

Report of the Bylaws Committee to the SFRM ExComm for 3/8/2021

Susan Heimlich, Chair; Judy Unger; Nick Kloski

A number of our members have indicated a preference for electronic voting in SFRM elections in lieu of using snail mail ballots. This would necessitate a change in SFRM bylaws. The Bylaws Committee has reviewed the Minimum Standards for Local Groups (MSLG) and gotten feedback from the national Minimum Standards Committee. Whenever a group makes changes to its bylaws the current minimum standards must be met. We recommend the Executive Committee (ExComm) consider the following changes to our existing bylaws:

Changes we want:

1. Change the Elections Section to allow voting by electronic means as well as by mail in ballots. (Article V Section 1 B iii and 1 B v; Section 3 A; Article IX Section 2 B)
2. Change wording throughout to avoid gender references, notably changing Ombudsman to Ombudsperson and otherwise avoiding gender-specific pronouns. (MSLG)
3. Add in references to the RVC in several spots and include a mention of a Regional Ombudsperson as well as designees of the Ombudsperson. (MSLG) (Article III Section 3 and Article VI Section 1 A; Article III Section 2 D)
4. Relocate a reference to the Loc Sec appointment of the Editor to the Local Secretary's job description. (From Article IV Section 1 H to Article IV Section 2 v [with subsequent renumbering])
5. Clarify that special meetings of the ExComm may be announced or communicated by means other than mailing to our members. (Article VI Section I F)
6. Change the default distribution of the *Intelligencer* to whatever individuals choose, with the proviso that the individual or the ExComm may send a printed copy in addition to an electronic one. (Article III, Section 2 C) (MSLG)

The above changes were considered by the SFR ExComm in January and were unanimously approved. As we skipped a month, these will need to be reconsidered twice. When I submitted the changes to Dan Burg, Chair of the Local Group Bylaws Committee, he was responsive, but his committee had a number of other changes, mandated, others suggested. The following are mandated changes. Without these we would not be able to make changes we want.

1. The Committee wanted us to say the ExComm conducts the business of SFRM. (Added to Article I 1 C)
2. We need to write out American Mensa Ltd before using AML in Article I 4. In same paragraph were 3 other minor changes (delete a comma, remove a hyphen, change connection to conjunction.)
3. Article II 2 C was changed to allow hosts outside their home to control meetings.
4. In Article II 3, a statement was added about conflicts of interest, following the same rules as the AMC.

5. In Article III 2 A, wording was changed to say our newsletter is our official publication.
6. In Article IV 1 G, the list of what must be transferred at the end of one's term was expanded.
7. In Article IV 2 C, we added that the Treasurer must comply with federal financial reporting requirements
8. In Article IV 5, we expanded the Election Committee's term beyond that of the Loc Sec, as they must be around to hold onto ballots not yet destroyed.
9. In Article VI 1 G, we added a reference to a Regional Ombudsperson.
10. In Article IX 2 D, we added the phrase, "Following the approval of the membership" before the reference to submitting the bylaws to the AMC for final approval.

There were also suggested bylaw changes, some of which we recommend:

1. This change refers to the use of the AML roster rather than the monthly roster to determine membership for purposes of voting in SFRM elections. (Article II 2 A)
2. Under Officers and Duties (Article IV Section 1, there was overlap between B and D which is changed to distinguish between being a member in good standing to hold office (B) and to run for office (D).
3. Article IV Section 4 A clarifies that removal from office for unexcused absences from ExComm meetings only applies to ExComm members.
4. Article V Section I B clarifies that the Election Committee activities occur during even numbered years.