

Bylaw Amendment Proposals

Bylaw Amendment Proposal #1 **National Board of Directors Election Appointment**

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1-5 [Unchanged]

SECTION 6 – TERM OF OFFICE

Board Members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive full terms in a specific role on the Board of Directors. Members may hold more than one office on the Board of Directors, consecutively or at different times in their life. If there are no candidates for an office on the Board of Directors, the Board may appoint a member to that position for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

SECTION 7-12 [Unchanged]

PROPOSED BY:

Eileen Norman, LPA President.

REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGES:

For each Board of Directors election, the ideal scenario is to have multiple qualified candidates running for each position. However, in the event that there is no candidate submitted for a Board of Directors position, the Board is responsible for appointing a member for that position. Because most of LPA's Board of Directors positions are involved with a number of initiatives, in order to ensure the continuation of those initiatives, being able to reappoint a board member who has already served two consecutive full terms would be beneficial for the organization. For each position, the Board is responsible for considering other candidates as well, but for a number of strategic positions, it may be critical for the overall well-being of the organization to have the option to appoint the best person for the position, even if that is a board member who has already served two consecutive terms.

STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT:

I support both Bylaw Amendments proposed by LPA President Eileen Norman and Executive Director Deb Himsel. They both make sense and allow the valuable volunteers we have that are

already doing the work to continue doing so if they want to, and if there are no other volunteers willing to serve. In the same spirit of supporting growth and expansion of LPA chapters across the country, we need to make it as easy as possible to enable local volunteers to reactivate a chapter by equalizing the requirement for number of members needed to reactivate as to start a chapter.

Joe Foos, former SFBAC Chapter President and D12 District Director”

LPA is mostly a volunteer organization. Sometimes it is very difficult to get volunteers to step up and become board members. There's a lot of responsibility in shaping the organization and some amount of time involved. I appreciate everyone who volunteers their time, experience and extra support going above and beyond even their two terms. It shows dedication and support to the membership and respect from other board members to be appointed to continue the work which is so important to our organization.

Casey Hubelbank, District 1 Member

STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

As an experienced Board of Directors member outside LPA, I am opposed to the reasoning behind this change. Filling a Board of Directors' position should not be based on merit alone. Appointing existing and/or past Board members to fill a position to which there has been no candidate would risk limiting the arrival of new ideas and input and also limit access to younger members because of their perceived inexperience by other Board Members. Indeed, new members to the Board will always be at a disadvantage because they have no experience of the inner workings of the Board. It is important to have newbies alongside longer standing Board members even if this means losing a little on the efficiency side. After their first few weeks adjusting to the Board's rules and methods, new members tend to bring a fresh outlook on matters, precisely because they are new. This is to be encouraged. I therefore propose that a caveat be added to the proposal. That an existing or previous Board Member who has served 2 mandates be appointed only for a maximum of 1 year. This should be an emergency workaround and not a regular 'thing'.

In the greater scheme of things, democracy is being eroded all around the world. This proposal — although seemingly harmless -- is just one more nail into the coffin.

Carolina Rott, District 1 member (parent of LP). Previous member of 5 boards of directors, including a non-profit daycare centre, a professional translators and interpreters regulatory body, a national union of professionals, and our LP association in Canada

Bylaw Amendment Proposal #2
Re-Activation of a Chapter

ARTICLE IX – LOCAL CHAPTERS

SECTION 1-4 [Unchanged]

SECTION 5 - DISSOLUTION

A chapter may be considered inactive when membership drops below a total of five eligible voting members or the chapter has not met for one year. In the event of dissolution of a chapter by action of the Board of Directors, the membership status of chapter members in good standing will be maintained as members at-large in their district. [An inactive Chapter may be re-activated by five eligible voting members, with approval of the Board of Directors.](#)

SECTION 6-18 [Unchanged]

PROPOSED BY:

Deb Himsel, LPA Executive Director

REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGES:

LPA's Bylaws, Article IX, Section 2 states that it requires eight eligible voting members to form a local chapter. Article IX, Section 5 states that a chapter may be considered inactive when membership drops below a total of five eligible voting members. Although the bylaws state how many members are required to initially form a chapter, and to be considered inactive, there is no stated number of eligible voting members a chapter must retain in order to request to be reinstated as an active chapter. Given the threshold to be declared inactive is less than five eligible voting members, we are proposing to define in the bylaws that a chapter must have at least five eligible voting members to be reinstated.

STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT:

I support both Bylaw Amendments proposed by LPA President Eileen Norman and Executive Director Deb Himsel. They both make sense and allow the valuable volunteers we have that are already doing the work to continue doing so if they want to, and if there are no other volunteers willing to serve. In the same spirit of supporting growth and expansion of LPA chapters across the country, we need to make it as easy as possible to enable local volunteers to reactivate a chapter by equalizing the requirement for number of members needed to reactivate as to start a chapter. Joe Foos, former SFBAC Chapter President and D12 District Director”

I am writing to support the Article IX, Section 5 bylaw amendment. The New Mexico/El Paso chapter shut down a few years ago because no one was in a good place to lead it. It was a sad but correct decision, and I was involved in it. I support revising the bylaws to establish a clear procedure for reactivating chapters like ours and others should there be interest from local LPA members. Furthermore, I think the threshold of five eligible members seems appropriate.

Matt Loehman, District 10 Member

STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received.

