MEMBERSHIP CLASS AND ELIBGIBILITY

Section 1 — Members. The Corporation shall have two classes of membership: Voting Members and Non-Voting Members. Such members shall be admitted to the Corporation, through such application process as established by the BOD.

Section 2 — Voting Members. The Voting Members of the Corporation shall be such individuals admitted to the voting membership by a majority vote of the BOD from such subgroups as set forth below. All voting shall occur in accordance with Section 12 of this Article IV.

(a) Regular Members shall be current or former agents or officers of the United States Secret Service who have served at least one year of honorable service in the CAT, CS or ERT units. This includes former members of CAT, CS or ERT units before the terms CAT, CS or ERT were officially sanctioned. The aforementioned one-year service requirement may, under certain limited circumstances (injury, transfer, promotion, etc.), be waived by a majority vote of the BOD upon petition by the prospective Member.

(b) Life Members are Regular Members and Associate Members who have attained the age of 80 years.

(c) Associate Members shall be current or former United States Secret Service instructors, technicians, or armorers who were meaningfully affiliated for at least one year of honorable service with the CAT, CS or ERT units.

Section 3 — Non-Voting Members. The Non-Voting Members of the Corporation shall be such individuals admitted to the non-voting membership by a majority vote of the BOD from the following subgroups:

(a) Affiliate Members shall be former or current full-time non-operational employees of the United States Secret Service affiliated with CAT, CS or ERT units, with at least one year of honorable service, and widows or widowers of Members.

(b) Honorary Members shall be those individuals nominated and approved by the BOD.

(c) Industry Partners shall be those individuals nominated and approved by the BOD who are involved in the various industries affiliated with SOA Members as identified by the BOD.

Section 4 — Membership Eligibility. The BOD shall set the membership eligibility criteria. The BOD also may deny admission to an otherwise-eligible individual if the BOD determines that the conduct of such individual (including, without limitation, felony convictions or other conduct unbecoming), whether or not such conduct occurred in the course of such individual's employment or affiliation with the United States Secret Service, would render admission of such individual to be detrimental to SOA; provided, if any individual applicant is denied admission to the Association by the BOD, the BOD shall set forth in writing to such individual the reasons for its decision not to grant membership to such individual; provided further, under no circumstances shall an individual's race, gender, age, religious affiliation (or non-affiliation), or political views serve as the basis for non-admission.