

BYLAWS
PUBLIC INTEREST SECTION
AMERICAN ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION
(8/21/02)

I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the Public Interest Section of the American Accounting Association.

II. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the Public Interest Section is to promote knowledge and responsible action with respect to the role and effects of accounting information and social and ethical responsibilities of accounting professionals in areas including social and environmental accounting, public interest issues, government/profession regulation, professional and business ethics, direct assistance programs, and, in general, contributing to the quality of our common life. Specific objectives include but are not limited to the following:

- a. encouraging research in public interest accounting by identifying areas in need of research and facilitating the exchange of ideas and findings by providing opportunities for exposure of research results;
- b. promoting instruction on public interest accounting and the public responsibilities of professional accountants;
- c. encouraging more capable, ethical, and promising students to pursue careers in accounting by enhancing their knowledge of the importance of accounting data in societal decisions;
- d. increasing the opportunities for the interchange of ideas among members of the academic and professional community with respect to public interest accounting; and
- e. encouraging interdisciplinary exchanges between accountants and members of other learned groups.

III. MEMBERSHIP

- a. All persons who pay the annual dues levied by the Public Interest Section, subject to the rules of the American Accounting Association shall be members of the Section.
- b. All members of the section are eligible to vote, hold office, and participate fully in all activities of the

Section, and are entitled to all of its other privileges.

IV. DUES AND FEES

- a. Annual dues and all changes therein shall be recommended to the membership by the Officers Group, within the limits set by the American Accounting Association, for approval by the membership at the Section business meeting held during the annual meeting of the Association.
- b. Fees may be charged to participating individuals for publications, special activities, and meetings (excluding regular sessions at national and regional American Accounting Association meetings). The fees charged are set by the Chair subject to guidelines established by the Officer Group.

V. THE OFFICER GROUP

The Officer Group of the Section shall consist of the Officers of the Section, both elected and appointed (described in section VI). The Officer Group shall act as an advisory committee for the Chair in coordinating overall Section activities. Specifically, the Officer Group shall aid the Chair in:

- a. formulating short- and long-run programs for the Section and presenting these programs to the membership;
- b. approving the annual budget of the Section;
- c. establishing and staffing standing and ad hoc committees as needed by the Section;
- d. insuring communication and coordination among regional and national section activities;
- e. appointing a replacement for any person currently occupying an office who chooses to vacate that office before the end of the term;
- f. reporting to the Section membership, at least annually, on major actions and activities; and
- g. carrying out other activities specified by the Section Bylaws.

VI. OFFICERS

1. ELECTED OFFICERS

The elected officers of the Section shall consist of the Chair, Chair-elect, Vice-Chair/Director of Education and Research, and Secretary-Treasurer.

- a. The Chair shall serve a two-year term. Once a person has served as Chair, he or she is not eligible for election to Chair-elect until the elapse of a period of four years after the completion of their previous term as Chair. The duties of the Chair shall be:
 - i. to direct the affairs of the Section and carry out the programs approved by the Section membership;
 - ii. to preside at the annual and other meetings of the Section;
 - iii. to represent the Section on the Council of the American Accounting Association and in other forums as appropriate;
 - iv. to appoint and charge committees and task forces;
 - v. to authorize expenditures of Section funds in accordance with the budget adopted by the Section Officer Group;
 - vi. to cooperate with the President of the American Accounting Association relative to Sectional activities at the annual meeting; and
 - vii. to appoint the officers of the Section who are described below as the "appointed officers".

- b. The Chair-elect shall serve a two-year term as an apprentice Chair and, upon completion of this term, shall become the Chair of the Section. Elections for Chair-elect will occur every two years. The duties of the Chair-elect shall be:
 - i. to assume the duties of the Chair in the event the Chair is unable to serve;
 - ii. to perform duties assigned by the Chair and Officer Group;
 - iii. to make recommendations for activities and programs to the membership at the annual meeting of the Section;
 - iv. to attend AAA Council Meetings.

- c. The Vice-Chair and Director of Education and Research shall serve a one-year term, eligible for unrestricted re-election. The duties of the Vice-Chair and Director of Education and Research shall be:
 - i. to perform those duties assigned by the Chair and Officer Group;
 - ii. to work with the Newsletter Editor to ensure that all important information with respect to Section activities and proposed Bylaw changes are included in the

Newsletter;

- iii. to serve as Director of Education and Research
 - a. to liaise among Section members regarding their research;
 - b. to promote the research of the Section and the inclusion of public interest issues into accounting instruction;
 - c. to establish networks between section members, the American Accounting Association, and organizations outside of the Association pursuing similar accountability, economic, and social issues;
 - d. to encourage and prepare grant and funding proposals;
 - e. to develop programs aimed at encouraging the inclusion of public interest issues as part of the accounting curriculum;
 - f. to facilitate development of CPE sessions at AAA annual meetings.
 - iv. to assume the duties of the Chair in the event the Chair is unable to serve and the office of Chair-elect is currently vacant.
- d. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a one-year term, eligible for unrestricted re-election. The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be:
- i. to supervise the keeping of the records of Section meetings, activities, and procedures;
 - ii. to work with the Executive Director of the American Accounting Association relative to the collection and disbursement of Sectional funds;
 - iii. to provide assistance and guidance for the dissemination of information to members (e.g. through newsletters or bulletins); and
 - iv. to prepare an annual report of the financial status of the Section.
- e. No Section officer shall receive compensation, honoraria, professional fees, stipends, etc. for the performance of Section duties. Officers may be reimbursed from Section funds for expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties under guidelines established by the Officer Group.

2. APPOINTED OFFICERS

The appointed officers of the Section shall consist of the Coordinator of Regional Activities, the CPE Coordinator, the Membership Coordinator, the Program Coordinator, and the Newsletter Editor.

- a. The Coordinator of Regional Activities shall be appointed by the Chair for a one-year term with unrestricted re-appointments. The duties of the Coordinator of Regional Activities shall be:
 - i. to annually appoint regional coordinators for Section activities within each region of the American Accounting Association;
 - ii. to work with the regional coordinators to encourage and promote sessions at regional meetings of the American Accounting Association, as well as at other programs and activities designed to further the stated objectives of the Section; and
 - iii. to provide the Newsletter Editor with information about regional activities for publication in the Section Newsletter.

- b. The CPE Coordinator shall be appointed by the Chair for a one-year term with unrestricted re-appointments. The duties of the CPE Coordinator shall be:
 - i. to plan and coordinate Section sponsored continuing education programs at the American Accounting Association meeting;
 - ii. to assist the regional coordinators in planning continuing professional education activities at regional meetings; and
 - iii. to provide the Newsletter Editor with information about CPE activity at regional and national meetings of the American Accounting Association.

- c. The Membership Coordinator shall be appointed by the Chair for a one-year term with unrestricted re-appointments. The duties of the Membership Coordinator shall be:
 - i. to annually appoint regional membership coordinators for the Section within each region of the American Accounting Association;
 - ii. to work with the regional membership coordinators to encourage Section membership within each region;
 - iii. to implement plans to increase the Section membership outside the United States; and
 - iv. to work with the Executive Director of the American Accounting Association regarding all aspects of Section

membership.

- d. The Program Coordinator shall be appointed by the Chair for a one-year term with unrestricted re-appointments. The duties of the Program Coordinator shall be:
 - i. to develop the Sections annual meeting activities, e.g., debates, panel discussions, paper sessions;
 - ii. to work with the Executive Director of the American Accounting Association regarding all aspects of the Section's annual meeting program activities; and
 - iii. to provide the Newsletter Editor with information about Section annual meeting programs and activities.

- e. The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the Chair for a one-year term with unrestricted reappointments. The duties of the Newsletter Editor shall be:
 - i. to edit and publish a Section Newsletter on a timely basis (normally twice each year unless circumstances warrant additional issues);
 - ii. to act as or appoint a manager for the Section's Web site; and
 - iii. to work with the Executive Director of the American Accounting Association to share information with the leadership of the Association.

- f. Editor of *Accounting and the Public Interest*. The editor of *Accounting and the Public Interest* shall be appointed by the Officer Group from a list of candidates submitted by the Editor Nominating Committee to serve a term of three years. No person may serve as Editor for more than six consecutive years. The Editor Nominating Committee shall be elected at the end of the current editor's first year of service. The election of the Committee will occur during the Section business meeting in August. The Chair of the Section will be Chair of the meeting and will conduct the election. Nominations will be taken from the floor until it is moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. The three nominees receiving the most votes will be deemed the Editor Nominating Committee. The Committee will solicit advice from the membership and prepare an unranked list of no more than three candidates for Editor, which will be submitted to the Officer Group no fewer than 90 days prior to the August section business meeting, which is held at the end of the current editor's second year of service. at a time before that business meeting is called to order, the Officer Group must select one of the

editor nominees as Editor-designate. If the current Editor is one of the nominees, he or she must recuse themselves from the deliberations. The Editor-designate that is selected by the Officer Group will be announced at the business meeting; he or she will work with the editor during the final year of the current editor's term of service before assuming the duties of Editor. In the event an Editor is unable to serve, the Editor-designate will assume the Editor's duties. If no Editor-designate has been chosen, the duties of Editor will be assumed by the Vice-Chair/Director of Education and Research. The Vice-Chair will perform the duties of Editor until a new slate of Editor candidates can be nominated by the existing Editor Nominating Committee and submitted to the Officer Group for selection of the new Editor.

The duties of the Editor shall be:

- to publish an annual volume of the on-line journal *Accounting and the Public Interest*;
- to appoint the editorial board of *Accounting and the Public Interest*;
- to solicit submissions of high quality;
- to work with the Vice-Chair/Director of Education and Research to encourage public interest and ethics scholarship.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At each Public Interest Section business meeting held during the annual meeting of the American Accounting Association, the members in attendance will elect a nominating committee of four people. The election will be conducted by the Chair of the Meeting who is the elected Chair of the Section. Nominations will be taken from the floor until it is moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. The four nominees receiving the most votes will be deemed the Nominating Committee. No more than one elected officer is eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is charged with presenting a slate of candidates to the membership for all elected-officer positions for which elections must be held for that year. The immediate past-Chair shall serve as the nonvoting chair of the Nominating Committee in order to provide information about the section and to organize the Committee to complete the nominating process in a timely manner. In addition to the candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee, the slate of candidates shall include

nominations for any offices made by the membership. To be included in the slate of candidates, nominations from the membership must include the signatures of at least five members of the Section. Such nominations must be mailed to the current Secretary-Treasurer with a postmark not later than April 1 preceding the annual meeting of the American Accounting Association. A ballot containing the complete slate of candidates for all offices will be printed in the Section Newsletter that is published preceding the annual meeting. Section members will vote by mail. The ballots published in the Newsletter must be marked and mailed to the Secretary-Treasurer with a postmark no later than July 15 preceding the American Accounting Association annual meeting. Candidates are elected by a simple plurality, i.e., the candidate receiving the most votes is elected.

In the event the membership wishes to remove a Chair from the office prior to the end his or her term, a petition of removal signed by at least 20 section members must be presented to the Secretary-Treasurer. Within 30 days of receipt of the petition, the Secretary-Treasurer shall mail a ballot of removal to all persons currently on the official membership list of the section. The Chair is removed if three-fourths of the ballots returned to the Secretary-Treasurer within 45 days after the ballots were mailed to members contain a vote for removal. In the event a Chair is removed, the Chair-elect will immediately assume the office. If the office of Chair-elect is vacant, the Vice Chair and Director of Education and Research will act immediately as interim Chair until the next annual business meeting of the section. At that business meeting a new Chair shall be elected by nominations from the floor. Election shall be by simple plurality vote for the candidates nominated from the floor. The Secretary-Treasurer shall preside over the election of a new Chair.

VIII. MEETINGS

The Section shall hold an annual meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Accounting Association. All matters coming before the Section membership at the meeting shall be decided by a majority vote of those members present and voting except as otherwise specified in these bylaws.

IX. EXPENDITURES

Procedures for the expenditure of funds shall be established and monitored by the Officer Group. Expenditures may not be made or debts incurred in the name of the Section in an amount which exceeds the unencumbered funds available to the Section during the

current year.

X. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed by the officers of the Section or by a petition of not less than 10 members of the Section or by a motion at the annual meeting approved by a majority of those present. Amendments proposed by the officers or by petition shall be distributed in writing to the membership 60 days prior to the annual meeting. The material so distributed shall contain both the old bylaws and the proposed change(s) along with the rationale for the proposed change(s). Amendments proposed by the officers or by petition shall be voted on at the next annual meeting following their distribution to the membership. Amendments proposed by motion at the annual meeting shall be presented for vote at the next annual meeting or, at the discretion of the Chair, by mail ballot. Amendments to the Bylaws must be approved by a two thirds majority of the members voting.