1 General

The Board of Trustees consists of eight members: three ex officio (President, Treasurer, and Associate Treasurer) and five elected by the membership.

2 Term of Elected Trustee

Five years. The Board of Trustees has expressed a wish (informally) to have Trustees serve for two terms.

The Trustees are customarily consulted when candidates for a new Trustee are to be nominated. The election is contested.

3 Duties

From the Bylaws:

Article II, Section 2. The function of the Board of Trustees shall be to receive and administer the funds of the Society, to have full legal control of its investments and properties, to make contracts, and, in general, to conduct all business affairs of the Society.

Article II, Section 3. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to appoint such assistants and agents as may be necessary or convenient to facilitate the conduct of the affairs of the Society and to fix the terms and conditions of their employment. The Board may delegate to the officers of the Society duties and powers normally inhering in their respective corporative offices, subject to supervision by the Board. The Board of Trustees may appoint committees to facilitate the conduct of the financial business of the Society and delegate to such committees such powers as may be necessary or convenient for the proper exercise of those powers. Agents appointed, or members of committees designated, by the Board of Trustees need not be members of the Board.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed to empower the Board of Trustees to divest itself of responsibility for, or legal control of, the investments, properties, and contracts of the Society.

Article VI, Section 2. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees with the consent of the Council. The terms and conditions of employment shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees, and the performance of the Executive Director will be reviewed regularly by the Board of Trustees.
Article VI, Section 3. The Executive Director shall be responsible to and shall consult regularly with a liaison committee consisting of the president as chair, the secretary, the treasurer, and the chair of the Board of Trustees.

Each elected Trustee serves ex officio at some point in their five-year term in the following capacities:

During all five years of term:

Each policy committee (Education, Meetings and Conferences, Profession, Publications, Science Policy) includes one member of the Board of Trustees, appointed by the Chair of the Board. Each Board member spends one year on each policy committee in the following rotation: year 1: Profession, year 2: Meetings and Conferences, year 3: Education, year 4: Publications, year 5: Science Policy. Each policy committee meets once a year for 1-1½ days. Further information about policy committees may be found here: www.ams.org/gov-committees. Upcoming meeting dates may be found here: www.ams.org/sec-governancemeetings

During third year of term:

Chair of the ECBT Nominating Committee. This Committee is responsible for evaluating and making nominations to the ECBT regarding appointment or reappointment for the positions of Secretary, Associate Secretary, Treasurer, and Associate Treasurer. See www.ams.org/about-us/governance/committees/ncecbt-charge.pdf for further details.

During third and fourth years of term:

Member of the Audit Committee: This Committee’s primary responsibility is to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the audit of the Society’s books and records and the system of internal controls that the Society has established. The Committee meets twice a year, at the time of the ECBT meetings. See www.ams.org/about-us/governance/committees/audit-charge.pdf for further details.

Member of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC). The LRPC reviews the functions and priorities of the Society, normally is the group that initiates consideration of changes to governance procedures, and focuses on other specific issues from time to time at the request of the President or Chair of the Board. The LRPC meets twice a year, at the time of the biannual ECBT meetings.
During fourth year of term:

Chair of the Board. Responsible for chairing Board meetings, making appointments to Board committees, appointing Board members to policy committees, and making Board-to-division liaison assignments. The Chair of the Board also serves on the following committees:

Agenda and Budget Committee (ABC): The principal activity of this Committee is to meet with the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer twice a year to review drafts of the budget and agenda for the biannual meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees. The ABC meets in April and October for half a day at the Providence Headquarters. One has the option of attending meetings in person or by web conference. See www.ams.org/about-us/governance/committees/abc-charge.pdf for further details.

Audit Committee: See above.

Development Committee: See below.

Liaison Committee: This Committee oversees the Executive Director. The Committee meets with the Executive Director four times a year, at the time of the ABC and ECBT meetings. See www.ams.org/about-us/governance/committees/liaison-charge.pdf for further details.

Long Range Planning Committee: See above.

Salary Committee: This Committee considers the mechanisms for setting salaries for all employees and recommends the overall amount that should be budgeted for salaries. The Committee meets once a year, usually at the time of the fall ABC meeting. See www.ams.org/about-us/governance/committees/salary-charge.pdf for further details.

During fourth and fifth years of term:

Member of the Development Committee. Serve as chair during fifth year. This Committee represents the ECBT in early discussions with potential donors about establishing new prizes and makes recommendations regarding priorities for funding and whether to accept gifts offered to the Society. The Committee meets twice a year: at the time of the spring Council meeting and at the November ECBT meeting. See www.ams.org/about-us/governance/committees/develop-charge.pdf for further details.
Each Trustee is assigned as liaison with one or more division(s) of the Society’s administrative offices. The purpose is to become more familiar with particular parts of the Society’s operations. This is accomplished by meeting with the division director each spring (usually by phone) to discuss the director’s report on projects and activities from the previous year’s operating plan (referred to as “Section VI” – a copy will be provided to the Trustee before the meeting). The director, in collaboration with the Trustee, will prepare a brief written summary of the previous year’s activities, which is included in the May ECBT agenda.

4 Board Meetings

The Trustees meet twice a year for 1½ days, the first half of the meeting being joint with the Executive Committee. These meetings take place in May and November, on Friday afternoon and Saturday, usually the weekend before Memorial Day weekend and the weekend before Thanksgiving at the Providence Headquarters (occasionally the May meeting is in Ann Arbor). These meetings cover the budget (including such things as reviews of large expenditures, setting institutional and individual member dues, setting journal pages and prices), investment practices, policy questions, operating plans, and major new programs and initiatives.

If necessary, the Trustees have additional meetings in person or by other means (e.g., email or telephone conference call), but these are rare.

5 Indemnification

From the Bylaws, Article XII:

Any person who at any time serves or has served as a trustee or officer of the Society, or as a member of the Council, or, at the request of the Society, as a director or officer of another corporation, whether for profit or not for profit, shall be indemnified by the Society and be reimbursed against and for expenses actually and necessarily incurred in connection with the defense or reasonable settlement of any action, suit, legal or administrative proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, threatened, pending or completed, to which that person is made a party by reason of being or having been such trustee, officer or director or Council member, except in relation to matters as to which the person shall be adjudged in such action, suit, or proceeding to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of official duties. Such right of indemnification and reimbursement shall also extend to the personal representatives of any such person and shall be in addition to and not in substitution for any other rights to which such person or personal representatives may now or hereafter be entitled by virtue of the provisions of applicable law or of any other agreement or vote of the Board of Trustees, or otherwise.
6 Conflict of Interest Policy for AMS Officers and Committee Members


7 Assistance

The Trustees receive whatever assistance they need through the Executive Director. An orientation session is provided at the time of the first Board meeting a new Trustee attends.

8 Expenses

Travel expenses of the Trustees in the performance of their duties are reimbursed at Level B, which essentially provides full travel support. See www.ams.org/about-us/governance/board/level-b-voucher.pdf for complete details.

9 Authorization

The Board of Trustees was created when the Society was incorporated on May 3, 1923. See the attached history for changes in the membership of the Board over the years. More recent changes are noted below:

Executive Committee and Board of Trustees minutes of May 2015, item 2E9.1: Fifth-year member of Board serve as chair of Development Committee.
Executive Committee and Board of Trustees minutes of November 2012, item 2E3.1: Fifth-year member of Board added to Development Committee.
Executive Committee and Board of Trustees minutes of November 2011, item 2E1.1: Development Committee created.
Executive Committee and Board of Trustees minutes of November 2007, item 3.6: Changed responsibilities of liaison Trustees.
Executive Committee and Board of Trustees minutes of May 2004, item 3.4: Changed composition of Audit Committee – third-year Trustee is now a member.
Council minutes of January 2003, item 4.9.1: Changed composition of ECBT Nominating Committee.
Executive Committee and Board of Trustees minutes of November 2002, items 2.7 and 3.3: Changed method of electing Secretary of Board and established procedures for meetings by technical means.
10 History of the Board of Trustees and List of Past Members

The Society was incorporated on May 3, 1923 (under the laws of the District of Columbia). The Certificate of Incorporation specified that “The number of its trustees, directors or managers for the first year of this corporation’s existence shall be thirty-one (31).” On October 22, 1923, this corporation met “for the purpose of arranging all preliminaries necessary for a final transfer of authority to the corporation.” A set of Bylaws was adopted, the only essential change from earlier forms being the addition of a Board of Trustees to take charge of the financial affairs of the Society. The new Bylaws specified that, after May 3, 1924, the Board of Trustees shall consist of five members, elected by the Society at the annual meeting for biennial terms. Neither the president nor the treasurer was a trustee.


The Board for 1937-1938 consisted of W.B. Fite, Robert Henderson, W.R. Longley, G.W. Mullins, and R.G.D. Richardson. Although Richardson was secretary, he served on the Board as elected trustee and not ex officio. The same 5 persons were trustees in 1939-1940.

In 1941-1942, the Trustees were Longley, Mullins, Marston Morse, Richardson, and Warren Weaver. Morse was president coincidentally. They continued in 1943-1944, 1945-1946.

Beginning in 1947 the Trustees were T.H. Hildebrandt, Longley, Mullins, Richardson, and Weaver. Hildebrandt was immediate past president. Weaver resigned in November 1947 and was succeeded by G.T. Whyburn. Mullins resigned in January 1948 and was succeeded by P.A. Smith.

Continuing in 1949, the Trustees were Hildebrandt, Longley, Richardson, Smith, and Whyburn. However, Richardson died in July 1949 and was replaced by B.P. Gill, the immediate past treasurer.

Effective in 1951, the Bylaws were amended so that the Board consisted of 5 Trustees elected for a term of 2 years and the president and treasurer ex officio. Effective in 1956, the term of the elected Trustees was changed to 5 years. The associate treasurer became a member ex officio in 1972. Following is the subsequent succession of elected Trustees.
Succession of elected Trustees:

T.H. Hildebrandt 1947-1951  
G.T. Whyburn 1947-1951  
P.A. Smith 1948-1954  
B.P. Gill 1949-1954  
J.R. Kline 1951-1954  
Einar Hille 1952-1955  
W.T. Martin 1953-1954  
G.A. Hedlund 1955-1958  
Mina Rees 1955-1959  
H.F. Bohnenblust 1954-1962  
Deane Montgomery 1955-1960  
W.T. Martin 1956-1964  
Richard Courant 1959-1963  
G.T. Whyburn 1960-1964  
E.G. Begle 1961-1967  
C.B. Morrey 1963-1966  
A.W. Tucker 1964-1968  
A.E. Meder, Jr. 1964-1966  
A.M. Gleason 1965-1965  
R.P. Boas 1966-1970  
M.L. Curtis 1967-1969  
J.W. Green 1967-1971  
Irving Kaplansky 1968-1972  
Nathan Jacobson 6/14/1969-  
12/31/70  
C.C. Moore 1971-1979  
Murray Protter 1970-1972  
G.W. Mackey 1/1-6/11/1970  
P.T. Bateman 1971-1975  
R.S. Palais 1972-1981  
R. P. Boas 1973-  
A.H. Taub 1973-1977  
Alex Rosenberg 1974-10/13/83  
A.M. Gleason 11/1-12/31/83  
Cathleen Morawetz 1976-1985  
J.J. Kohn 1978-1982  
P.E. Thomas 1980-1984  
F.W. Gehring 1983-1992  
Paul J. Sally, Jr. 1984-1993  
Ramesh Gangolli 1985-1989  
M. Susan Montgomery 1986-1995  
John Polking 1990-1994  
Maria M. Klawe 1992-1996  
Roy L. Adler 1993-2002  
Donald J. Lewis 1994-6/30/95  
Hyman Bass 7/1/95-1998  
Donald E. McClure 1995-1999  
Michael G. Crandall 1996-2000  
Andy Roy Magid 1997-2001  
Linda Keen 1999-2008  
Eric M. Friedlander 2000-2009  
John B. Conway 2001-2010  
Carol S. Wood 2002-2011  
Jean E. Taylor 2003-2007  
Karen Vogtmann 2008-2017  
Ronald J. Stern 2009-2013  
Mark L. Green 2010-2014  
William H. Jaco 2011-2015  
Ruth M. Charney 2012-2016  
Robert K. Lazarsfeld 2014-2018  
Joseph H. Silverman 2015-2019  
Bryna Kra 2016-2020  
Ralph L. Cohen 2017-2021  
Judy L. Walker 2018-2022  
Matthew Ando 2019-2023

Information regarding past members of the Board of Trustees since 1989, arranged by year, is available here: