

Bylaws Article III, Sections 3.06 through 3.10 (related to 30-Hour CE requirement) redlined:

BOLD means changed/added text - **MARKED OUT** (~~MARKED OUT~~) text means deleted text

~~3.06 CPE Requirements~~

~~Each Member will complete thirty hours of qualifying CPE per calendar year. The required hours will be prorated for new Members. Qualifying CPE is defined in the Association's Policy & Procedure Manual (PPM).~~

3.07 Member Liability

No Member will personally or otherwise be liable for any obligations of the Association.

3.08 Membership Dues and Assessments

The Board will set the amount of the annual dues for Membership. Membership dues are due and payable annually per methods approved by the NAEA Board. Once submitted, dues remain the property of the Association unless membership is rejected upon application. The amount of the annual dues will be noticed to the membership no later than sixty days after the Board has voted to change the annual dues or ninety days prior to the close of the fiscal year, whichever occurs first. The Board may, upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Directors, levy such additional assessments as are necessary to carry out the activities of the Association.

3.09 Termination/Suspension of Membership

A membership will be:

1. Terminated upon written notice of resignation to the Association.
2. Suspended for nonpayment of membership dues or assessments thirty days beyond the due date.
3. Terminated for nonpayment of dues or assessments, ~~or non-submission of required CPE hours~~, seventy-five days beyond the due date.
4. In the event of hardship or extenuating circumstances, the Board, on written request, may waive the payment of delinquent dues ~~and/or CPE required hours~~.
5. Members that have been suspended or terminated may not vote or serve on the Board or any committee.

3.10 Reinstatement

Any Member terminated within the previous six months for nonpayment of dues ~~or non-reporting of required CPE hours~~, and whose record shows no complaint or charges pending before the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee, may be eligible for reinstatement. Resignation, suspension, or expulsion from membership shall not relieve the member from liability for any unpaid dues or other duly assessed fees or charges. To reapply for membership, all back dues must be paid in full before membership may be approved, except as determined by the Board of Directors.

Pro Arguments:

The 30-hour continuing education (CE) requirement is a barrier to entry. Currently, NAEA membership accounts for only 13% of over 65,000 enrolled agents. Any enrolled agent who wishes to become a member should be welcomed, if they are in good standing with IRS rules and agree to the higher ethical standards required for membership.

The current requirement is superfluous; members self-certify and there is no mechanism for enforcement. Many members question why we ever had the 30-hour requirement, while some do not even know it exists.

New members, semi-retired and part-time members, as well as members who only do representation may not need more CE than the IRS requires to remain competent. NAEA members are clearly lifelong learners, or we wouldn't have chosen to join NAEA. Circular 230 requires that we be competent for the returns and engagements we take on, so having increased hours is an arbitrary hurdle. Additionally, CE providers (including affiliates) will not be affected, since NAEA members who have always taken more than the minimum required CE units will continue to exceed the IRS standards.

There is strength in numbers and every single EA who wishes to join NAEA should be a member of our association. After all, enrolled agents are already elite tax professionals.

Con Arguments:

Doing away with the 30-hour CE requirement would take away from NAEA members being perceived as elite and hence, the bylaws should not be changed.