

## **SVU Council's New Role**

As the result of the recent Referendum of SVU Members, the SVU Bylaws have been revised to provide checks and balances to the governance of the Society. Consequently, the SVU General Assembly is now again the supreme organ of the Society, the Council serves as the policy-making body, while the SVU Executive Board remains as executive body, the way the founding fathers of the Society envisioned it and planned it.

The revised functions and the jurisdiction of the SVU Council are given below. As a policy organ, the SVU Council can play an important role in the Society's affairs. Although we visualize its function primarily as a positive one, nevertheless, the SVU Council can exercise its control power whenever it feels that the SVU Bylaws have been violated. It must also approve new officers, if the previous officers cannot exercise their functions. The Council also makes decisions regarding expenditures borne by the Society's Treasury in excess of \$5,000.

Because of the Council's large size, it is practically impossible to transact its business in regular meetings. Consequently the Council will conduct its business primarily via e-mail. As per the SVU Bylaws, decisions will be made by the vote of the majority of the voting Council members. To facilitate its work, the Council members elected the former SVU President Mila Rechcigl as their Speaker, who shall be responsible for coordination of the Council's activities and as the principal conduit with the SVU President and the Executive Board.

### **Functions and Jurisdiction of SVU Council as Approved by 2014 Referendum**

#### **Article 14. THE COUNCIL**

1. The Council shall consist of:
  - a. past Presidents of the Society;
  - b. chairmen of the local chapters;
  - c. members elected according to Article 23;
  - d. co-opted members.
2. The total number of members of the Council, elected according to Article 23, shall not exceed 30. For places vacated or unoccupied the Council is authorized to co-opt members without exceeding the total number of 30 members.
3. The elected members will serve for a period of two years, while the chairmen of local chapters shall be members of the Council as long as they exercise their functions. The co-opted members remain members of the Council until the end of the two-year period during which they had been co-opted.
4. The local chapters will notify the Speaker of the Council without delay regarding the results of their elections, particularly the name and address of the chapter chairman.

#### **Article 15. JURISDICTION OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council

1. is the policy-making organ of the Society
2. recommends the amounts of membership dues;

3. makes decisions regarding expenditures to be borne by the Society's treasury in excess of \$5,000 (the total expenditure for a given item cannot be divided into smaller portions to bypass the requirement);

4. makes recommendations to the General Assembly as to who is to be awarded honorary and founding membership. For this purpose it may appoint a special committee which shall screen and select the candidates.

5. elects Fellows of the Society, according to the provisions of Article 26. For this purpose it may appoint a Fellows Nominations Committee which shall make the nominations to the Council based on the recommendations of the peers. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.

6. decides, according to Article 9, about the expulsion of a member;

7. if any officer elected in accordance with Article 23 dies or is unable to exercise his/her function or resigns, the Council approves another candidate, suggested by the Executive Board, to exercise the respective function for the unexpired balance of such officer's term of office;

8. the Council may also remove any officer from his/her function for mismanagement and/or for violation of the SVU Bylaws.

#### **Article 16. MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

To facilitate its work, the elected Speaker shall be responsible for coordination of the Council's activities and for convening and chairing its meetings.

The Council shall make decisions by the vote of its members in meeting or in writing, including e-mail. Its members may be represented by proxies; no one may represent by proxy more than one member. All members of the Council shall be notified of any meeting by not less than 14 days prior to the meeting. Members of the Council who are unable to attend a meeting of the Council personally, shall submit their motions and/or recommendations in writing by mailing or delivering the same to the Speaker not less than three days prior to the date of the meeting.

The Council shall be qualified for the transaction of business if not less than 10 members of the Council are present or represented. The Council may also adopt resolutions without a meeting in writing. In order to be valid such resolution must be signed by the majority of the participating (voting) members of the Council.