

PA Bylaws, Spring 2025—List of Proposed Changes with Rationales

Committee: Pat Byerly, Ann Pehle, Kathy Quinn, and Deb Roney (chair)

PROPOSED SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

VIII. Main Heading. Change the main heading to “**Affiliate Amendments to the Bylaws.**”

Rationale: 1) The current wording (“Amendments to Affiliate Bylaws”) is so close to the main heading of mandated Article VII without differentiating itself that it becomes confusing; 2) Moving the word “Affiliate” to the beginning disambiguates the two Articles; 3) Adding “the” before “Bylaws” matches the structure of the heading of Article VII.

VIII.2. Add “**Member Input**” as the section title.

Rationale: 1) This section added in 2024 should have had a section title to be parallel to the other sections in the Article; 2) “Member input” is the primary focus of this section and should be reflected in the section heading.

XVI.1. Delete the middle two sentences. Renumber the remaining two sentences as XVI.1.a.

Rationale: The topic of these middle sentences is meeting content while the framing two sentences are about meeting logistics. The two topics should be separated.

XVI.1. Create a new XVI.1.b. containing the two sentences deleted from XVI.1. followed by a slightly revised version of the middle sentence from XVI.6.a., to be deleted there. In the first sentence of this new section, change “will” to “**shall.**”

Rationale: 1) The topic of all three of these sentences is meeting content and should be together in the same section; 2) “Shall” is used throughout the bylaws to show determination to make something happen.

XVI.3. Replace “the” with “**any Affiliate**” before “meeting” at the end of the sentence.

Rationale: The period of time for notice of an Affiliate meeting should apply both to the annual business meeting and to any special meetings that are called (see XVI.2.).

XVI.6.a. Delete the middle sentence, the content of which will be moved to the new XVI.1.b. Doing that leaves the following wording: “Each member of the Affiliate in good standing as of the official notice of the meeting is entitled to one vote at any annual or special meeting of members. Affiliate members who cast a vote are considered to be present at the meeting.”

Rationale: 1) The topic of this sentence is voting eligibility while the other two sentences are about content. All sentences about voting eligibility should be together in one section; 2) the content from this sentence belongs in new section XVI.1.b., where potential agenda items are enumerated.

XVI.6.a. Change the final sentence of the section by adding two phrases, 1) “**For purposes of the quorum**” at the beginning of the sentence and 2) “**by any approved means**” after “Affiliate members who cast a vote.” These two additions give the following as the final sentence: “For

purposes of the quorum, Affiliate members who cast a vote by any approved means are considered to be present at the meeting.”

Rationale: Since voting may be done electronically, on paper ballots, at branch meetings, or in person, as the board establishes for any election (see XVI.6.d.), the bylaws should make clear that members casting a vote by any approved means are considered present at the meeting and contribute to reaching a quorum. Without this phrasing, there could be a question about which sorts of votes would contribute to reaching a quorum.

XVI.6.c. Delete the first sentence: “Ballots equal in number to at least five percent of the votes entitled to be cast must be cast for a vote to be counted.”

Rationale: 1) This sentence unnecessarily duplicates the quorum stated in Section XVI.5.; 2) Quorums, by definition, set the minimum number of votes cast that are needed for a vote to be counted.

PROPOSED TECHNICAL CHANGES

Article XI.1.g. In the final sentence of the section, replace “present” with “**president.**”

Rationale: This is a typo in the phrase “program vice pres[id]ent.”

Article XIII.5. Delete the penultimate sentence in the section: “Votes of the committee members shall be sent to the secretary of the Affiliate.”

Rationale: This sentence unnecessarily duplicates the second sentence in this section but in passive voice. It was an editing error introduced in the 2024 bylaws overhaul.

Article XVI.5. Delete the strikethrough on the period after the section number.

Rationale: This strikethrough should have been deleted when finalizing the bylaws after the vote last year but wasn’t.

Dates. Delete “on” in all dates.

Rationale: We list only the month and year for each date. We don’t list the exact day when the membership accepted these changes, which is what “on” implies will be listed.