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NEONATAL NURSES ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Neonatal Nurses Association Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Name

The name of the Association shall be the Neonatal Nurses Association (hereinafter called The Association).

Purpose and powers

- a. The Association is established to promote good standards of neonatal nursing and committed to providence and research based practice for the benefit of the public.
- b. In furtherance of the above purposes, the Association may:
 - collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting the above purposes, and exchange such information with members and other bodies having similar purposes;
 - arrange and proved for, or join in arranging and providing for the holding of meetings, exhibitions, and conferences locally, nationally and internationally;
 - procure to be written and print, publish, issue and circulate gratuitously or otherwise such papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets and other documents and films as shall further the above purposes;
 - maintain links with the Chairpersons, or their ebullient, of neonatal nurses' professional organisations worldwide; and
 - o do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the above purposes.

Membership

a. Full membership shall be open to any nurse or midwife whose name appears on the Nursing and Midwifery Council professional register or

1355-1841/\$ - see front matter doi:10.1016/j.jnn.2006.11.016 any other person working directly or indirectly with the care of the newborn including nursery nurses or those in professions allied to neonatal nursing,

- whose professional interests are relevant to the practice of neonatal nursing,
- \circ who is interested in furthering the work of the Association, and
- $_{\odot}$ who has paid the annual subscription as laid down from time to time by the Executive hereinafter mentioned.
- b. Overseas membership shall be open to any registered nurse, midwife or other person actively involved in neonatal nursing who is resident outside the United Kingdom who may or may not hold a recognised qualification appropriate to that country.
- c. Corporate membership shall be open to any limited or unlimited Company or registered Charity whose interests are related to neonatal care. Corporate membership will not confer any voting rights. A corporate member will be entitled to the corporate benefits of the Association for the benefit of a set number of employees the number of which will be reviewed by the Association on an annual basis.
- d. Honorary membership shall be granted on occasion at the discretion of the Executive Committee to persons who have made a particular and exceptional contribution to neonatal nursing.
- e. Voting rights will be limited to full members of the Association resident in the United Kingdom.

Application for membership

a. Any eligible person who wishes to join the Association may apply by completing and lodging a membership form together with the current membership fee.

- b. Any limited or unlimited Company or registered Charity wishing to enter into corporate membership of the Neonatal Nurses Association shall complete the appropriate form for submission to the Executive Committee hereinafter mentioned together with current annual subscription fee for corporate membership.
- c. The Executive Committee shall have the right to approve or reject applications for membership.
- d. In the event of rejection of an application for membership any fee paid will be returned to the applicant.

Cessation of membership

Membership will cease if,

- $\,\circ\,$ a member submits to the Secretary a resignation in writing,
- a member fails to pay the subscription within 3 calendar months after the due date for payment,
- the Executive Committee for good and sufficient reason terminates the membership of any member provided that the member concerned shall have a right of personal attendance before the Executive Committee before a final decision is made.

Membership fee

The subscription shall be payable annually to the Association in the calendar month in which the membership was initially granted. The Executive Committee of the Association shall have the power to vary the subscription by ordinary resolution.

Network representatives

a. An active person shall be sought from each of the neonatal networks to act as a liasion person between the Executive Committee and the members.

Honorary officers (Executive Committee)

- a. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times a year to manage the business, the financial affairs, and the running of the Association. Each member is required to attend a minimum of two thirds of the scheduled meetings.
- b. Prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Association, any active member may be nominated to the Executive Committee by other two current members of the Association. A ballot will

subsequently be held at the Annual General Meeting for election to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall elect in accordance with clause 9.1 hereof, a Chairperson, Secretary, and a Treasurer and such other officers as the Association shall from time to time decide. Chairpersons of the SIGs will automatically become members of the Executive Committee for the period of their office but will not have voting rights, as they have not been elected. This group of people shall form the Executive Committee of the Association.

- c. An Executive member shall hold office for a period of 3 years, or until early retirement or removal by a resolution of a General Meeting of the Association. This person may be re-elected for a second consecutive period of 3 years, but thereafter 3 years shall elapse before being again eligible to serve on the Executive Committee. If no nominations for the Executive Committee are received the period of office for the current Executive Officer may be extended for a period of 1 year. This will be reviewed annually.
- d. All elected members of the Executive Committee will have voting rights except the SIG Chairpersons. The Executive Officer and/or Editor of the Journal of Neonatal Nursing are as employees of the Association excluded from voting.
- e. Any casual vacancy in the Executive Committee may be filled by a active member (meaning a person actively participating in neonatal care), and any person appointed to fill such a casual vacancy shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Association and shall be eligible for election at that meeting.
- f. The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt one to two members of the Association as additional members of the Committee at their discretion. Co-opted members shall serve until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting following individual co-option. Co-opted members shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Executive Committee.
- g. The Executive Committee shall have the power to establish Special Interest Groups within the Association as deemed necessary.

Special Interest Groups

- a. Special Interest Groups may be established to meet the developing professional needs of the Association.
- b. The purposes of the SIGs include the formulation and development of guidance relating to the sub-speciality at the invitation of the Chairperson of the Association.

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