

AQUATIC ANIMAL LIFE SUPPORT OPERATORS

MISSION STATEMENT

AALSO encourages advancement of the science and technology of life support for care of aquatic systems and animals. AALSO provides a forum for life support operators, professionals and industry leaders to exchange information, ideas and experience to enhance stewardship of the animals in our care.

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Membership is open to active participants in the maintenance and preservation of zoological specimens who subscribe to the organization's standards and by-laws.

Section B: Membership shall be divided into three classifications; Active, Associate and Industry Membership. Active Membership shall possess voting rights and will be limited to those individuals actively performing the duties of Life Support Operators or directly involved in the management of life support systems.

Associate Membership shall be open to anyone not actively performing the duties of Life Support Operators or involved in the care and preservation of zoological specimens

Industry Membership shall be open to anyone contributing technologies and environmental advancements beneficial to aquatic life support.

All other privileges will remain the same for all members in good standing.

1. A member in good standing shall be defined as having all dues currently paid.
2. Application for membership shall be made on the appropriate forms with position and title verifications as necessary.
3. Suspension of privileges or expulsion from the organization may result if membership dues become delinquent beyond sixty days or if the member's conduct and actions are deemed to be detrimental to the organization by the AALSO Board.

ARTICLE II – DUES

Section A: The AALSO Board shall determine annual dues based on the organization's financial needs. These dues shall be paid annually and must be paid prior to the symposium in order to attend.

ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

Section A: Regular business meetings of this organization will be held at least annually at a location determined by the AALSO Board.

Section B: Symposiums to support the mission statement shall be held at least annually in conjunction with the annual business meeting.

Section C: Regular AALSO Board Meetings will be held at least twice annually at a location determined by the officers and directors.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section A: The business of the AALSO shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of four elected officers, two elected directors and the immediate past president. Should the president be re-elected, a third Director shall be appointed by a quorum of the AALSO Board. In addition, an Industry Advisory Board consisting of active industry members shall be created to facilitate the business of AALSO.

Section B: The four officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The remainder of the Board shall consist of three Directors.

Section C: The Officers and Directors shall be elected by ballot and serve a one-year term or until their successors take office.

Section D: Any vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by appointment of the remaining Board and serve until the end of that term. The current AALSO President shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a deadlock.

Section E: All disbursement of AALSO funds shall be approved by two Board members with at least one being the President or Treasurer. AALSO finances shall be subject to audits at the discretion of the Board or membership.

Section F: All elected Officers, Directors and Industry Advisory Board members must be active members in good standing. Associate members are not eligible to vote or hold office.

Section G: An Officer or Director may be elected for three consecutive years in the same position at which time he or she must take a twelve-month absence from that position.

Section H: The fiscal year of AALSO will begin the first day in January and end the last day of December of each calendar year.

Section I: Any ex officio member of the AALSO Board shall be entitled to active membership in perpetuity.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section A: The President shall preside over all AALSO business and functions of the organization.

Section B: The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, assume all presidential duties. The Vice President is also responsible for all AALSO communication media.

Section C: The Secretary shall keep the minutes for all business and Board of Director Meetings and is responsible for all paperwork and filings pertinent to AALSO's business. The Secretary shall be responsible for making appropriate AALSO business notifications.

Section D: The Treasurer shall manage the financial affairs of AALSO in a responsible manner and assure continuance of AALSO's "Not for Profit" status. The Treasurer shall anticipate financial needs and insure that the AALSO Board has a full understanding of the organizations financial status at all times.

Section E: The duties of the three Operator Directors shall be to represent the membership and the good of the organization at all Board meetings. Each of the three Board members will be assigned one of the following responsibilities:

1. **Parliamentarian / By-Laws Administrator:** This Director shall be responsible for administrating, maintaining and updating the AALSO By-Laws as appropriate or deemed necessary by the AALSO Board and in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. This Director will also conduct the annual elections.
2. **Annual Meeting and Symposium Coordinator:** This Director shall be responsible for organizing AALSO's Annual Meeting and Symposium. This individual shall coordinate the symposium speakers and agenda as well as organize the registration.
3. **Membership Administrator:** This Director shall be responsible for managing AALSO's Certification Program and all membership directories. This individual will also process all membership applications and coordinate with the Treasurer to procure the necessary dues.

ARTICLE VI - ELECTIONS

Section A: The Board of Directors shall produce a list of candidates for all officers including Directors. The membership shall be notified of the AALSO Board's recommendations prior to the Annual Meeting and Symposium.

Section B: Nominations from the floor will also be taken at the annual meeting prior to balloting.

Section C: Only an "Active Member" in good standing will be allowed to make nominations and cast votes for election.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section A: There will be committees appointed by the President from time to time as may be necessary or deemed desirable by the AALSO Board or the President.

ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section A: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order will govern the organization in all cases except where such rules may conflict with the AALSO By-Laws or any rules of order that may be adopted by AALSO.

ARTICLE IX– INCORPORATION

Section A: Articles of incorporation and By-Laws are on file with the Secretary of State, State of Florida. Any changes to these documents shall be posted and made available to the membership prior to the annual meeting. After solicitation and review of member comments at the annual meeting, the AALSO Board shall decide upon any changes at the very next Board meeting.

Section B: Incorporation documents must be filed with the office of the Secretary of State (State of Florida) annually. These documents must reflect the current officers and registered agent. The registered agent shall be the elected President.