

**BYLAWS OF
SOAR (STIMULATING OPPORTUNITIES AFTER RETIREMENT)**

Approved July 5, 2001

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Revised and Approved May 27, 2020; Revised and Approved **May 11, 2022**

Article I. Name

The name of the organization shall be Stimulating Opportunities After Retirement (SOAR).

Article II. Purpose

SOAR is a non-profit, participatory organization of persons committed to life-long learning. SOAR is dedicated to meeting the intellectual and cultural needs of its members through shared learning experiences.

Article III. Affiliation

SOAR shall be affiliated with the State University College at Potsdam, New York (SUNY Potsdam) and Road Scholar.

Article IV. Board of Directors (BOD)

There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of no more than fifteen (15) members who are elected annually. All officers, as defined in Article VIII, shall be members of the Board. The BOD shall be the primary policy-setting body.

Any unexpired term may be filled by appointment by the BOD.

Members of the BOD serve on at least one committee.

Article V. Membership and Dues

Membership shall be open to all persons upon payment of annual dues. Members must register for at least one (1) course and be in compliance with SOAR and each host institution's health and safety protocols.

The dues shall be proposed by BOD and confirmed by a vote of the membership at the annual meeting.

Additional fees may be necessary for some courses or activities.

Members are entitled to participate in any of the classes or programs that are offered within the constraints of the enrollment cap set for each course.

Article VI. Consultants

SOAR shall use consultants as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

Consultants shall report to the Chair of the BOD and/or Chair of the committee involved in such services.

Article VII. Meetings

The Board Chair or the Chair's designee shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors.

Annual Membership Meeting

An annual meeting of all members registered in the fall and/or spring semester of the SOAR academic calendar year (June to May) shall be held in-person or electronically if an in-person meeting is not possible. Those registered members shall be notified in writing, by telephone or email at least two (2) weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting quorum shall be ten percent (10%) of the registered membership as described above. A simple majority of the members present shall be required to make decisions. The business of the annual meeting shall be to elect the officers and other Board of Directors and to approve the annual budget and any changes in the Bylaws.

Other Meetings of the Membership

The BOD may call other meetings of the membership as needed or by petition of 10% of the membership as described above provided the notice has been sent seven (7) days before the meeting. No business shall be conducted unless a quorum consisting of 10% of the members as described above is present. A simple majority of the registered members present shall be required to make decisions.

Board of Directors Meetings

The BOD shall meet at least once every quarter. More frequent meetings may be called as necessary. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority.

Committee Meetings

Committees shall meet as needed at the call of their respective Chairs.

Conduct of Meetings

Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall be invoked as needed to govern the conduct of all meetings.

Article VIII. Officers

The Officers of SOAR shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The officers shall serve one-year terms by election of the members at the Annual Meeting.

The Chair may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

In the event of absence or incapacity of the Chair, the order of succession shall be Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary. Any unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors.

Article IX. Officer Responsibilities

Chair

Calls and presides at meetings of the BOD, the Annual Meeting, and other meetings of the membership;

Represents the organization involving media and public relations events;

Serves as *ex officio* on all committees but may not vote;

Works closely with the Administrative Assistant to coordinate SOAR activities;

Assists Committee Chairs as needed;

Works closely with the SUNY Potsdam Liaison in matters affecting the organization's relationship with the University.

Vice-Chair

Performs the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair from the meetings of the BOD and/or the Annual Meeting;

Assists the Chair and Committee Chairs as needed;

Assumes the office of Chair in the event the Chair resigns or otherwise leaves office prior to the expiration of his/her term of office.

Secretary

Takes accurate minutes of BOD meetings and distributes them to the other members of the BOD.

Treasurer

Maintains the account ledger, which includes a complete record of income, expenses, and account balance and is reconciled with the PACES ledger periodically.

The primary source of income is membership dues.

The expenses within the account are budgeted by category.

The total annual budget is approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

The Treasurer supplies a report at each BOD meeting on SOAR's income, expenses, and account balance as well as Expenses by Budget Category.

The Treasurer, as a member of the Administration and Finance Committee, participates in the preparation of the annual budget.

At the end of the fiscal year, soon after the final PACES ledger for that period becomes available, the Treasurer shall furnish the Administration and Finance Committee with the necessary documents, enabling the committee to audit the Treasurer's report and verify, at a minimum, that the account balance as submitted by the Treasurer and the balance as listed by PACES are in agreement.

Article X. Standing Committees

All committees shall report to the BOD, and at least one committee member shall be a member of the BOD.

The BOD Chair shall serve as *ex officio* on all committees but may not vote.

The BOD shall approve Committee Chairs. Committee Chairs, in coordination with existing members of the committee, shall solicit new committee members as necessary.

If a standing committee fails to be duly constituted as stipulated in these bylaws, the BOD may act in the Committee's place. The BOD shall make every effort to speedily reconstitute the committee.

All Committee initiatives shall be approved by the BOD.

Standing Committees shall consist of at least four (4) members unless otherwise specified by the Committee Chair.

Standing Committees are:

- Administration and Finance Committee
The membership shall include the Treasurer.
- Ambassador Committee
- Archives Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Executive Committee
The membership shall consist of all elected officers.
- Events Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nominating and Awards Committee
The membership shall consist of two (2) members who are not BOD members. Officers of the organization shall not serve on this committee.
- Outreach and Publicity Committee
- Presenter Communications Committee
- Publications Committee
- Scheduling Committee
- Registration Committee
- Technology Committee

Article XI. Ad Hoc and Special Committees

The Board Chair shall name a Committee Chair and together, they will recruit the other members.

Article XII. Revisions

These bylaws may be revised at the Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the members present. Members shall be notified a minimum of two (2) weeks in advance.