

## How the New Constitutional and By-Law Changes Effect Local Chapters

The National Broadcasting Society and Alpha Epsilon Rho are two separate but affiliated organizations. These two organizations are affiliated for their mutual interests.

NBS is a professional organization which one joins for an annual fee and which is made up of a predominantly college student membership with interests in electronic media. NBS encourages interaction between those studying the communication industry and those working in the communication industry. It attempts to open lines of dialogue between the two, which will enable successful entry by students into future professions within the field. It also provides opportunities for professional development by communication faculty and employees of colleges and universities as well as mentoring opportunities for communication professionals. Activities are planned by local chapters and the national organization to carry out these goals.

AERho is an honor society which recognizes superior academic achievement in electronic media, can only be joined by invitation (tapping), and has a one time, lifetime fee. This recognition is the organization's main objective and allows the industry to see with certainty the academic success of a potential employee. AERho is hoping to become a member of the Association of College Honor Societies, which will insure its rigorous standards are enforced.

These two organizations are affiliated because NBS wishes to recognize the academic successes of students studying electronic media and AERho wishes to participate in the professional activities carried out by NBS. Also each organization needs the financial support of the other and therefore all finances are pooled.

The constitution has the national structure of the two organizations intertwined.

- There is a new NBS VP for Honor Society Services and President of Alpha Epsilon Rho. This position has a two year term and election to office alternates with the NBS President.
- This office is voted on by only those chapters which have an active AERho chapter. An active AERho chapter, where an NBS chapter exists, may have from one to an unlimited number of members of AERho. Where no NBS chapter exists, an AERho chapter, to be active, must have a minimum of six members.
- Stand alone AERho chapters will exist only at institutions where administrative regulations prohibit professional organizations. Therefore, most chapters will be either NBS only or NBS-AERho chapters.
- No NBS chapter is required to have an AERho chapter.

The Constitution and By-Laws have some changes to local chapter structure also.

- All NBS-AERho chapters should have a Vice President for AERho officer, who is an AERho member in good standing, as indicated in the new By-Laws. This person, along with the Chapter advisor, hold the specific responsibilities for the

affairs of the AERho chapter. This position does not replace the chapter Vice President but is in addition to that position.

- At least once each year, a “call for nominees to AERho” should be put out by the chapter. Faculty members, the Chapter Advisor, and both NBS and AERho members can place names in nomination. An individual can nominate him/herself for membership.
- It is the Chapter Advisor’s responsibility to check the qualifications of each nominee for GPA and academically oriented extracurricular activities. The GPA must be checked and confirmed with the institution and not be accepted only on the word of the nominee.
- A list of qualified nominees is then compiled and a meeting of only the AERho chapter takes place with the VP for AERho presiding with assistance from the Chapter Advisor. At this meeting, a vote is held on each nominee and new members must be elected by at least a 2/3 majority.
- The newly elected members are then tapped (invited) into membership and the appropriate application paperwork and fees are sent to the national office for approval.
- Each year, at the national convention, membership certificates and pins will be distributed to new AERho members.

The qualifications for membership in Alpha Epsilon Rho.

- A potential member need not be a communication major or be affiliated with or be a member in any other organization or association including NBS.
- A potential undergraduate member must have completed at least the equivalent of three semesters or five quarters of full-time college work and have completed three semester courses or five quarter courses in communication each of at least three credit hours or the equivalent which may be credited toward a program emphasizing electronic media or mass communication.
- A potential undergraduate member shall not rank lower than the upper one third of his/her college class in overall scholarship as indicated by a minimum GPA of 3.25 (out of 4.0) for all courses taken and a minimum GPA of 3.25 (out of 4.0) for all courses in electronic media and mass communication.
- A potential graduate student member can either meet the requirements for undergraduate candidates, based upon his/her undergraduate records, or must have completed at least one year of graduate work, meeting departmental standards for satisfactory progress toward an advanced degree.
- A potential professional member involved in mass communication or electronic media shall be eligible for election on the basis of his/her professional record.
- A potential member selection is based on the scholastic record, professional and/or academically oriented extracurricular activities and character of the candidate.