



# The Old Guard Association

P.O. Box 1785  
Fort Myer, VA 22211-1785



## Proposal to Amend Bylaws

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### Re: Article III, Section 1, Membership

#### **Background**

Article III, Section 1, of the Association Bylaws describes the five classes of membership currently offered to those wishing to join the community of our Association. These five categories of membership are: Charter, Regular, Life, Associate and Honorary. For the last several years the Membership Chairman has been receiving applications for Associate membership which do not meet the current criteria for acceptance.

The existing bylaws standard for granting Associate membership requires that the applicant “has contributed significantly to the support of the Association in the accomplishment of its aims and purposes.” This is a high standard which the majority of applicants do not meet.

#### **Objective**

To develop and present to the membership a viable and acceptable solution which allows otherwise deserving supporters of the Association an opportunity to apply and be approved for acceptance as an Associate Member.



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## Proposal

The Outreach Committee, a sub-committee of the Board chaired by Director Dave Book, has proposed, and the Board recommends approval of, the following amendment to the bylaws. If approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), this change to Article III, Section 1 would provide a path for non-member supporters of the Association, who do not otherwise meet the current criteria for acceptance, to apply for an expanded Associate membership class.

Revise the definition of Associate membership as stated in the existing Article III, Section 1 as follows:

**Associate Member** – Associate membership may be granted to any **active duty or veteran of the United States military, family member of a current or former Old Guard Soldier or any** person not meeting other membership requirements stated herein and who has contributed significantly to the support of the Association in the accomplishment of its aims and purposes. Applications for Associate membership are subject to approval of the Board.

The dues structure for the Associate membership class would be positioned so as to discourage all but the most ardent and enthusiastic applicants. Each individual application would continue to require review and approval by the Board of Directors. If approved, this bylaws change would become effective on January 1, 2022.