Continued growth in membership and organization has taken place in the society since it was initially organized on November 18, 1936, in Washington, D.C. The first Constitution and Bylaws of SSSA served from 1936 to 1951. On January 22, 1952, the society was incorporated in the State of Wisconsin, and the new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were published in 1952. The articles of incorporation give legal approval of an organization to operate in a state and the bylaws constitute the guidelines to the everyday organizational and operational procedures.

The years from 1952 to the early 1960's were marked by significant changes in the society in terms of membership, size of annual meeting program, publication activities, and other operations. As a result, a number of changes in organization and operating procedure were required in the bylaws. In addition, changes in the Wisconsin Corporation Law, and a desire to meet the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service, made it necessary to restate the articles and bylaws.

Work on revision of the 1952 version of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws began with the 1960-61 Organization & Policy Committee and was continued by the 1961-62 and 1962-63 Committees. Chairmen of the Committee during these years were J.W. Felts, W. L. Nelson, and C. A. Black, respectively. The SSSA Executive Committee and Executive Subcommittee were also involved in reviewing the revised documents. Society presidents were W. L. Nelson, C. A. Black, and H. B. Cheney in 1961, 1962, and 1963, respectively.

The restated Articles of Incorporation contain only the basic concepts of the organization and operation of the society. The detailed items covering the organization and operating procedures were placed in the revised bylaws where changes can be more easily effected.

To comply with Wisconsin Corporation Law, a special meeting of voting members of SSSA was held on November 18, 1963, in Denver, Colorado in order to restate the articles under which the society had been operating since 1952. Of the 2,350 members of SSSA, 1,378 voted favor of adoption and 1 against adoption of the restated articles. Following this approval by the members, the restated articles were filed with the Secretary of State in Wisconsin and were approved on March 20, 1964, as submitted under the signatures of N. C. Brady, president, and Matthias Stelly, secretary, of SSSA, Inc.

Work on the revised bylaws was completed by the O & P Committees and the Headquarters Office of the society was charged with the task of reviewing the bylaws in relation to those of ASA and CSSA. Recommendations to the board of directors were developed by the O & P Committees and the Headquarters Office of the society was charged with the task of reviewing the bylaws in relation to those of ASA and CSSA. Recommendations to the board of directors were developed by the O & P Committees and the Headquarters Office of the society were submitted to the board of directors for approval.

The SSSA Board of Directors approved the restated articles on November 13, 1969, and authorized the secretary to proceed with preparation of new bylaws for adoption by the voting members of the society.

The effort to restate the articles and bylaws for tax exemption status was successful. On July 1, 1970, the Society of America, Inc., was exempt from Federal income tax within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Since 1964 the society continued to undergo much organizational and membership growth. This included two new divisions, a membership increase of some 1,300, varied publication programs, and about a 40% increase in the number of papers and sessions at the annual meetings. The associated societies, American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America, have also experienced growth.

Some of the changes in the bylaws have created the need to improve the coordination and cooperation between SSSA and the associated societies. Moreover, the bylaws ranged from 1,378 to 1,390 for adoption and from 9 to 1 for the restated articles. This step was necessary. However, some changes in the bylaws were difficult to interpret.

The 1968-69 Organization, Policy, and Internal Revenue Service Compliance Committee approved the restated articles on November 13, 1969, and authorized the secretary to proceed with preparation of new bylaws for adoption by the voting members of the society. Additional refinements and revisions to the bylaws were developed by the O & P Committees and the Headquarters Office of the society were submitted to the board of directors for approval.

The SSSA Board of Directors approved the restated articles on November 13, 1969, and authorized the secretary to proceed with preparation of new bylaws for adoption by the voting members of the society.