

# HOSA



## The Importance of HOSA's Bylaw Changes

By Reggie Coleman

National HOSA President

The Business Session at the 2004 NLC in Orlando, Florida, is one we will *never* forget. The session lasted nearly four hours. For those of us who attended, we feared it would never end. But in those four hours, our organization made significant changes. Yes, the debates may have been long and tedious, but they emphasized the importance of the HOSA's Bylaw changes. The motions passed during the 2004 Business Session were important to the growth of HOSA, so it was obvious the Voting Delegates put a great deal of thought and effort into the debates.

To refresh your memory, below are the motions that passed at the 2004 NLC, which significantly changed HOSA's Bylaws and have made a tremendous impact on our organization.

### THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS PASSED:

- MOTION:** It is moved that references to Health Occupations Education be changed to Health Science.
- MOTION:** It is moved that the term "vocational" be changed to: "career and technical education".
- MOTION:** It is moved that **HOSA** be the name of this organization to take greatest advantage of the "branding" that has been marketed since 1976.
- MOTION:** It is moved that the following changes be made to the HOSA Bylaws:

### HOSA BYLAWS UPDATES

#### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

##### Section 1. Membership Composition.

- a. Health Occupations Students of America is a national organization of, by and for students who (1) are or were enrolled in secondary, postsecondary/collegiate health science classes and/or (2) are interested, planning to pursue or pursuing a career in the health professions.
- b. Members shall be students who are or have been enrolled in Health Science classes, and/or are interested, planning to pursue or pursuing a career in the health professions. and persons associated with, participating in or supporting Health Science in a professional capacity.



# The Importance of HOSA's Bylaw Changes

**Section 3.** The Secondary Division shall be composed of secondary students who are or have been enrolled in a Health Science or an organized health career awareness program or are interested, planning to pursue or pursuing a career in the health professions.

**Section 4.** The Postsecondary/Collegiate Division shall be composed of students who are not enrolled in high school, have received a high school diploma and/or are pursuing GED and are enrolled in a health care related field at the undergraduate level or are interested or planning to pursue a career in the health professions.

**Section 7.** The Alumni Division shall be composed of persons who have been a member of HOSA. Alumni Division members shall pay affiliation fees, but may not vote, make motions, hold office or compete in events.

## ARTICLE IX EMBLEM AND COLORS

**Section 4.** The HOSA slogan is "Health Science and HOSA: A Healthy Partnership."

**Section 5.** The HOSA tagline is "HOSA—A Student-Led Association of Future Health Professionals"

The name change from Health Occupations Students of America to HOSA and the alteration of membership guidelines were both extremely important for our organization.

Changing the organization's name to HOSA will improve marketing efforts in the future. It is possible that HOSA could expand to allow worldwide membership. The Voting Delegates realized that, in order for HOSA to extend beyond the United States, it was necessary to change the same so the focus is not on "Health Occupations Students of *America*." I truly believe that HOSA members are the pipeline of future health care professionals, and hopefully one day that will be possible across the world.

HOSA's membership guidelines in the bylaws were revised to allow membership of those students who are not enrolled in a health science class. Previously, only students enrolled in health science classes were able to affiliate with HOSA, but now membership is offered to students who have an interest in or are planning to pursue a career in the health professions as well as professional members in the health care industry.

At the 2004 NLC our organization was changed for the better, and it will never be the same. If you have friends or family members that have an interest in or are pursuing a career in the health professions, tell them about HOSA and have them talk to your local or state advisor and visit our website at [www.hosa.org](http://www.hosa.org).



**Reggie Coleman**  
National HOSA President

