At the 2014 annual meeting of the House of Delegates Resolution 2014-1 was referred to the House Committee on Bylaws. In addition Resolution 2012-206 was referred back to the House Committee on Bylaws. A transcript of the testimony was prepared and provided to the members of the House Committee on Bylaws for review and consideration. Your chair wishes to express his thanks to all members of the House of Delegates who provided testimony regarding these resolutions.

Resolution 2014-1: Bylaws Amendment to Permit MSSNY Committees to Submit Resolutions to Annual House of Delegates.

Introduced by: Donald Moore, MD, Kings County
Sandhya Malhotra, MD Queens County
Sheila Bushkin-Bedient, MD, MPH, Saratoga County
as Individuals

Whereas, the Bylaws of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) state that one of the purposes of MSSNY is to contribute to the professional and personal development of member physicians by representing the profession as a whole and

Whereas, Article III (House of Delegates); Section 3 (Meetings); Paragraph 3 of the MSSNY Bylaws provides that resolutions may be submitted to the House of Delegates only by members of the House of Delegates as individuals or by component county medical societies, district branches, specialty society delegates, the organized medical staff delegate, the resident and fellow section delegate, medical student section delegates and medical school delegates, and
Whereas, this list of eligible physicians, residents, students and medical schools, excludes inclusion of physicians who actively participate on the multiple MSSNY committees; and

Whereas, as a membership organization, MSSNY's success depends on the engagement of its membership; and

Whereas, committee member resolutions would broaden the engagement of the membership statewide; and

Whereas, the President appoints Chairpersons and members of committees, currently twenty-nine committees in number; and

Whereas, Chairpersons of committees have a right to present their reports to the Council and engage in discussion of such reports; and

Whereas, Bylaws amendments require submission at an annual meeting of the House of Delegates; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the MSSNY Bylaws be amended to permit the submission of resolutions by committees who are duly appointed by the MSSNY President; and be it further

RESOLVED, that MSSNY will amend Article III, Section 3 Paragraph 3 of the MSSNY Bylaws to read:

Resolutions may be submitted to the House of Delegates only by members of the House of Delegates as individuals or by component county medical societies, district branches, specialty society delegates, the organized medical staff delegate, the resident and fellow section delegate, medical student section delegates, and medical school delegates and MSSNY committees.

The Committee does not believe the amendment is necessary. The Committee reviewed Article III, Section 3 Paragraph 3 of the MSSNY Bylaws and believes that there are many sources to obtain sponsorship for a resolution. Inasmuch as committees are creatures of the Council, the normal route for a committee to bring a resolution to the House is to have it approved by the Council and submitted in the name of a Councilor (often the President). If a committee desires to submit a resolution that has not been approved by the Council, it needs only to find one member of the House of Delegates to introduce the resolution. There is no limit to the number of members of the House of Delegates who may introduce a resolution, and a resolution is frequently introduced by numerous members of the House of Delegates.

Accordingly, the House Committee on Bylaws recommends that Resolution 2014-1 BE NOT ADOPTED
Resolution 2012-206: Consideration of MSSNY’s Mission Statement

Introduced by: New York County Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee on Reports of Officers and Administrative Matters

Whereas, The Mission Statement of the Medical Society of the State of New York has not been re-examined in a number of years; and

Whereas, The Mission Statement does not include crucial elements such as protection of the integrity of the patient/physician relationship, improvement and protection of the public health, achievement of the highest standards of medical practice, and others; and

Whereas, The Mission Statement should not only consider the realities of the Society’s situation, but its priorities and goals; and

Whereas, a work group consisting of representation from across the State should review the current Mission Statement and make recommendations as to how it could better reflect the aspirations, goals, and priorities of the Society; therefore be it.

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York’s (MSSNY’s) Committee on Bylaws be charged to review and revise MSSNY’s Mission Statement, with input from the component medical societies and affiliated sections, and report back to the 2013 House of Delegates.

The MSSNY Long Range Planning Committee reviewed the current Article 1 of the MSSNY Bylaws, as well as comments submitted by county medical societies and other MSSNY leaders. Mission statements of many state medical societies were also presented to the Long Range Planning Committee for review.

It was noted that the Study of MSSNY Committee developed both a mission and a vision statement for MSSNY that were approved by the MSSNY Council in 1997, but that these statements were never made part of the MSSNY Bylaws. The Long Range Planning Committee recommended that the statements adopted by the Council in 1997 be added to the MSSNY Bylaws, and the House of Committee on Bylaws agreed.

At the annual meeting of the House of Delegates in 2014, the House Committee on Bylaws recommended that the following Mission Statement and Vision Statement be added at the end of the current Article I of the MSSNY Bylaws:

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Medical Society of the State of New York is to anticipate and respond to the unique needs of its membership, to represent the professional interests of physicians; to advocate for patients and physicians, to improve the health of the people of New York State by promoting a favorable environment for the practice of medicine; to vigorously defend the integrity of the patient-physician relationship; to promote effective physician leadership and to promote and maintain the high standards of the profession.
VISION STATEMENT

The Medical Society of the State of New York shall be the leading professional organization uniting all physicians to promote excellent healthcare for the people of New York State.

The House of Delegates referred this item back to the House Committee on Bylaws for further discussion and a report back to the House in 2015. After much deliberation, the House Committee on Bylaws believes that the Mission Statement and Vision Statement should precede the statement of MSSNY’s purpose. In addition, the House Committee on Bylaws believes the Mission Statement should be more concise.

Accordingly, the House Committee on Bylaws recommends that Article I of MSSNY Bylaws be amended as follows (additions underlined, deletions lined through):

Article I – NAME, MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS, PURPOSE

The name and title shall be Medical Society of the State of New York. The purpose of the Medical Society of the State of New York shall be:

MISSION STATEMENT

To advance the health of the residents of our State by promoting a favorable environment for the practice of medicine through advocacy, education and professional community for New York State physicians.

VISION STATEMENT

The Medical Society of the State of New York shall be the leading professional organization uniting all physicians to promote excellent healthcare for the people of New York State.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Medical Society of the State of New York shall be:

To federate into one organization the medical profession of the State of New York;

To contribute to the professional and personal development of member physicians by representing the profession as a whole and advocating health-related rights, responsibilities and issues. These actions are designed to promote a favorable environment for the practice of medicine and improvement of the health of the residents of New York State;
To serve as a resource for its members and assist them in addressing the many issues and needs which they face in providing health care to their patients;

To enhance the delivery of medical care of high quality to all people in the most economical manner, and to act to promote and maintain high standards in medical education and in the practice of medicine in an effort to ensure that quality medical care is available to the public;

To seek to educate the public regarding important health care issues, including identification and discussion of their implications for patients and physicians in the current medical practice environment;

To seek to attain these goals by acting, to the fullest extent possible, in concert with organizations and agencies which have similar aims;

To inform and promote public opinion in regard to the problems of medicine and health for the best interests of the people of the State of New York.

CORE VALUES:

Professionalism:
Evidenced by decisions that are honest, ethical, and compassionate and actions that are patient-centric and protect the physician patient relationship

Effectiveness:
Evidenced by efficient advocacy, programs and services that enhance the ability of the physician to be successful

Leadership:
Evidenced by forward thinking, policy and strategy that is physician-directed and accountable to both members and the public interest

Scientific:
Evidenced by realistic and rational discussion among an inclusive professional community that values accurate information, diversity of opinion and political non-partisanship

Accordingly, the House Committee on Bylaws recommends that the amendments to Article I of MSSNY's Bylaws, by addition, BE ADOPTED.
Your Chair wishes to thank the members of the House Committee on Bylaws, the members of the House of Delegates who provided testimony and input, and the individuals who assisted in the preparation of this report, Laurel Mayer, Eunice Skelly and Donald Moy, Esq.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Kaner, MD
Chair