



ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the “ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE” initiative?

IAVM values diversity. ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE is proposed to incorporate the perspective of all our Members. Currently, Honorary, Retired, Allied and Associate Members are denied the right to vote in the future of IAVM.

This initiative will strongly position IAVM well into the future and make our Association more diverse and inclusive.

By providing the opportunity for all Members to have a voice, we draw on the entire strength and experience in our industry.

This initiative will not change our professional association status, our name, our mission or the Brand Promise to our Members.

What are IAVM’s membership types?

Professional Members includes those employed in venues publicly or privately owned or managed.

Associate Members include faculty, students and professional fields related to the venue management industry.

Allied Members provide services, products or attractions to our industry.

Retired Members and Honorary Members are retired Professional Members, with the honorary status conferred to those worthy of recognition by the Board of Directors.

Does this mean that the other kinds of Members can serve in IAVM’s senior leadership roles?

No. An important part of this initiative is to define the criteria for senior leadership. A candidate must be a Professional Member of IAVM who has served on the Board of Directors, has earned the CFE designation and has been a venue manager in a senior position for a minimum of 10 years.

Over the last two years we’ve listened to Members’ concerns and will continue to ensure that only Professional Members who meet the criteria will lead our organization.

Why are we voting on this again?

This is not the same initiative that was brought forward in 2014. We’ve listened to Members’ feedback and understand that you want our organization to benefit from the diverse perspectives of all its Members.

While Allied Members would earn the right to vote if this initiative passes, they would still not be eligible to serve in the Association’s senior leadership roles.

After research and input from the Membership Committee, the Membership Task Force and the Governance Committee, the Board of Directors agreed to put the proposal before the Members because there was consensus that diversity is essential for good decision making.

Members of the Board of Directors and IAVM staff are now actively seeking feedback about the proposal from Members to ensure an inclusive process.

How do we provide feedback?

There will be a live Q&A session at Sector Meetings and at the conclusion of the webinars. Participants in all sessions will be sent a link to a survey with an option to provide feedback, including an open write-in section. That feedback will be passed on to the Governance Committee, who will evaluate it in context with the language approved by the Board and determine if there is support for the initiative, and/or if the language needs to be revisited. This would then come back to the Board in the late spring before a potential ballot is created.

How does the definition of who gets to vote change?

The ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE approach will allow every Member of IAVM equal right to vote.

How does this address Allied Members?

The proposal recognizes the importance of the relationship between Allied Members and the Association which already includes Allied Members serving on various committees and the Foundation Board of Trustees, as well as participating as subject matter experts in educational sessions. These Allied Members have shown a deep appreciation for IAVM and the industry. A senior leadership candidate must be a Professional Member of IAVM who has served on the Board of Directors, holds the CFE designation and who has been a venue manager in a senior position for a minimum of 10 years.

How many votes are required to approve the proposal?

To be enacted, a final ballot must ultimately be approved by current voting Members of the Association by a two-thirds majority vote.

Could these revisions take the focus away from venue managers?

No. We are an organization of venue managers, and we will remain so. This initiative would not change our name, our status, our mission or the Brand Promise.

Our mission remains the same, "To educate, advocate for and inspire public assembly venue professionals, worldwide." The ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE initiative is aligned with the mission

as well as IAVM's new Brand Promise, which is "Inspiring Leaders, Building Expertise and Creating Connections for Life."

While Allied Members make up only 15% of IAVM's membership, they are a part of our success. They are keenly aware that our success empowers theirs.

Will these revisions turn us into a trade association?

No. We are and will remain a professional association. A trade association is an organization founded and funded by businesses that operate in a specific industry. Its members are most often the businesses themselves, not individuals. That does not describe IAVM. Furthermore, this initiative will maintain the distinction of Professional Members and Allied Members. We define ourselves by our mission statement and our actions, and our actions demonstrate we are a professional association with a primary focus on public assembly venue professionals.

Will this take away from leadership opportunities for Professional Members?

No. This initiative does not change the leadership opportunities available to Professional Members. Professional Members will always be at the core of IAVM and providing opportunities for leadership remains vital to our organization.

This initiative will define the requirements for senior leadership as a Professional Member of IAVM who has served on the Board of Directors, holds the CFE designation and who has been a venue manager in a senior position for a minimum of 10 years.

Will Allied Members be able to take over the Board of Directors or make decisions that are against the interests of Professional Members?

No. This initiative will not change the number of Professional Members that make up the Board. We have had an Allied Member representative on the Board for many years, and that perspective has been an important one.

Our Allied Members are part of our success, and they are keenly aware that our success empowers theirs, so such an effort would certainly be against Allied Members' interests.

What major leadership positions have Allied Members held in the past?

While eighteen Allied Members have successfully served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees and Members of the Board of Regents, Board of Education, Academic Advancement Committee, Industry Affairs Council, Life Safety Council, Safety & Security Task Force and the Venue eBooks Task Force, this initiative would not permit Allied Members to serve in the Association's senior leadership roles.

One Member, One Vote Survey