

# 2026 Board of Directors and Bylaw Changes

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### Automatic Board Appointments per Bylaws

According to the organization's bylaws, the following officers are automatically elected to the 2026 Board of Directors:

- President: Gary Kopta
- Vice President: Butch Brown
- Treasurer: Vern Shock
- Secretary: Eric Eads
- Operations: Dave Woody Berg
- Legislative: Ed Bear Schuitema
- Awareness: Leroy Cuykendall III

### Newly Elected Board Members for 2026

The following individuals were nominated and have been elected to serve on the 2026 Board of Directors:

- Gina Berg
- Dondi Vesprini
- Tim Polk
- Jinx Rahn
- Jeremy Bouvrette
- Vince Consiglio
- Bob MacLennan
- Jim Rhoades
- Kim MacLennan
- Ann Tobian
- Sherri Lecurgo
- Merry Garrett
- Dan "Tiny" Patterson
- Lois Shock
- Patty Shattuck

### 2026 Bylaw Changes

#### All Bylaw Proposals Passed

All proposed bylaw changes were approved for 2026.

#### Article IV Membership: Section 7

Individuals who are 18 years of age or younger are eligible for Auxiliary Membership. Auxiliary Members are not granted voting rights and are not permitted to attend ABATE functions intended for those over 18. The membership fee for Auxiliary Members is \$10.00 per year or \$25.00 for three years.

#### Addition: Article IV Membership: Section 5

Effective February 2026, new members will no longer become eligible for a life membership after 25 consecutive years of membership. However, they may still purchase a life membership if they choose.

## Article V Board of Directors: Part A Section 3

In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, a Trustee may be appointed by a quorum of the Board. The appointed Trustee will serve as a non-voting member of the Board until their appointment is ratified through an election by the full membership at the Annual Meeting.

### Line 6 Removed

Line 6 has been removed from the bylaws.

## Article IV Membership: Section 6

The fee for a five-year membership is \$110 for an individual or \$210 for a dual membership, provided both members live at the same address. Only one newsletter will be sent to the dual members' address. Alternatively, members may opt out of receiving a mailed newsletter and choose to read it on the ABATE website. Membership dues are non-refundable.