

The 2018 Constitution Committee Report

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, duly appointed by the President of the Association, met at the principal office of the Association on April 11, 2018. The Committee reviewed and gave consideration to proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws that had been submitted by the Board of Directors of the Association and identified other suggested changes as a result of their review.

The Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, for approval by the 2018 Delegate Convention are as follows:

RECOMMENDED CHANGES:

1. The Committee unanimously recommends a refresh to the Convention format, moving from an Annual Convention to a Triennial Conference. In years with no Convention, the Association will host Regional Member Gatherings throughout its operating area. The Committee Members were briefed on the cost savings of Member money, the very successful Gather 4 Good Events and the content for new Regional Member Gatherings.

If approved by the 2018 Delegate Convention, Section 1 will be edited to read:

Delegate Conferences (hereinafter referred to as "Conference(s)") shall be held triennially on the dates fixed by the Board of Directors. On or before January 10 of each Conference year, the Board of Directors shall fix the starting date of the Conference not earlier than August 1 and not later than September 30.

All references to "Annual Convention" in the Bylaws would be changed to read "Triennial Conference" or "Conference."

2. The Committee unanimously recommends changing the Director terms from 4 three-year terms to 3 four-year terms in line with a Triennial Conference, which would allow for a different slate of Directors up for election at each Conference.

If approved by the 2018 Delegate Convention, the last sentence of paragraph 1 and paragraph 4 of Section 9 will be edited to read:

The term of office for each such Director whose term begins January 1, 2019 and subsequent, shall be a period of four years.

For Director elections, any Director whose first term begins January 1, 2019 and subsequent is limited to no more than three four-year terms of office. Directors whose first term of office began prior to January 1, 2019, will be limited to four terms of office.

3. The Committee unanimously recommends the Association research and make available the option to vote by mail or electronically for future elections in non-Conference years.

If approved by the 2018 Delegate Convention, the following paragraph will be added to Section 2:

In lieu of convening a Special Conference, the Board of Directors may send a written ballot to all delegates, or in their absence, alternates, then in office. The ballot may include one or more resolutions that could be considered and adopted at a Special Conference. A resolution shall be deemed adopted upon receipt of valid ballots equal in number to the number of votes that would have been required to adopt the resolution at a Special Conference. Written ballots will also be used for Director elections in non-Conference years. Written ballot includes a ballot transmitted or received by electronic means.

4. The Committee recommends that the age limit for Board of Directors be removed.

If approved by the 2018 Delegate Convention, Paragraph 4 of Section 9 will be edited to read:

Any Director is limited to no more than four three-year terms of office. (or if Recommendation 2 is approved – Any Director is limited to no more than three four-year terms of office.)

The Committee members recommend that the foregoing amendments be passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bredeck, St. Michael, Madison, MN
James Gibbons, SS Peter & Clemens, St. Paul, MN
Donna Gregory, Holy Cross, Pearl Lake, MN
Joyce Griebel, St. John the Baptist, Searles, MN
Ray Hofman, St. Agnes, Vermillion, SD
Julia Nelmark, Holy Rosary, Detroit Lakes, MN
Michael Smith, St. Boniface, St. Bonifacius, MN