

Governance & ASSE Members

An Open Process Encourages & Values Member Input

ASSE is a member-centered association that exists for members. It is led by dedicated volunteers who are committed to the Society's mission and vision. Its activities and actions, and thus its direction, are informed, influenced and driven by members. Decisions are made with the best interests—and the voice—of members in mind.

A case in point of this operational approach has been the process to develop the proposed governance model that was introduced earlier this year. As 2012-13 President Rick Pollock, CSP, said during a webinar to explain the model and answer member questions, "It all starts with us, with members."

The Role of Members in the Governance Change Process

To better understand the role members have played in the process to develop the proposed governance model, let's take a look at the initiative's timeline:

- In March 2010, the Board of Directors (BOD) identified a need to examine its structure. At that time, the structure had not changed in nearly 15 years, and the BOD recognized that the structure in place created obstacles that prevented the Society from being truly flexible, efficient and effective. So, the BOD formed an advisory task force of member leaders to study the structure and identify challenges and needs.

- In January 2012, a study group of more than 50 member leaders and members-at-large gathered to discuss the task force findings. This diverse group included a cross section of members, ranging from new practitioners to veteran professionals, and current and former Society-level leaders and practice specialty representatives.

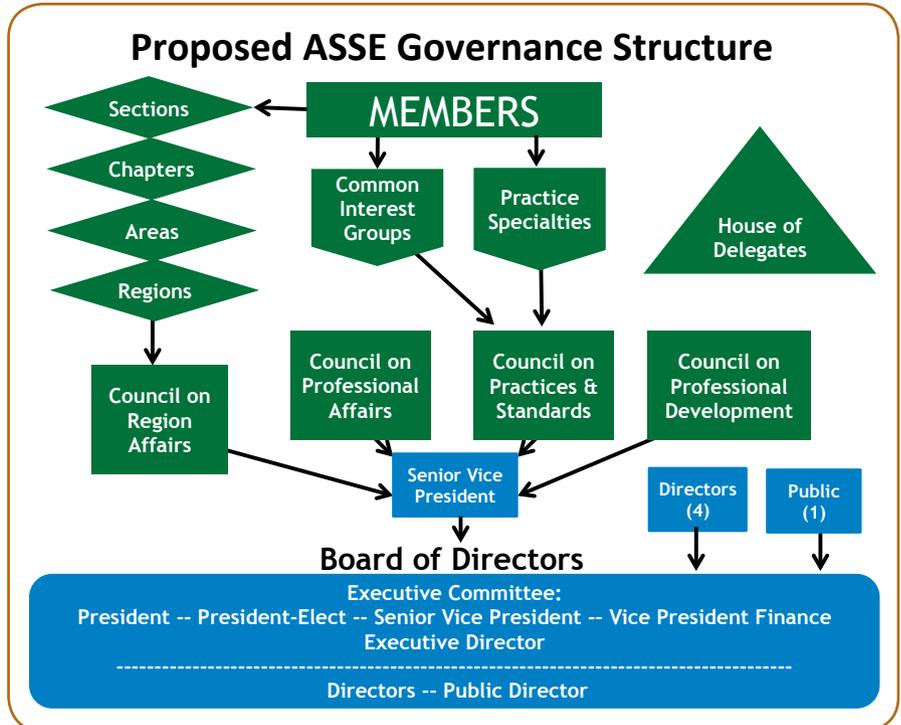
During the meeting facilitated by Glenn Tecker, an expert in association governance, the group discussed current trends and member demographics, assessed business factors, explored political/social values and reviewed the global climate. It also performed a comprehensive condition assessment and reviewed the Society's goals. Throughout the iterative process, feedback from all participants was encouraged and considered. Based on the results, the group drafted a consensus model for a new structure that was subsequently updated based on feedback from several additional member groups.

- In May 2012, a smaller group of members met to review and update the draft model. The updated version was presented to the BOD in June 2012.

- Between June 2012 and January 2013, the BOD continued to deliberate and consider additional input from various groups and sources on the draft model.

- In February 2013, the board and its governance expert discussed further revisions and the board approved in principle a revised draft model to distribute to the full ASSE membership for discussion and feedback.

- Starting in March 2013, the proposed model began to be presented to all regions as well as to many chapters. This



enabled a broad group of members to share their feedback, ask questions and seek additional information.

- The April 2013 issue of *Professional Safety* contained the first in an ongoing series of articles about the proposal. The Society also launched a website (www.asse.org/restructure) to house the articles, FAQs and webinar recordings, as well as to enable members to submit additional questions as they reviewed the materials.

- In May and June 2013, ASSE hosted two webinars with chapter leaders and delegates. Presenters explained the internal and external changes driving the proposal, reviewed the process used to arrive at the draft model and answered real-time questions from participants.

- In June 2013, the BOD continued to discuss and revise the model based on ongoing member feedback. During its meeting at Safety 2013 in Las Vegas, NV, the BOD unanimously approved the model and the necessary changes to the Society's bylaws. In addition, the model was discussed during the regional caucuses leading up to the annual House of Delegates meeting, during which additional delegate comments focused on the proposal and the important changes it represents.

- Following the BOD approval, the revised bylaws were sent to the Society's lawyer for legal review.

Next Steps

The member-centered progress toward ASSE's governance restructure will continue until a motion is brought to the House of Delegates for a vote. This will occur at some point in the future. Until then, ASSE encourages members to continue to review the materials on the website, speak with their chapter and region leadership, and submit questions and feedback.