

**PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT  
ARTICLE 1 - MEMBERSHIP**

- 1 Section 1. Paragraph D. Associate Membership Classifications and Qualifications  
 2 Classification and Qualifications  
 3 2. Paraoptometric Members.  
 4 ~~A paraoptometric who is and continues to be sponsored by an optometrist who is a member of~~  
 5 ~~this Association shall be a Paraoptometric Member of this Association.~~  
 6 (a) A non-optometrist individual who is currently or was previously employed by an optometrist  
 7 or an optometric practice in any paraoptometric, administrative, technical, optical, or support-  
 8 staff role assisting an optometrist, who meets eligibility rules set by the Board of Trustees or  
 9 House of Delegates, may become a Paraoptometric Member of this Association upon acceptance  
 10 of their application and payment of any dues.  
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 12 (b) The Board of Trustees may set eligibility rules and dues levels for Paraoptometric Members –  
 13 subject to the right of the House of Delegates to give guidance and binding direction to the Board  
 14 of Trustees through motions passed at the Annual Congress.  
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 16 **Section 2. Dues. Paragraph D. Associate Member Dues**  
 17 2. Paraoptometric Members pay ~~\$.00~~ as annual dues for this Association as set by the Board  
 18 of Trustees or House of Delegates through the process described in Section 1, Paragraph D,  
 19 Subsection 2.

EXPLANATION:

The purpose of this proposed amendment is:

- Aligns language across Associate Member classifications, creating a clear and consistent pathway to membership that broadens eligibility and expands access for all Paraoptometrics.
- Provides flexibility to grow Paraoptometric membership, enhancing engagement opportunities while delivering additional value to OD members and the broader organization.
- Streamlines membership pathways for military and VA doctors, aligning with their OD/Para reporting structures to simplify participation and improve integration.

NOTE: Wording to be deleted ~~lined out~~.  
 Wording to be added underscoring.

Submitted by: AOA Board of Trustees