigned to serve as liaison with more than one medical society.

Section 7.21. **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS COMMITTEE.** The Lifetime Achievement Awards Committee shall consist of three to five STR past Presidents. The committee shall be responsible for identifying individuals who have made significant contributions to the STR and provided outstanding service to the subspecialty of Thoracic Radiology, to be considered for the Gold Medal of the STR. After review of potential awardees, the Committee will forward the name of a recommended individual to the Executive Council for consideration and approval. One Gold Medal Award may be made annually at the Annual Meeting.

Section 7.22. **CORPORATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE.** The Corporate Relations Committee shall consist of three to six Members in good standing. The Treasurer will serve as an ex officio member of this committee. The committee shall solicit donations and grants from corporations for STR educational activities. The Corporate Relations Committee Chairperson will assist the Executive Committee in planning the annual education budget. The committee activities will include preparation of an exhibitor brochure for the annual meeting and fostering of interactions with exhibitors and STR members and leaders.

Section 7.23. **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.** The Development Committee shall consist of six to eight members including four STR Past Presidents, and the chairman shall be appointed by the President. Additional members may be appointed at the discretion of the President. The Treasurer will serve as an ex officio member of this committee. The committee members shall serve for a period of three years, renewable by the STR President to maintain the composition of the committee as described above. The committee shall solicit donations from STR members to develop the Research and Education Fund and to advance the educational and research activities of the STR.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Society of Thoracic Radiology Research and Education Fund (STR-REF)**

Section 8.1. The STR shall maintain a separate, segregated fund, entitled the STR Research and Education fund (STR-REF), dedicated exclusively to charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including the promotion of research and education in Thoracic Radiology. Suggestions or nominations of individuals to receive awards and payments from this fund include, but are not limited to, those offered by the Program Committee, Research Committee, and Executive Council. Eligibility criteria and amounts for any awards or payments made from the STR-REF shall be established by the Executive Council. All awards or other payments made from the STR-REF shall be subject to the approval of a majority of the Executive Council.

Section 8.2. **PROVISIONS OF OPERATION.** The STR-REF shall not operate for private gain or profit, and no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to the members, directors or officers of the STR, or any other private persons, except that the STR-REF shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes described in Section 8.1 above.

No substantial part of the activities of the STR-REF shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation; and the STR-REF shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements concerning) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

The STR-REF shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (the "Code") or (ii) by any organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

Section 8.3. **DISPOSITION OF ASSETS.** In the event of the dissolution of the STR-REF, the Executive Council of the Society shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the STR-REF, dispose of all of the remaining assets of the STR-REF (except any assets held upon condition requiring return, transfer or other conveyance in the event of dissolution, which assets shall be returned, transferred or conveyed in accordance with such requirements) exclusively for the purposes of the STR-REF in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, educational, religious or literary purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c)3 of the Code, as the Executive Council shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of general jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the trustees of the STR-REF is then located, exclusively for the purposes of the STR-REF in such manner, or to such organization or organizations qualifying under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, as said court shall determine.

## ARTICLE IX

### Contracts, Checks, Deposits and Funds

Section 9.1. **CONTRACTS.** The Executive Council may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the STR, in addition to the persons so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the STR, and such authority may be general or confined to specified instances.

Section 9.2. **CHECKS, DRAFTS, etc.** All checks, drafts, other orders for payment of money, notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the STR shall be signed by the Treasurer or any two officers of the STR or by such staff personnel as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Executive Council.

Section 9.3. **DEPOSITS.** All funds of the STR shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the STR in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Treasurer may select.

## ARTICLE X

## **Indemnification**

Section 10.1. The STR shall indemnify each of its officers, Executive Council members, and each member of any other committee, as deemed necessary, whether or not then in office (and his/her executor, administrator and heirs), against all reasonable expenses actually and necessarily incurred by him/her in connection with the defense of any litigation to which he/she may have been made a party because he/she is or was an officer, Executive Council member, or member of any other committee of the STR. He/she shall have no right to reimbursement, however, in relation to matters as to which he/she has been judged liable to the STR for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his/her duties. The right to indemnity for expenses shall also apply to the expense of suits, which are compromised or settled if the court having jurisdiction of the matter shall approve such settlement.

Section 10.2. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, all other rights to which such officer, Executive Council member, or member of any other committee may be entitled.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Meetings**

Section 11.1. The annual meeting of the STR shall be held at a place and time designated by the Executive Council.

Section 11.2. Special business meetings may be called by the President of the STR or upon the written request of one third of the members eligible to vote. Such written requests shall be sent to the Secretary. At such special meetings, no other business shall be conducted except that stated in the call for the meeting.

Section 11.3. Five percent or one hundred of the members in good standing whichever is less, shall constitute a quorum.

Section 11.4. A notice of the annual meeting shall be sent to all members in advance of such a meeting. Similar notice for special meetings shall be sent by mail thirty days in advance, or by electronic mail seven days in advance.

Section 11.5. The Secretary or a designated host or ad hoc host committee shall be responsible for the business meeting arrangements.

Section 11.6. Attendance at business meetings shall be limited to members in good standing. Scientific meetings shall be open to members and guests.

Section 11.7. Members who are delinquent in dues payment are not eligible to participate in the refresher course portion of the meeting except as specified by the President.

Section 11.8. Only Executive Council Members may attend Executive Council meetings. If the council requires a verbal report from an ad hoc committee member, a STR representative to another society or another guest, these individuals should be present only in the capacity of guests of the Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **Procedure**

Section 12.1. As amended February 15, 1986, the fiscal year shall henceforth begin on the first of January and shall end on the thirty-first of December each year.

Section 12.2. In the absence of contrary statements in the Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, latest edition shall govern the procedure. If controversy arises, the opinion of the Chairperson of the Rules Committee or the designated parliamentarian shall prevail, subject to appeal by the assembly.

Section 12.3. Order of Business:

1. Call to order
2. Reading of the minutes
3. President's report
4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Report of committees
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Report of Nominating Committee
10. Installation of officers
11. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **Election of Officers**

Section 13.1. The Secretary or Treasurer, depending on which one will succeed to President-Elect, shall be elected at the annual meeting.

Section 13.2. The method of procedure for holding election of officers of the STR shall be as follows:

- A. The Nominating Committee shall nominate one candidate for the office of Secretary or Treasurer from among the committee chairs that have served at least three years, and report the name to the STR members present at the annual meeting, after obtaining the candidates' consent.
- B. If a special election by mail is required to satisfy the conditions of Section 6.5 (Vacancy of Office), then the Nominating Committee shall nominate a candidate. The membership will then vote for the candidate via an electronic ballot that includes provision for a write-in candidate.

Section 13.3. Only Founding and members in good standing shall be entitled to hold office.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **Membership Fees and Dues**

Section 14.1. The dues and assessments for each category of membership shall be set each year by the Executive Council and shall be consistent with the needs of the STR.

Section 14.2. The dues of the STR shall be due and payable on a date set by the Treasurer.

Section 14.3. Dues shall become delinquent three months after the date for billing set by the Treasurer, and delinquent members shall be notified that their membership in the STR will be terminated three months from this time unless dues are paid. Failure to pay dues by the end of this grace period or failure to pay assessments shall automatically result in removal of the delinquent member from the STR membership.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **Procedures for Election to Membership**

Section 15.1. The Chair of the Membership Committee shall be responsible for all membership inquiries, furnishing potential members with information about the STR, membership requirements, and application forms.

Section 15.2. The Chair of the Membership Committee having received the membership application and application fee, shall forward the completed application form and curriculum vitae of the nominee to the Membership Committee for review.

Section 15.3. The Membership Committee shall approve or disapprove the nominee. Successful applicants will be elected to membership upon receiving an affirmative vote from the Membership Committee.

Section 15.4. Candidates for Honorary Membership may be nominated by any member in good standing. These nominations shall be submitted to the Membership Committee. Honorary Membership shall be granted by affirmative vote of the Membership Committee.

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **Waiver of Notice**

Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act or under the provisions of the articles of incorporation or the Bylaws of the Society, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

## **ARTICLE XVII**

## **Amending the Bylaws**

Copies of the Amendment(s) or Bylaws changes shall be sent to the members in good standing of the STR by mail or electronic mail at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting. A vote of approval of two thirds of the members who are eligible to vote and present at the Annual Meeting is required for adoption of an Amendment or changes to the Bylaws. The adopted Amendment or Bylaws changes will go into effect immediately upon the close of the meeting at which it was approved, unless otherwise specified in the approval.