

Last year, through a vote at the National Business Meeting, significant changes were made in the AAOHN membership categories. Active members of AAOHN and their constituents had previously been only registered nurses (RNs).

The national vote has changed that for all levels of the organization. Here are the highlights of those changes.

1. Active members are now defined as "licensed" nurses, making it possible for RNs and LVNs to be members of our organization.
 - Active members have all rights and privileges of membership (voting, holding office, serving on committees) in AAOHN and Texas State AOHN.
2. Nurses who hold a Retired membership status with AAOHN have voting rights and can serve on committees or panels.
3. Other large changes are in the member category called Affiliate. Licensed nurses (RNs and LPNs) who aren't eligible for Active status but are interested in occupational and environmental health and the purposes of AAOHN can join as Affiliate members.
 - Affiliate RN and LPN members of Texas State AOHN may vote and serve on committees.
4. A second category of Affiliate members are not licensed nurses. They are individuals engaged in the field of occupational and environmental health or who are interested in the purposes of AAOHN.
 - Affiliate non-nurse members of Texas State AOHN may vote and serve on committees.

These changes make it possible for LVNs and non-nurse occupational and environmental health professionals (i.e. EMTs, case managers, risk managers, physicians, safety professionals, industrial hygienists, etc.) to become members of the Texas State AOHN.

The Bylaws Committee has completed making these necessary changes in the Texas State AOHN Bylaws. Now each local chapter is updating their By-Laws.

Please share this welcome and exciting news with any LVNs you know.