

# ASSE Governance

## A Quick Look at Some Whys & Whats

ASSE's governance restructure continues to be a topic of discussion at many levels. Through webinars, presentations and articles, the elements of the proposed structure have been detailed, and the drivers behind the changes have been explained. This month, *PS* is providing a recap of key points related to the governance initiative.

**What?** This model will reduce the Board of Directors (BOD) from 16 members to 10. It will replace geographic representation with competency-based members-at-large. In addition, it will move ASSE from an operational BOD (how do we get there) to a strategic BOD (where do we want to go), while also adding a public director (a non-member).

**Why?** This model achieves several goals. It will increase nimbleness and speed of decision making; enable ASSE to be more strategic in its approach to governance and more relevant and responsive to the membership; reduce the BOD size and, therefore, expense; reduce silos and politics; and add an outside perspective to BOD deliberations.

**Why now?** It's been almost 20 years since the Society's last governance review. ASSE, its members and their employers, the profession, ASSE's competitors, the economy, society and the world have changed tremendously in 20 years. The Society must at least keep up and, ideally, get ahead of this curve.

**What effect will this have on members?** The intent of the proposed model is to create a BOD that is responsive and relevant to all members and reflective of all members. Members will elect all of the leaders they currently elect plus the new directors-at-large.

**What effect will this have on chapters?** This action makes no direct change to chapters. However, it is intended to increase the number of regional vice presidents who will provide greater support and leadership resources to chapters. It also removes a layer of governance between the chapters and most of the decisions that affect them.

**What effect will this have on practice specialties?** Elections for practice specialty administrators and assistant administrators will be open and overseen by the Society's Nominating and Elections Committee. Term limits will be enacted for these positions as well.

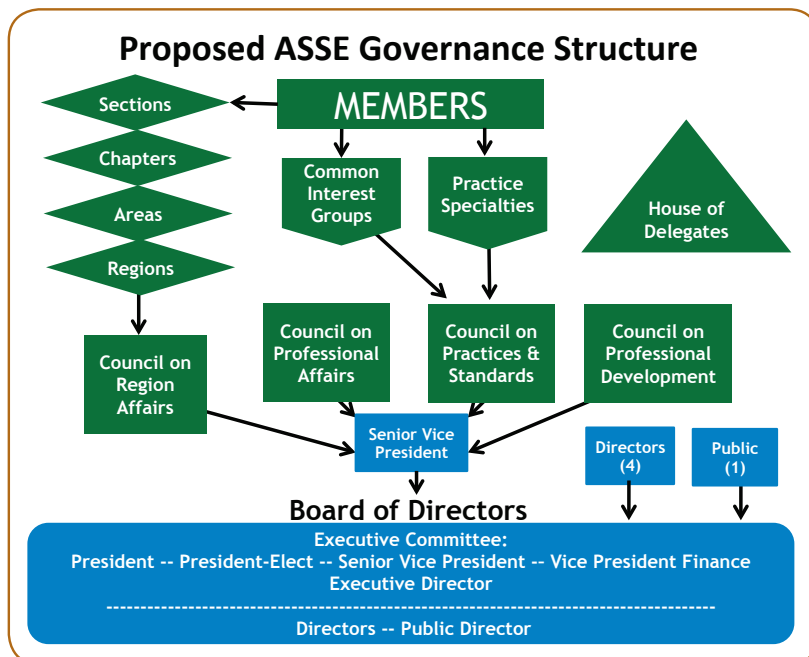
**What effect will this have on common interest groups?** Elections for common interest group (CIG) administrators and assistant administrators will be open and overseen by the Society's Nominating and Elections Committee. As with practice specialty officers, term limits will be enacted for these positions.

**What effect will this change have on the House of Delegates (HOD)?** This change will add four delegates to the HOD, one each from the four CIGs. Beyond that, the HOD will see no changes.

**What effect will this have on dues?** None.

**What's the next step?** The BOD has approved the concept and a set of revised bylaws to implement the changes. The bylaws have also been reviewed and approved by outside legal counsel. The next step is to bring the revised bylaws to the HOD for a vote when the BOD feels that the issues have been properly explained and vetted. The process of explaining the changes and gathering input began last spring and continued through the 2013 HOD meeting and beyond. The BOD discussed the initiative during a conference call in September 2013 (after this issue went to press). A website has been established at [www.asse.org/restructure](http://www.asse.org/restructure) or you can scan the QR code here with your mobile device to learn about any new developments.

The intent is to create a Board of Directors that is responsive and relevant to all members and reflective of all members.



### Key Takeaways

- Manage ASSE proactively rather than responding reactively, particularly as the rate of change continues to accelerate globally.
- Enable ASSE to adapt quickly to and be proactive in response to the changing global environment.
- Create value for members.
- Create speed and facilitate organizational decisiveness.