

Subject:AIAA Greater Huntsville Section Bylaws

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From:Lindsay Mitchell <LindsayM@aiaa.org>

Dear Member of the Greater Huntsville Section:

Over the next few weeks, your Section Council will be asking you to vote to ratify new Section Bylaws. We would like to provide a bit of background on this request, and why you should vote YES.

In June of 2016, AIAA revamped its governance, including establishing a new Constitution and set of Bylaws for the Institute. The new governance structure was done to give AIAA the flexibility to adapt in the ever-changing aerospace environment and to provide a stronger strategic platform for the Institute. One outcome of this is that lower-level governance documents, such as Section Bylaws, are no longer valid and must also be revised to ensure legal alignment and consistency of operations through all levels of the Institute.

Subsequently, the Regional Engagement Activities Division (READ), which is responsible for the governance of Sections within AIAA, created a draft version of a standard set of Bylaws, which would be applicable to every professional Section. READ then solicited feedback from the sections on the draft Bylaws in September of 2018, and dispositioned all feedback received. This exercise resulted in several changes to the standard bylaws, some of which were proposed by the GHS Council, leading to a better final package. The new standard set of Section Bylaws was formally adopted by READ in January of 2019.

Sections are required to adopt this new set of Bylaws and are also encouraged to create an Operating Procedures document which sits under the Bylaws and provides additional detail and explanation of how a particular Section operates. The combination of Bylaws and Operating Procedures is the best practice for professional societies as it provided the balance with the foundational rules that should be maintained for the success of the organization (bylaws) plus the flexibility to adapt the details of operation to meet the changing needs of the community (operating procedures).

All U.S. professional sections aside from Greater Huntsville have now adopted the standard set of Bylaws. READ has asked your Council to ratify and adopt these prior to March 31st. Please vote YES in order to remain a Section in good standing with AIAA and retain the many benefits of affiliation with the Institute.

Sincerely,

Dan Jensen, Chief of READ
Allen Arrington, Speaker of the Council of Directors
Dan Dumbacher, AIAA Executive Director
Basil Hassan, AIAA President

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