Proposed bylaw amendments

The Board approved these 12 proposed amendments for member review. The signed 2019 bylaws remain in effect.

Read the explanation and proposed wording for each amendment. Use the private comment form on the AACC Bylaw Review site to send feedback directly to leadership.

Amendments at a Glance

No.	Amendment	Main Purpose
1	Finance and Fiscal Year	Financial authority and controls
2	Code of Conduct and Facility Regulations	Facility conduct and discipline
3	Presidential Election Procedures and Requirements	Presidential election rules
4	Governing Body Appointment and Confirmation Procedures	Board appointment and transition
5	Social Media, Public Communications, and Media Oversight	Official communications and digital assets
6	Religious Doctrine and Imam Conduct	Religious governance and Imam conduct
7	Protection of Savings and Reserve Accounts	Reserve-fund protection
8	Contractor and Vendor Procurement Procedures	Procurement and conflicts of interest
9	Enforcement of Bylaws and Discipline of Officers	Officer discipline and removal
10	Member Code of Conduct and Discipline	Member code of conduct
11	Spousal Membership and Expanded Voting Rights	Optional spousal membership and voting rights
12	Name of Organization - American Albanian Cultural Center Struga	Official organization name and Struga identity

Key Definitions Used Throughout the Bylaws

Read this section before the amendments. These definitions apply throughout the proposed revised Bylaws so the same terms are interpreted consistently.

Voting Rules at a Glance

General Meeting Quorum	15% of Active Voting Members in Good Standing or 50 such members, whichever is less.
Ordinary Membership Decisions	More than 50% of the valid votes actually cast at a General Meeting where quorum is present.
Changing the Bylaws	At least two-thirds (2/3) of the valid votes actually cast at a General Meeting where quorum is present.
Presidential Election Voter	A Voting Member in Good Standing for 3 consecutive full calendar years immediately before the election year.

Definitions

Term	Definition
AACC / Organization	The nonprofit organization identified by the official name established in Article I of these Bylaws. The abbreviation 'AACC' may be used throughout these Bylaws.
Governing Body	The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and all duly appointed and seated Executive Board Members. A vacant position is not considered a seated member of the Governing Body.
Officers	The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
Executive Board Member	An individual duly appointed and confirmed to serve as an Executive Board Member under these Bylaws.
Director	An individual assigned responsibility for a department, program, or organizational function of the AACC. A Director is not a member of the Governing Body unless separately appointed and confirmed as an Executive Board Member; otherwise, the Director reports to the Governing Body.
Member	An individual properly registered as a member of the AACC in accordance with these Bylaws and the Official Membership Records.
Member in Good Standing	A Member who has paid the current year's dues and any applicable late fee by March 31, is not currently suspended or terminated, has completed applicable registration requirements, and otherwise remains eligible for membership. A full calendar year in good standing is a calendar year for which dues were paid by March 31 and during which the Member was not suspended or terminated. A pending complaint alone does not remove good-standing status unless a suspension is properly imposed.

Term	Definition
Voting Member	A Member in Good Standing who satisfies the general voting requirements of these Bylaws and whose voting rights are active as of the applicable membership record date. Each eligible Voting Member has one (1) vote on each matter for which the Member is eligible to vote.
Active Voting Member in Good Standing	A Voting Member whose membership and voting rights are current and active. References to 'active voting membership,' 'voting membership,' 'active voting member,' or 'eligible voting member' have this same meaning unless the Bylaws expressly state otherwise.
Presidential Election Voting Member	A Voting Member in Good Standing who has maintained membership in the AACC for three (3) consecutive full calendar years immediately preceding the Presidential Election year. The current election year does not count toward the required three (3) years.
Membership Obligations	Required annual membership dues and any mandatory assessments properly imposed by the AACC. Voluntary donations, charitable contributions, sponsorships, event purchases, or fundraising contributions are not Membership Obligations unless these Bylaws expressly provide otherwise.
General Meeting	A meeting of the Active Voting Members in Good Standing that is properly called and noticed in accordance with these Bylaws.
General Membership Quorum	Fifteen percent (15%) of the Active Voting Members in Good Standing or fifty (50) Active Voting Members in Good Standing, whichever is less. The eligible-member count is determined from the Official Membership Records as of the date notice is issued. Eligible members participating through the AACC-approved electronic voting process for that meeting count as present for quorum.
Majority Vote	More than fifty percent (50%) of the valid votes actually cast by eligible members participating in person or through the AACC-approved electronic voting process for a duly called General Meeting at which General Membership Quorum is present. Abstentions are not votes cast for or against the matter.
Bylaw Amendment Vote	Approval by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the valid votes actually cast by eligible Voting Members participating in person or through the AACC-approved electronic voting process for a duly called General Meeting at which General Membership Quorum is present. This two-thirds requirement applies only to the adoption, amendment, repeal, or modification of the Bylaws.
Abstention	An eligible voter is present but intentionally does not cast a vote for or against the matter. An abstention counts toward quorum but is not counted as a vote cast.
Governing Body Quorum	The quorum required for a Governing Body meeting under Article XII and any other specifically applicable provision of these Bylaws.
Conflict of Interest	A personal, familial, financial, business, organizational, or other material interest that could reasonably impair, or appear to impair, an individual's impartial judgment concerning an AACC matter.

Term	Definition
Disinterested Governing Body Member	A Governing Body member who is not the subject of the matter, did not file the complaint or initiate the proceeding, has no material financial or personal interest in the matter, is not an Immediate Family Member of a directly interested person, and is otherwise eligible to participate and vote.
Recusal	Complete withdrawal from participation in a matter because of a Conflict of Interest or another disqualifying circumstance. A recused individual shall not deliberate, influence the decision, preside over the matter, or vote.
Immediate Family Member	A spouse or domestic partner, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, parent-in-law, child-in-law, sibling-in-law, or an entity in which the individual or one of those persons has a material ownership or financial interest.
Official Membership Records	The membership records maintained or authorized by the AACC containing membership status, classification, dues history, voting status, and other information reasonably necessary to determine rights and eligibility under these Bylaws.
Emergency	A sudden or unforeseen circumstance requiring prompt action to prevent or reduce a threat to life or safety, substantial property damage, material financial loss, compromise of AACC funds, material interruption of essential operations, or violation of applicable law or governmental order. An Emergency does not include circumstances that reasonably could have been handled through normal planning.

Rules of Interpretation

Unless a specific provision states otherwise: 'shall' and 'must' are mandatory; 'may' grants discretion; a specific provision controls over a general provision dealing with the same subject; and a quorum determines how many eligible members must be present, while the applicable voting threshold determines how many affirmative votes are required.

General Provisions Included in the Proposed Revised Bylaws

These provisions apply across multiple Articles and are included in the proposed revised Bylaws.

General Rule	Proposed Provision / Effect
Electronic Voting	Voting may be conducted in person or electronically through an AACC-approved system that verifies voter eligibility, protects ballot integrity, prevents duplicate voting, and preserves secrecy where required. Eligible members who participate electronically for a duly called General Meeting count as present for quorum. The Governing Body or Election Committee, as applicable, shall establish the procedures.
Presidential Veto Limits	The President's veto does not apply to election administration or election appeals, disciplinary proceedings under Articles XVI, XVII, XX or XXI, removal proceedings, or any matter in which the President is personally involved or has a conflict of interest.
Recusal / Governing Body Quorum	If the President and Vice-President are both recused or unavailable for a matter after proper notice, quorum for that matter is two-thirds (2/3) of the Governing Body members who are not recused. The eligible members present shall choose a chair by majority vote.
Governing Body Voting	Unless a specific provision states otherwise, a majority or two-thirds Governing Body vote is calculated from members present and eligible to vote at a meeting where quorum is present. A requirement for two-thirds of disinterested Governing Body members means two-thirds of all disinterested members then in office.
Effective Date	Each adopted amendment takes effect upon adoption unless the amendment states otherwise or implementation requires a governmental filing, in which case it takes effect as stated in that amendment.
Current Office Holders	Persons already serving when new qualification rules take effect may complete their current terms. New qualifications apply to elections and appointments occurring after the effective date.
First Election Under New Rules	The new Presidential Election eligibility and procedure rules shall first apply to the first Presidential Election occurring at least twelve (12) months after adoption. Until then, the prior election rules remain in effect.
Renumbering / Cross-References	The Secretary may renumber Articles and Sections, correct headings, and correct cross-references necessary to conform the adopted Bylaws, provided no substantive meaning is changed.
Severability	If any provision is held invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions continue in effect.
Pending Matters	A disciplinary matter formally begun before an amendment takes effect shall ordinarily be completed under the rules in effect when it began, unless all affected parties agree otherwise or law requires a different result.

General Rule	Proposed Provision / Effect
Bylaw Amendments	A proposed amendment, repeal, or modification of the Bylaws requires approval by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the valid votes cast by eligible Voting Members at a duly called General Meeting where General Membership Quorum is present and through El. The meeting notice shall include the full text of each proposed bylaw change.

Related Changes Included in the Proposed Revised Bylaws

- Article VI - A Voting Member who has not paid the current year's dues, including any applicable late fee, by March 31 becomes a non-voting member until those dues are paid. A full calendar year in good standing requires that year's dues to have been paid by March 31 and no suspension or termination during that year.
- Article VI - Visitors are welcome at prayers and AACC events open to the public. Other facility use by visitors requires authorization under AACC policy. A visitor who refuses to leave when directed by an authorized officer may be treated as a trespasser under applicable law.
- Article VIII - Only Voting Members under Article VI may vote. Presidential Election voting is additionally subject to Article IX.
- Article X - The Secretary safeguards AACC records, documents, and non-monetary property. The Treasurer safeguards AACC funds and financial accounts.
- Article XIV - Replace unclear 'quorum vote' wording with the two-thirds Bylaw Amendment Vote defined above.

AMENDMENT NO. 1

FINANCE AND FISCAL YEAR

What This Amendment Changes

- Creates clear dollar limits for President, Governing Body, and member approval.
- Adds controls for borrowing, real estate, emergency spending, dual signatures, financial reporting, and annual budgeting.
- Protects members by defining when major financial decisions require membership approval.

Why This Change Is Needed

The current bylaws address bank accounts and the fiscal year but do not provide a complete approval structure for spending, borrowing, major property transactions, emergencies, or recurring financial reporting. The proposed language is intended to make financial authority predictable, documented, and easier for both members and officers to understand.

Proposed wording

Section B. Financial Authority and Spending Limitations.

a. Presidential Spending Authority. The President may approve ordinary and necessary expenditures, purchases, repairs, and contracts on behalf of the AACC of up to Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) per transaction without prior Governing Body approval, provided the expenditure is within the approved annual budget and furthers AACC's mission and ordinary operations. The President shall report such expenditures to the Governing Body at its next regular meeting.

b. Governing Body Approval. Any expenditure, purchase, repair, contract, or financial obligation exceeding Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) but not exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) shall require approval by majority vote of the Governing Body at a properly noticed meeting with quorum present.

c. Membership Approval. Any expenditure, purchase, repair, contract, project, or financial obligation over Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) requires approval by Majority Vote of the membership at a duly called General Meeting. This does not apply to recurring operating expenses included in the approved annual budget; taxes; utilities; insurance premiums; payroll; or renewal, on substantially the same terms, of a contract previously approved by the membership. Capital projects, purchases of real property or major equipment, and any single new contract over Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) always require membership approval.

d. Real Property and Major Obligations. Membership approval at a duly called General Meeting is required to acquire, sell, transfer, mortgage, refinance, pledge, or otherwise encumber AACC real property, and to lease all or part of AACC real property for a term, including renewal options, longer than five (5) years. The President, with the Governing Body, may negotiate leases with existing and prospective tenants. Any lease of one (1) year or longer requires Governing Body approval. Short-term facility rentals shall follow a rental policy and fee schedule adopted by the Governing Body.

e. Borrowing and Debit Cards. The AACC shall not borrow money or enter into a loan, line of credit, mortgage, or other financing arrangement without membership approval at a duly called General Meeting. This restriction does not prohibit AACC debit cards linked directly to AACC bank accounts. Debit cards may be used only for authorized AACC purposes, may not be used for cash advances or ATM withdrawals, and may not be used to circumvent any approval or dual-authorization requirement in these Bylaws. No single debit-card transaction may exceed Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500.00). Receipts and supporting records are required for every debit-card transaction.

f. Emergency Spending Exception. In an Emergency, the President may authorize expenditures above the normal limits only to the extent reasonably necessary to protect people, property, funds, or essential operations until the Governing Body can meet. Where practicable, the President shall first consult the Vice-President and Treasurer. The expenditure shall be reported in writing to the Governing Body within seventy-two (72) hours and presented for ratification at its next meeting. Emergency expenditures over Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) shall also be reported to the membership at the next General Meeting. A Governing Body decision not to ratify shall be treated as a possible act outside Presidential authority and may be reviewed under Article XX.

g. Signatories and Dual Authorization. The authorized signatories on AACC accounts are the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Any check, withdrawal, transfer, or other disbursement exceeding Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) requires approval by two (2) authorized signatories, one of whom shall be the President and the other the Vice-President or Treasurer; if neither Vice-President or Treasurer can sign, the Secretary may act as the second signatory. No signatory may approve a payment to himself or herself or to an Immediate Family Member without independent Governing Body approval, and the two approving signatories may not be Immediate Family Members of each other. Bank signatory records shall be updated within fourteen (14) days after a change in office.

h. Financial Reporting. The Treasurer shall provide a monthly financial report to the Governing Body detailing all revenues, expenditures, and account balances. A quarterly financial summary shall be presented to the membership. An annual financial statement reviewed or audited (as the Governing Body shall direct) by an independent licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) shall be presented to the membership yearly.

i. Annual Budget and Budget Deviations. Before each fiscal year begins, the Governing Body shall prepare and approve an annual operating budget and make it available to Voting Members. Expenditures shall follow the approved budget unless otherwise authorized. Any expenditure that would cause a budget category to exceed its approved amount by more than twenty percent (20%) requires Governing Body approval. If no new budget is approved by the start of the fiscal year, ordinary operations may continue at the prior year's approved levels until a new budget is approved. Approval of a budget does not replace any separate membership approval expressly required by these Bylaws.

j. No Splitting. No purchase, contract, project, or obligation may be divided, phased, or structured to avoid a dollar threshold or approval requirement. Related purchases from the same vendor for the same project within ninety (90) days shall be counted together.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

CODE OF CONDUCT AND FACILITY REGULATIONS

What This Amendment Changes

- Prohibits alcohol and illegal drugs on AACC property.
- Addresses fighting, harassment, threats, disruption, and property damage.
- Applies the conduct rules to members, guests, tenants, contractors, vendors, and others on AACC property.

Why This Change Is Needed

The current bylaws do not contain one comprehensive article covering conduct on AACC property. The proposal creates clear expectations for members, guests, volunteers, employees, contractors, and vendors, while giving the Governing Body a consistent process for responding to violations.

Proposed wording

ARTICLE XVI

Code of Conduct and Facility Regulations

Section A. Alcohol. The possession, consumption, distribution, sale, service, or storage of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on all property owned, leased, operated, or controlled by the AACC and at all AACC-sponsored events wherever held. This prohibition applies to members, tenants, tenant owners and employees, guests, visitors, volunteers, employees, contractors, vendors, and all other persons. AACC leases should require tenant compliance with this Article.

Section B. Drugs and Controlled Substances. The possession, use, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia on AACC property or at AACC-sponsored events is prohibited. This does not apply to medication lawfully prescribed to the person possessing it and used as prescribed. Cannabis in any form is prohibited on AACC property and at AACC-sponsored events regardless of its legal status under state law.

Section C. Disorderly Conduct. Fighting, harassment, threats, intimidation, abusive or obscene conduct, and disruption of AACC operations, religious services, meetings, tenant operations, or events are prohibited.

Section D. Damage to Property. Any person who damages AACC property intentionally, recklessly, or through negligence shall be responsible for the cost of repair or replacement and may also be subject to discipline, lease enforcement, legal action, or other appropriate remedies.

Section E. Other Serious Conduct. Conduct on AACC property or at AACC events that endangers others or materially disrupts AACC activities or lawful tenant operations may result in removal and discipline. Disagreeing with AACC leadership, raising concerns, voting, campaigning, or filing a complaint in good faith is never a violation of this Article.

Section F. Removal from Premises. A person who violates this Article may be ordered to leave AACC property or an AACC event by the President, Vice-President, or senior Governing Body member present, subject to applicable lease rights and law. Local authorities may be called when reasonably necessary. The incident shall be reported in writing to the Governing Body within seven (7) days.

Section G. Non-Members and Guests. A non-member or guest who violates this Article may be barred from AACC property or events for a period established by Majority Vote of the Governing Body.

Section H. Members. Discipline of Members for violations of this Article follows Article XXI.

Section I. Tenants. All rules of conduct in this Article apply to tenants occupying AACC property and to their owners, officers, employees, agents, contractors, customers, and guests while on AACC property. AACC lease forms should incorporate compliance with this Article. Violations may be addressed through the applicable lease, building rules, or other remedies available to the AACC.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

What This Amendment Changes

- Creates a five-member Election Committee and defines its responsibilities.
- Sets candidate filing deadlines, observer rights, campaign standards, voter eligibility, and candidate eligibility.
- Creates a process for eligibility disputes and election misconduct.

Why This Change Is Needed

The current election provisions establish the general election cycle but leave many procedural questions unanswered. The proposal is intended to make the election process more predictable and transparent by defining who administers the election, who is eligible, how ballots are handled, and how disputes are resolved.

Proposed wording

Section B. Presidential Election Committee.

a. Presidential Election Committee. A Presidential Election Committee of five (5) Presidential Election Voting Members in Good Standing shall be established for each Presidential Election.

b. Timing. The Election Committee shall be approved at a duly called General Meeting no later than four (4) months before the election date.

c. Selection. Volunteers shall be invited from eligible Voting Members at least thirty (30) days before the approval meeting. If more than five (5) eligible members volunteer, five (5) members and two (2) alternates shall be selected by random draw at the meeting. The membership shall approve the committee by Majority Vote. If fewer than five eligible volunteers are available, the members present may fill remaining seats by nomination and Majority Vote.

d. Independence and Conflicts. No candidate, proposed Vice-President, Governing Body member, candidate observer, or Immediate Family Member of a candidate or proposed Vice-President may serve on the Election Committee. The Committee shall act independently and impartially, choose its own chair, and act by majority vote. A member who becomes ineligible shall be replaced by an alternate.

e. Term. The Election Committee shall serve until election results are certified and all timely election challenges and appeals are resolved, and shall then be dissolved.

Section C. Duties of the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall publish the election calendar and required candidate documents at least ninety (90) days before the election; accept candidacy filings; determine candidate and voter eligibility; publish a preliminary eligible-voter list at least twenty-one (21) days before the election and correct verified errors; prepare, secure, distribute, and account for paper and electronic ballots; supervise voting; and count, certify, and announce results. The Secretary and Treasurer shall provide the membership and dues records reasonably necessary for these duties. The Election Committee cannot make any decisions that would change thr rules laid out in bylaws, without the approval of the Governing Body. The Election Committee authority is limited to Election process.

Section D. Candidate Filing Deadline.
All candidates seeking to run for President must formally declare candidacy and submit all required documentation to the Election Committee no later than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled election date. No candidate may be added after the filing deadline has passed.

Section E. Candidate Observers.
Each Presidential candidate shall have the right to appoint up to two (2) volunteer observers to monitor ballot distribution, vote casting, and vote counting and tabulation. Observers may observe for fairness and transparency but shall not interfere with election operations.

Section F. Candidate Presentation and Proposed Vice-President. Each eligible Presidential candidate shall have equal opportunity to address the membership. Each candidate shall announce a proposed Vice-President no later than the candidate filing deadline. The proposed Vice-President must satisfy the Presidential eligibility requirements. The announcement is for member information; the successful President shall formally nominate the Vice-President after the election under the appointment provisions of these Bylaws.

Section G. Campaign Conduct. All candidates shall conduct themselves respectfully and professionally. No candidate, volunteer, or supporter shall engage in harassment, intimidation, threats, coercion, knowingly false or defamatory statements, disruption of election proceedings, or conduct that compromises election fairness or integrity. Before candidate disqualification or another election sanction is imposed, the Election Committee shall provide written notice of the alleged violation and a reasonable opportunity to respond. Any such decision may be appealed under Section J.

Section H. Presidential Election Voting Eligibility. To vote in a Presidential Election, a member must be a Presidential Election Voting Member in Good Standing and must have maintained membership in good standing for three (3) consecutive full calendar years immediately preceding the Presidential Election year. The current election year does not count. Payment during the election year may be accepted but does not cure a missing year in the required three-year history.

Section I. Presidential Candidate Eligibility. To be eligible to run for President or serve as Vice-President, a person must: (i) have been a Member in Good Standing for at least five (5) consecutive full calendar years before the election year; (ii) have paid Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000.00) in cumulative Membership Obligations to the AACC; (iii) be a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident; (iv) have no felony conviction within the ten (10) years before the election involving dishonesty, fraud, theft, violence, financial misconduct, or breach of fiduciary duty; (v) demonstrate a substantial and continuing connection to the Albanian-American community served by the AACC and to the cultural heritage and traditions of Struga, Ohrid, or the surrounding region; (vi) not serve on the governing body of an organization presenting a conflicting interest; and (vii) within the five (5) years before the election, have served at least two (2) years as a Governing Body member, AACC Director, or chair of an AACC committee.

Section J. Eligibility Decisions and Appeals. The Election Committee shall decide questions of candidate and voter eligibility and provide written reasons for a denial. A candidate or member may appeal in writing within five (5) days to a three-member Election Appeals Panel selected by random draw at the General Meeting that approves the Election Committee from eligible volunteers who are not candidates, proposed Vice-Presidents, Governing Body members, Election Committee members, observers, or Immediate Family Members of a candidate. The Panel shall decide the appeal within seven (7) days. Its decision is final.

Section K. Voting, Results, and Election Integrity. Voting shall be by secret ballot and may be conducted in person or through an AACC-approved secure electronic voting system under procedures established by the Election Committee. Each eligible voter may cast only one ballot. The candidate receiving the most votes is elected. A tie for the most votes shall be resolved by runoff within fourteen (14) days. If only one eligible candidate files, that candidate shall be declared elected. If no eligible candidate files, filing shall reopen for fourteen (14) days and an election shall be held within forty-five (45) days after the original date. If during the extended 14 days no eligible candidate files, then the current President to continue another term of 3 years. Results shall be certified in writing within twenty-four (24) hours after voting closes. Any challenge to the conduct or count must be filed within five (5) days. Fraud, tampering, intimidation, coercion, duplicate voting, or manipulation may result in disqualification or invalidation of affected ballots after notice and an opportunity to respond, subject to the appeal process in Section J.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

GOVERNING BODY APPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION PROCEDURES

What This Amendment Changes

- Confirms the President's nomination authority.
- Requires review of nominees by the active Governing Body.
- Sets qualifications, removal and vacancy procedures, and a transition process.

Why This Change Is Needed

The current bylaws give the President responsibility for filling leadership positions but do not fully define the review, confirmation, or transition process. The proposal creates a clearer handoff between outgoing and incoming leadership and establishes minimum qualifications and review procedures.

Proposed wording

Section L. Presidential Appointment Authority.
Following election, the President shall have the authority to nominate individuals to serve in the positions of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Board Members. All appointments made by the President shall be subject to review in accordance with this Article.

Section M. Review of Nominees. Nominees shall be reviewed by the sitting Governing Body at a properly noticed meeting held within fourteen (14) days after nominations are submitted. A nominee is confirmed unless rejected by a two-thirds (2/3) Governing Body vote. Any rejection must state a written basis tied to eligibility, conflict of interest, disqualifying misconduct, or material inability or unwillingness to perform the duties. Personal or political disagreement alone is insufficient. If the Governing Body does not conduct the review within fourteen (14) days, the pending nominee is deemed confirmed.

Section N. Qualifications of Appointed Board Members.
Any individual appointed to serve on the Governing Body must be a member in good standing of the AACC, have maintained membership in good standing for a minimum of three (3) consecutive full calendar years (excluding the current calendar year), have paid Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000.00) in cumulative membership obligations in full, meet any additional qualifications otherwise required by these Bylaws, and — if appointed as Vice-President — meet all eligibility requirements applicable to the President.

Section O. Removal of Appointed Officers.
Any appointed officer or board member may be removed from office for administrative or performance-related reasons, other than alleged misconduct, (a) by the President, subject to majority approval of the Governing Body; or (b) by majority vote of the Governing Body at a properly noticed meeting with quorum present. Removal based on alleged misconduct shall require reasonable notice of the allegations, an opportunity to respond, mandatory recusal of interested participants, and approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the disinterested Governing Body members.

Section P. Vacancies. If any Governing Body position other than President becomes vacant, the President shall nominate a replacement within thirty (30) days, subject to review under this Article. If no nomination is made within thirty (30) days, the Governing Body may fill the vacancy by Majority Vote. A vacancy in the office of President is filled by the Vice-President under these Bylaws. If both President and Vice-President offices are vacant, the Governing Body shall elect an acting President from among its members by Majority Vote and a special Presidential Election shall be held within ninety (90) days, with deadlines shortened by the Election Committee as reasonably necessary.

Section Q. Transition. The newly elected President and all nominees confirmed or deemed confirmed shall take office on May 31 following the election. Until then, the outgoing Governing Body continues ordinary management. A position not filled by May 31 remains vacant until filled, and duties may be temporarily assigned to another confirmed officer or Executive Board Member. Within fourteen (14) days after the new Governing Body takes office, each outgoing officer and Director shall deliver all AACC records, keys, equipment, financial statements, banking documents, contracts, and digital credentials to the appropriate successor. Outgoing officers and Directors shall remain reasonably available for two (2) months solely for transition assistance and shall have no voting authority by virtue of the former position.

Section O-1. Attendance. A Governing Body member who misses three (3) consecutive regular Governing Body meetings without an excuse accepted by the Governing Body may be removed by Majority Vote at the third meeting or a later properly noticed meeting.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

SOCIAL MEDIA, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS, AND MEDIA OVERSIGHT

What This Amendment Changes

- Defines approval requirements for routine and major public communications.
- Protects AACC ownership of social media accounts, websites, passwords, and other digital assets.
- Requires secure organizational backup access to digital accounts.

Why This Change Is Needed

AACC now communicates through social media, websites, video, and other public platforms. The current bylaws do not clearly define who may speak on behalf of AACC or who controls its digital accounts. The proposal establishes approval and ownership rules so organizational communications and accounts remain under AACC control.

Proposed wording

ARTICLE XXII

Social Media, Public Communications, and Media Oversight

Section A. Purpose. The purpose of this Article is to establish standards, oversight, and approval procedures for all official public communications issued on behalf of the AACC, including social media platforms, television channels, livestream broadcasts, digital media, and other public communication outlets, in order to preserve professionalism, organizational values, and consistency of messaging.

Section B. Routine Communications. The Communications Director or Social Media Coordinator may publish routine communications without case-by-case approval when they fall within categories approved in advance in writing by the President and Vice-President. Routine communications include event reminders, flyers, promotional materials, photo/video recaps, funeral and community notices, general announcements, and routine organizational updates. The President or Vice-President may require a post to be corrected or removed.

Section C. Major Communications. Major, sensitive, or official communications require approval by the President and Vice-President before publication. These include official organizational statements, responses to controversies, public-policy or government commentary, press releases, media interviews, sensitive organizational matters, and communications reasonably considered significant by the President or Governing Body.

Section D. Vacancy Substitution. In the event any position identified above is vacant, unavailable, or otherwise unable to participate in the approval process, the vacant position shall be temporarily filled for purposes of approval by either the Secretary or the Treasurer.

Section E. Content Standards and Proportional Representation. All public communications and media content distributed on behalf of the AACC shall maintain fair and proportionate representation of the organization's principal departments and mission areas, including Education, Religion, and Culture. No single department, program, or initiative shall receive disproportionate or exclusive focus to the detriment of balanced organizational representation unless otherwise approved by the Governing Body for a specific purpose or event.

Section F. Unauthorized Communications. No person may claim to represent or speak for the AACC without authorization under this Article. Members remain free to express personal views on personal accounts provided they do not state or imply that they speak for the AACC.

Section G. Ownership and Control of Digital Assets. All AACC social media accounts, websites, streaming platforms, subscriber lists, communication systems, credentials, and other digital assets are AACC property. Each account shall use an AACC-controlled email address and have at least two authorized AACC administrators. No AACC account may depend solely on a personal email address, personal telephone number, or private recovery method.

Section H. Credential Security. The Secretary shall ensure that current login credentials and recovery information are maintained in a secure AACC-owned password manager or equivalent organization-controlled system, with access also available to the President and Treasurer. Two-factor authentication shall be used wherever available. Credentials shall be changed promptly when a person with access leaves the role.

Section I. No Political Endorsements. No official AACC communication shall endorse or oppose any candidate for public office or political party.

AMENDMENT NO. 6

RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE AND IMAM CONDUCT

What This Amendment Changes

- Defines the AACC mosque as Sunni Hanafi.
- Moves the Imam's role into a dedicated article and sets political-neutrality expectations.
- Separates administrative controls such as member eligibility, fees, scheduling, and facility use from religious content.
- Creates doctrine and discipline provisions.

Why This Change Is Needed

The existing Imam provisions are located inside the general government article and combine administrative and religious responsibilities. The proposed article puts the Imam's role in one place and clarifies which matters are administrative responsibilities of AACC leadership and which matters remain religious responsibilities of the Imam.

Proposed wording

ARTICLE XVII
Religious Doctrine and Imam Conduct

Section A. Religious Affiliation. The mosque operated by the AACC shall be recognized and maintained as a Sunni Hanafi Mosque. All religious teachings, practices, services, and functions conducted within the mosque shall be consistent with the principles, beliefs, and traditions of Sunni Islam in accordance with the Hanafi school of thought.

Section B. Engagement of the Imam. The Imam shall be engaged on a contractual basis on terms set by the Governing Body, and the Imam's written contract shall incorporate this Article. The Imam shall not be a Governing Body member. Necessary religious functions shall be determined by the Imam in collaboration with the Director of Religion. Administrative matters such as scheduling, eligibility, fees, and facility use are governed by AACC policy; religious doctrine and the religious content of services remain the Imam's responsibility subject to this Article.

Section C. Political Neutrality. When acting in an official capacity or using any AACC premises, platform, or event, the Imam shall remain politically neutral and shall not endorse or oppose political candidates or parties or engage in partisan campaign activity. The Imam may address public issues directly affecting Islam, the Muslim community, religious freedom, or the AACC mission in a nonpartisan manner and may acknowledge, welcome, or meet with public officials in a nonpartisan manner. This Section applies to personal social media only when the Imam is speaking or reasonably appears to be speaking as AACC's Imam.
Section D. Prohibited Political Activity. While acting in his official capacity, the Imam shall not endorse or oppose political candidates or political parties, participate in campaign activity on behalf of or against a candidate, solicit political contributions, or use AACC facilities, resources, or official platforms for partisan political purposes. This Section is intended to reinforce the AACC's obligations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and the political-neutrality standard established in Section C.

Section E. Coordination of Services. Before a funeral, marriage ceremony, or other service using AACC facilities, staff, or resources, or involving a fee or donation to AACC, the Imam shall notify the President or Director of Religion by a reasonable method. The President or Director shall confirm administrative eligibility, facility use, resources, and applicable fees. The Imam retains full authority over religious content. A funeral (janaza) shall never be delayed solely for administrative approval or payment; administrative matters may be completed afterward. The Governing Body shall maintain written policies for services provided to members, non-members, and members not in good standing.

Section F. Adherence to Religious Doctrine. The Imam shall conduct teachings, sermons, counseling, instruction, and religious guidance in accordance with Sunni Islam under the Hanafi school of thought. Before disciplinary action is taken solely on an alleged doctrinal violation, the Governing Body shall obtain a written opinion from a qualified Hanafi scholar or religious body designated in advance by the Governing Body.

Section G. Violation and Discipline. Any alleged violation of this Article by the Imam shall be reviewed by the Governing Body. If the Governing Body determines by majority vote that a violation has occurred, disciplinary action may include written warning, suspension, mandatory corrective action, or termination of employment or contractual relationship.

Section H. Repeat Violations. A second material violation involving the same or substantially similar conduct within three (3) years after a written warning constitutes grounds for termination by Majority Vote of the Governing Body. Unrelated or immaterial violations do not automatically require termination.

AMENDMENT NO. 7

PROTECTION OF SAVINGS AND RESERVE ACCOUNTS

What This Amendment Changes

- Treats designated reserve accounts as one protected fund.
- Requires two-thirds Governing Body approval for reserve withdrawals and member approval for withdrawals above the annual limit or below the protected $1,000,000 floor.
- Allows prudent transfers between qualified financial institutions and emergency action to protect funds, with documentation and member reporting.

Why This Change Is Needed

The current bylaws do not provide special protection for substantial reserve funds. This proposal is intended to prevent major reserves from being moved, pledged, or depleted without direct member oversight while still allowing action when funds must be protected in a banking emergency.

Proposed wording

ARTICLE XVIII
Protection of Savings and Reserve Accounts

Section A. Reserve Fund. The AACC Reserve Fund consists of all savings, certificates of deposit, money-market accounts, investment accounts, and other accounts designated by Governing Body resolution as long-term reserves. These protections apply to the Reserve Fund as a whole regardless of the balance of any single account.

Section B. Ordinary Reserve Withdrawals. Any withdrawal of Reserve Fund principal requires approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Governing Body. A withdrawal that, together with other withdrawals in the same fiscal year, exceeds twenty-five percent (25%) of the Reserve Fund balance at the beginning of that fiscal year, or that would reduce the Reserve Fund below One Million Dollars ($1,000,000.00), additionally requires Majority Vote of the membership at a duly called General Meeting where General Membership Quorum is present.

Section C. Pledging and Encumbrance. Reserve Fund assets may not be pledged, encumbered, or used as collateral without a two-thirds (2/3) Governing Body vote and Majority Vote of the membership at a duly called General Meeting where quorum is present.

Section D. Safekeeping Transfers. By a two-thirds (2/3) Governing Body vote, Reserve Fund money may be moved, renewed, or reinvested among federally insured United States banks or credit unions, deposit-placement programs designed to maintain federal insurance, and United States Treasury securities, provided the money remains part of the Reserve Fund. The Treasurer shall report such movement to Voting Members within thirty (30) days.

Section E. Emergency Exception. If Reserve Fund money is threatened by financial-institution failure, fraud, seizure, cybersecurity risk, or similar banking emergency, the President, Treasurer, and one other Officer acting together, or a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Governing Body, may move the funds to a safer AACC account or qualifying financial instrument. The action shall be disclosed to members within seven (7) days and presented at the next General Meeting.

Section F. Approved Capital Projects. A capital project approved by Majority Vote of the membership may be funded from the Reserve Fund within the amount expressly approved. If the approved project would exceed the annual twenty-five percent (25%) withdrawal limit or reduce the Reserve Fund below the protected One Million Dollar ($1,000,000.00) floor, that consequence must be clearly stated in the proposal presented to members.

Section G. Financial Institution Standards. Reserve Fund assets shall be maintained only with reputable and legally authorized United States financial institutions or in United States Treasury securities. AACC shall use prudent diversification and, where reasonably practicable, federal deposit insurance or equivalent safeguards.

Section H. Purpose. The purpose of this Article is to protect AACC reserves from unilateral spending, pledging, misuse, or depletion while allowing prudent safekeeping and investment management.

AMENDMENT NO. 8

CONTRACTOR AND VENDOR PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

What This Amendment Changes

- Requires three written bids for engagements above $10,000 unless properly waived.
- Requires Governing Body approval above $5,000 and membership approval above $50,000.
- Adds conflict-of-interest, insurance, written-contract, anti-splitting, and related-party transaction rules.

Why This Change Is Needed

The current bylaws do not contain a detailed procurement system. This proposal creates consistent rules for significant purchases and contracts so bidding, approvals, conflicts of interest, insurance, and documentation are handled under the same standards.

Proposed wording

ARTICLE XIX Contractor and Vendor Procurement Procedures

Section A. Purpose. The purpose of this Article is to establish fair, transparent, and accountable procedures for the hiring of contractors, vendors, consultants, and service providers by the AACC for significant expenditures.

Section B. Competitive Bids. Three (3) written competitive bids are required for any purchase, contract, project, service, or engagement exceeding Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00), unless waived under Section E. This requirement does not apply to employment contracts, the Imam's contract, utilities, taxes, governmental fees, or renewal of existing insurance policies.

Section C. Governing Body Approval. All contracts, purchases, and vendor engagements exceeding Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) require Governing Body approval before execution.

Section D. Membership Approval for Major Contracts. Any contract, purchase, vendor engagement, or project exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) additionally requires Majority Vote of the membership at a duly called General Meeting, subject to the recurring-operating-expense exceptions in Article XV.

Section E. Waiver of Bids. By a two-thirds (2/3) Governing Body vote, the competitive-bid requirement may be waived where only one qualified provider is reasonably available, an Emergency requires immediate action, specialized expertise or unique qualifications justify sole-source selection, or multiple bids are otherwise impracticable. The reason shall be documented in the meeting minutes. A bid waiver does not waive any spending-approval requirement.

Section F. Conflict of Interest Disclosure. Any officer, Governing Body member, employee, volunteer, or person involved in contractor or vendor selection who has any personal, familial, financial, or business relationship with a proposed contractor or vendor must disclose such relationship prior to discussion or vote. Such interested individual shall recuse himself or herself from voting on the matter.

Section G. Written Agreement Requirement. All contracts or engagements exceeding Eight Thousand Dollars ($8,000.00) shall be memorialized in written form and signed in accordance with AACC approval and signature authority requirements.

Section H. Prohibition on Splitting Contracts. No contract, project, or purchase may be artificially divided, split, phased, or structured for the purpose of circumventing the monetary thresholds or approval requirements established by this Article. If a violation is found, the members shall be notified and the person or persons involved may be suspended from the Governing Body or from applicable AACC duties pending disciplinary review under the Bylaws then in effect. If the conduct involves suspected criminal activity, the matter may be referred to the appropriate legal authorities.

Section I. Contractor Qualifications and Insurance. Before beginning physical work on AACC property, every contractor shall provide proof of required licenses or qualifications, a certificate of general liability insurance naming the AACC as an additional insured, workers' compensation coverage where required by law, and any other documentation reasonably requested by the Governing Body. Vendors, consultants, and service providers paid more than Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) shall provide appropriate proof of qualifications and insurance as reasonably applicable to their work.

Section J. Prohibition on Self-Dealing and Related Party Transactions. No officer, Governing Body member, employee, volunteer, committee member, or Immediate Family Member shall directly or indirectly receive any contract, compensation, payment, financial benefit, or vendor engagement from the AACC in connection with any contract, project, purchase, or service unless: (i) the relationship is fully disclosed in writing; (ii) the interested individual fully recuses himself or herself from discussion, recommendation, negotiation, and voting; (iii) the arrangement is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the disinterested Governing Body members; (iv) the Governing Body determines that the arrangement is fair, reasonable, competitive, and in the best interests of the AACC; and (v) if the value exceeds Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00), the arrangement is additionally approved by majority vote of the active voting membership at a duly called General Meeting. For purposes of this Article, 'Immediate Family Member' means a spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or any business entity in which the officer, Governing Body member, employee, volunteer, committee member, or such family member has a material ownership or financial interest.

Section K. Annual Conflict-of-Interest Statement. Each Officer and Governing Body member shall sign a conflict-of-interest disclosure when taking office and annually thereafter, identifying relationships that could create a Conflict of Interest. The Secretary shall retain the statements as official AACC records.

AMENDMENT NO. 9

ENFORCEMENT OF BYLAWS AND DISCIPLINE OF OFFICERS

What This Amendment Changes

- Defines grounds for discipline of officers, board members, employees, committee members, and volunteers.
- Creates a written complaint, investigation, response, suspension, recusal, and removal process.
- Requires membership ratification for removal of the President.

Why This Change Is Needed

The current bylaws contain certain removal provisions but do not provide a complete process for serious misconduct or complaints involving leadership. The proposal establishes a consistent process so allegations are reviewed, the accused person has an opportunity to respond, and conflicts of interest are avoided during the decision.

Proposed wording

ARTICLE XX - Enforcement of Bylaws and Discipline of Officers

Section A. Applicability. This Article shall apply to the President, all Governing Body members, officers, appointed board members, committee members, employees, and volunteers serving the AACC.

Section B. Grounds for Discipline. Any individual subject to this Article may be disciplined for violating any provision of these Bylaws; violating applicable federal, state, or local law while acting in connection with AACC affairs; engaging in fraud, dishonesty, theft, misconduct, gross negligence, abuse of authority, or conduct detrimental to the AACC; or knowingly acting outside the authority granted by these Bylaws.

Section C. Filing of Complaint. Any Voting Member or Governing Body member may file a written complaint under this Article. The complaint shall be filed with the Secretary, or if the Secretary is a subject, with the Vice-President, or if both are subjects, with any disinterested Officer. The recipient shall log the complaint, acknowledge receipt in writing, and provide it to the accused and disinterested Governing Body members within seven (7) days. The complaint must reasonably describe the allegations and supporting facts.

Section D. Investigation and Review. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Governing Body shall review the matter and may conduct such investigation as reasonably necessary, including gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, and reviewing relevant documents.

Section E. Right to Respond. The accused individual shall be provided notice of the allegations and shall be given a reasonable opportunity to respond and present his or her position prior to final disciplinary action.

Section F. Temporary Suspension Pending Review. If the alleged conduct involves serious misconduct, financial impropriety, criminal conduct, immediate risk to the organization, or material harm to the AACC, the Governing Body may impose temporary suspension pending final review by majority vote.

Section G. Discipline and Removal. Following review, the Governing Body may impose a written warning, probation, suspension, removal from office, or termination of employment or appointment. Removal of a Governing Body member, Officer, or President requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the disinterested Governing Body members at a Properly Noticed Governing Body Meeting. Disciplinary and removal actions under this Article are not subject to Presidential veto.

Section H. Membership Ratification for Removal of President. A Governing Body vote to remove the President takes effect only if ratified by Majority Vote of the membership at a General Meeting held within thirty (30) days after the Governing Body vote. The Vice-President shall serve as acting President until the member vote. If removal is not ratified, the President immediately resumes office.

Section I. Vacancy Upon Removal. Any position vacated through removal under this Article shall be filled in accordance with the applicable vacancy procedures of these Bylaws.

Section J. Recusal. The accused may present a written or oral response but shall not deliberate, preside, or vote and shall not count toward quorum for the matter. A person who filed the complaint shall not vote on the matter. All other Conflict of Interest and recusal rules in these Bylaws apply.

Section K. Acting Chair During Proceedings. If the President is the subject of any complaint, investigation, disciplinary proceeding, or removal action under this Article, the Vice-President shall preside over all meetings, hearings, discussions, and proceedings related to such matter. If the Vice-President is unavailable, conflicted, or also subject to the proceeding, the remaining disinterested Governing Body members shall appoint an acting chair by majority vote to preside solely over the matter.

Section L. Timeline for Review. Review shall begin within fifteen (15) days after the complaint is provided to the Governing Body and should be completed within sixty (60) days. Any extension must be approved for good cause stated in the minutes.

Section M. Removal by Member Petition. A written petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of Voting Members may require a General Meeting to consider removal of the President or another Governing Body member named in the petition. The meeting shall be held within thirty (30) days after a valid petition is filed. The person named shall receive a copy and a reasonable opportunity to respond. Removal requires Majority Vote of eligible members voting at a General Meeting where General Membership Quorum is present.

Section N. Good Faith, Non-Retaliation, and Confidentiality. No person shall be retaliated against for filing or supporting a complaint in good faith. Knowingly filing a materially false complaint may itself constitute misconduct. Complaints and investigations shall be kept confidential to the extent reasonably practical until resolved.

AMENDMENT NO. 10

MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

What This Amendment Changes

- Sets a general standard of respectful, lawful, and dignified conduct.
- Defines prohibited conduct such as threats, harassment, violence, fraud, vandalism, and disruption.
- Creates complaint, investigation, suspension, termination, and appeal procedures.

Why This Change Is Needed

The bylaws need a consistent conduct standard that applies to all members, not only officers or people using the facility. This proposal creates organization-wide expectations and a defined discipline process, including an appeal right after permanent termination.

Proposed wording

ARTICLE XXI

Member Code of Conduct and Discipline

Section A. Purpose. The purpose of this Article is to establish standards of conduct for all members of the AACC in order to maintain a respectful, professional, family-oriented, and harmonious environment consistent with the mission, values, and reputation of the organization.

Section B. Standard of Conduct. All members shall conduct themselves in a respectful, lawful, and dignified manner while on AACC property, participating in AACC activities, attending meetings or events, or otherwise representing the AACC.

Section C. Prohibited Conduct. Members shall not engage in harassment, threats, intimidation, bullying, abusive behavior, fighting, violence, disorderly or disruptive conduct, profanity directed at others, knowingly false statements of fact intended to harm another person, theft, vandalism, misuse of AACC property, fraud or dishonesty involving AACC affairs, disruption of meetings, religious services, events, or operations, or conduct prohibited by Article XVI. Disagreeing with AACC leadership, raising concerns, voting, campaigning, or filing a complaint in good faith is never a violation of this Article.

Section D. Reporting Violations. Any active member or Governing Body member may submit a written complaint regarding an alleged violation of this Article. Complaints must reasonably describe the alleged conduct and supporting facts.

Section E. Investigation and Review. The Governing Body shall investigate alleged violations. The accused Member shall receive written notice of the allegations and at least ten (10) days to respond in writing or in person before a final decision, except that temporary safety-related restrictions may be imposed when authorized by these Bylaws.

Section F. Disciplinary Action. Upon finding that a violation has occurred, the Governing Body may impose disciplinary measures including verbal or written warning, probation, temporary suspension of membership privileges, removal from specific AACC activities or events, or permanent termination of membership.

Section G. Severe Violations. Any member engaging in serious misconduct, criminal conduct, violence, threats, theft, fraud, repeated violations, or conduct creating immediate danger to persons or property may be immediately suspended pending review by majority vote of the Governing Body.

Section H. Termination of Membership. Permanent termination of membership under this Article shall require approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Governing Body at a properly noticed meeting with quorum present.

Section I. Appeal Rights and Readmission. A Member whose membership is terminated may appeal by written request to the Secretary within thirty (30) days. The appeal shall be heard at a General Meeting held within sixty (60) days, and the termination is reversed by Majority Vote of eligible members voting at a meeting where quorum is present. A terminated Member may apply for readmission after one (1) year; readmission requires Majority Vote of the Governing Body after considering the circumstances and the Member's conduct since termination.

Section J. Criminal Conduct and Other Serious Misconduct. Any member who is convicted of a serious criminal offense involving violence, fraud, theft, financial misconduct, or other conduct having a substantial and demonstrable connection to the member's participation in the AACC, or who engages in conduct that materially threatens the safety, property, operations, legal compliance, or reputation of the AACC, may be subject to disciplinary action under this Article, including suspension or termination of membership, as determined by the Governing Body. The Governing Body shall consider the nature, severity, timing, and direct relevance of the conduct to the AACC in determining appropriate disciplinary action.

Section K. Controlling Member Discipline Procedure. To the extent any other provision of these Bylaws establishes a different procedure or voting threshold for suspension or termination of membership based on misconduct, this Article shall control. This Section does not limit temporary removal from the premises when reasonably necessary to protect persons or property.

Section L. Election-Period Review. Any suspension or termination imposed within ninety (90) days before a Presidential Election that would affect a Member's right to vote or run may be appealed on an expedited basis to the Election Appeals Panel. The Panel shall decide before voting closes whether the Member may vote or remain a candidate in that election.

AMENDMENT NO. 11

SPOUSAL MEMBERSHIP AND EXPANDED VOTING RIGHTS

What This Amendment Changes

- Allows an eligible member to add a spouse for the annual fee set by the bylaws.
- Recognizes the spouse as an independent active member with one vote where eligible and direct AACC communications.
- Ordinary voting rights begin after 90 days; Presidential Election voting still requires the full three-year membership history.

Why This Change Is Needed

The family membership structure does not currently provide a clear optional path for a spouse to become an independent voting member. This proposal expands participation while keeping a waiting period and preserving the additional eligibility requirements for presidential elections.

Proposed wording

D. Spousal Membership.
Any Voting Member in Good Standing may add his or her legally married spouse, age eighteen (18) or older, as an independent AACC member by paying the additional annual spousal fee established by these Bylaws. The spouse shall receive official communications directly and shall have one (1) independent vote on matters for which the spouse is eligible.
The spouse must be registered in the Official Membership Records and agree to comply with the Bylaws, policies, and code of conduct. The ninety (90)-day period for ordinary voting eligibility begins when the completed registration and required spousal fee are received. Presidential Election voting and Governing Body eligibility are governed by the same membership-history and eligibility rules that apply to other members, and qualified years of spousal membership count toward those requirements.
Children of members remain covered under the family membership plan as otherwise provided in these Bylaws until they no longer qualify under existing eligibility rules.
Continuation After Death, Divorce, or Change in Primary Membership. If the primary member dies, divorces, resigns, or ceases to be in good standing, the spousal member may continue AACC membership by converting to the applicable individual membership category and paying the applicable dues. Prior years of qualified spousal membership continue to count toward membership-history requirements.

AMENDMENT NO. 12

NAME OF ORGANIZATION - AMERICAN ALBANIAN CULTURAL CENTER STRUGA

What This Amendment Changes

- Changes the official name of the organization to "American Albanian Cultural Center Struga."
- Keeps the abbreviation "AACC STRUGA" while changing the legal name after the required New Jersey filing becomes effective.
- Directs the Governing Body to update organizational records and make any filings needed to implement the approved name change.

Why This Change Is Needed

This amendment is intended to make the organization's connection to Struga explicit in its official name, strengthen its historical and community identity, and distinguish the organization from other Albanian-American cultural organizations.

Proposed wording

AMENDMENT NO. 12 - ARTICLE I - IDENTITY AND NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Section A. Official Name. Effective upon filing the required amendment to the AACC Certificate of Incorporation with the State of New Jersey, the official name of the organization shall be "American Albanian Cultural Center Struga" ("AACC Struga").

Section B. Conforming References. Upon the effective date of this Amendment, all references in these Bylaws to the "Albanian American Cultural Center," the "American Albanian Cultural Center," or "AACC" shall refer to the American Albanian Cultural Center Struga. The abbreviation "AACC Struga" may continue to be used for organizational and public purposes.

Section C. Administrative Implementation. The Governing Body is authorized to make all reasonably necessary filings and administrative updates to implement the approved name change, including corporate, governmental, tax, banking, insurance, contract, property, licensing, website, signage, and other official records. Until the Certificate of Incorporation amendment is filed and effective, the organization shall continue using its current legal name on legal and financial documents. The name change does not, by itself, alter the rights, obligations, assets, liabilities, membership, or fundamental purposes of the organization.

Section D. Preservation of Organizational Purpose. This Amendment is intended solely to change the official name and identity designation of the organization. It does not alter the charitable, cultural, educational, religious, or other fundamental purposes of the AACC.