

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES
OF THE
TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
SENIOR PHYSICIAN SECTION (SPS)

The TMA House of Delegates approved a resolution in 2024 to create a unique section of the membership to address the unique needs of members age 65 and older. This document provides initial structure to the formation and operation of the SPS.

- I. PURPOSE. The purpose of the TMA Senior Physician Section is
 - a. to maintain involvement of senior physicians in the Tennessee Medical Association and the component medical societies;
 - b. to create and provide programs, benefits, services intended for the benefit of SPS members;
 - c. to utilize senior physicians to promote organized medicine and membership;
 - d. to promote and provide events and service to foster continued engagement and collegiality among SPS members statewide.
- II. MEMBERSHIP. All physician members of the Tennessee Medical Association who are 65 years of age or older are eligible for the SPS.
- III. GOVERNANCE - There shall be a Governing Council of the Senior Physician Section to direct the programs and activities of the Section.
 - A. MEMBERS. The Governing Council shall consist of no less than 5 and no more than 9 SPS members.
 - B. SELECTION. The Governing Council members shall be nominated annually by component medical societies in a process similar to all TMA committee nominations. The TMA Board of Trustees will consider and approve members of the SPS Governing Council.
 - C. TERMS. Terms on the Governing Council will be for 2 years. No member may serve more than two, 2-year terms.

D. OFFICERS. The members of the Governing Council shall elect the following positions from among its composition.

1. Chair: The Chairman will preside at meetings of the Governing Council.
2. Vice Chair: The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair, preside in the absence of the Chair, and serve as the Chair in the following year.

E. VACANCIES. Any vacancy occurring on the Governing Council shall be filled at the next business meeting of the section. The Chair may temporarily appoint a member to fill a vacancy. The open position will be filled at the next TMA Annual Meeting.

C. AUTHORITY. The Governing Council shall direct the programs and activities of the TMA Senior Physician Section subject to approval by the TMA Board of Trustees. Each TMA region shall be encouraged to maintain a regional SPS section with leadership to direct and carry out local initiatives.

D. QUORUM. A simple majority of the governing council members must be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum.

IV. SECTION MEETINGS. The SPS shall meet at least annually at the call of the Governing Council for the purpose of engaging with all state SPS members. Additional meetings may be planned by the Governing Council.

A. PURPOSE. The purpose of the meetings of the Section shall be:

1. to provide educational and networking opportunities for SPS members;
2. to hear presentations from regional sections leaders and consider actions on appropriate issues to come before the SPS;
3. to elect the members of the TMA SPS Governing Council

B. RULES OF ORDER. The rules of order for conduct of business shall be the rules of order used by the House of Delegates of the Tennessee Medical Association.

1. VOTING AND VOICE. Any member of the Section may attend, introduce issues, debate issues, and vote in the business meeting of the Section.
2. NOTICE. Notice of the meeting to be held shall be provided to the membership of the Section at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

V. FINANCES

A. SECTION Dues – To fund activities of the SPS, all SPS-eligible members will be encouraged to contribute \$300.00 annually to be held in reserve for SPS use.

B. Financially Self Supporting - The SPS shall be self-supporting in all endeavors. The TMA Board of Trustees has the option of discretionary funding for certain activities as called for within budget requests to the Board by the Section.

VI. AMENDMENTS. These bylaws may be amended during any business meeting of the Section by a two-thirds vote of the entire SPS Governing Council and subsequent approval of the TMA Board of Trustees.