

Proposed Amendments to the By Laws

Proposed Bylaw amendments, sent by the membership by the approved date, were considered by the Bylaws Committee, Amy Kennedy, Chair. Proposed Bylaw amendments were received from the Bylaws Committee and were discussed and approved by the NCCW Board of Directors at their June meeting. They were then sent to the NCCW registered parliamentarian, Pat Reymann, who suggested small changes. They were then sent back to the Bylaws Committee who approved the changes and then to the NCCW Board who approved the changes. The final approved form of the proposed bylaw amendments are as follows:

1. Proposed Amendment: Executive Committee Composition

ARTICLE IX, Section 1 Executive Committee, Composition

Amend by inserting “and the NCCW Executive Director who is *ex officio* with no vote. The Executive Director may not be present during any discussion of the salary or job evaluation of the Executive Director position.”

If adopted, the section would read: The Executive Committee shall be President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, Immediate Past President, and the NCCW Executive Director who is *ex officio* with no vote. The Executive Director shall not be present during any discussion of the salary or job evaluation of the Executive Director position.

Rationale: Adding the Executive Director to the Executive Committee ensures that communication from the NCCW Office to the Executive Committee and vice versa is seamless and complete.

2. Proposed Amendment: Board of Directors Composition

ARTICLE V, Section 2 (a) Board of Directors, Composition

Amend by inserting: “the Executive Director and who is *ex officio* with no vote.

If adopted, the section would read: The Board shall consist of the Officers, Province Directors and Commission Chairs. The Executive Director and the Chair of the Spiritual Advisors shall serve as *ex officio* Directors of the Board without a vote.

Rationale: The *ex officio* Directors are members of the board with no vote. This provides them with access to the business conducted at the board meetings to be able to respond to any questions from members while abiding by the rules of conduct established for appropriate release of non-confidential information.

3. Proposed Amendment: Nominating Committee:

ARTICLE VIII, Section 2 (a) Elections, Nominating Committee

Amend by striking out: “and may not serve more than one term on the Nominating Committee without a break in service of more than two (2) years.” **and**

inserting in its place: "Members may not serve more than one term on the Nominating Committee without a break in service of one complete election cycle."

If adopted, the section would read: A nominating Committee of seven (7) members shall be elected by the members for a two-year term. The Chair of the Nominating Committee will be elected from among the newly elected members at the first scheduled meeting of the committee following election. Members of the Nominating Committee shall not be candidates for any elected position. Members may not serve more than one term on the Nominating Committee without a break in service of one complete election cycle. Vacancies on the Nominating Committee may be filled by the Board.

Rationale: The rationale for making this four-sentence statement into a five-sentence statement is that it distinguishes the five independent points. The rationale for proposing a change to the phrase, "without a break in service of more than two (2) years" is to clarify the intent. We believe the intent is for a Nominating Committee member to not serve a consecutive term. This is accomplished by the statement, "shall not be candidates for any elected position." However, the phrase "without a break in service of more than two (2) years" might mean that she may have to wait for the third election cycle to apply for candidacy. This could happen because terms of office begin during the Convention and since those dates are variable, the term "more than two years" might mean she could not apply until the third election cycle after her term of service. For example, if her term ends a year we meet in September, and then, two years later, the Convention date is not exactly two years later, then she has not had a break of more than two years. The proposed change clarifies that a person can apply after having been off the Committee for one complete election cycle.

4. Proposed Amendment: Nominating Committee

ARTICLE VIII, Section 2 (d) Elections, Nominating Committee

Amend by striking out: "nominees and Board of Directors" and inserting "President and nominees" and inserting "Chair" after "Nominating Committee."

If adopted, the section would read: Upon completion of its work, the Nominating Committee Chair will make known the Committee's decisions to the President and to the nominees. Written notice may be provided by mail or electronically. The Nominating Committee will notify the membership of the list of candidates at least 30 days prior to the date on which voting will begin.

Rationale: The rationale for these proposed changes is to reflect the way the Nominating Committee works. It is the Committee Chair that communicates on behalf of the Nominating Committee with the President. Meaning, the Chair only communicates with the President and not the entire Board of Directors. Also, the Chair informs the President before the nominees of the list of candidates.

5. Proposed Amendment: Resolutions Approval Process

ARTICLE XI, Section 3 Resolutions, Approval Process

Amend by striking out: “least two (2) months prior to the annual meeting.” **and inserting** “at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting.”

If adopted, the section would read: The Resolutions Committee shall review all proposed resolutions and present them to the Board of Directors with recommendations for consideration and approval. By majority vote, the Board of Directors shall have the power to reject any resolution. If a resolution is rejected by the Board of Directors, the members submitting such resolution may submit it to the annual meeting and such resolution shall be considered by the annual meeting provided there is a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members in favor of such consideration. The official notice of the proposed resolution approved by the Board of Directors with explanation of the rationale of the Board of Directors must be sent to the membership at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting.

Rationale: The reliability and speed of modern communications allow members to receive sufficient advance notice of proposed resolutions in a shorter period. This shorter period will also accommodate changing dates of the NCCW Convention.

6. Proposed Amendment: Bylaws Amendment Process

ARTICLE XVII, Section 1(c) Amendments

Amend by striking out: “A minimum of sixty (60) days’ notice.” **and inserting** “A minimum of forty-five (45) days’ notice.”

If adopted, the section would read: A minimum of forty-five (45) days’ notice of the proposed amendments or revision is provided in writing (paper or electronically) by the Board to all affiliation presidents, subdivision presidents, and Individual Members of record.

Rationale: The reliability and speed of modern communications allow members to receive sufficient advance notice of proposed bylaws amendments in a shorter period. This shorter period will also accommodate changing dates of the NCCW Convention.

7. Proposed Amendment: Spiritual Advisor Membership Category

ARTICLE III, MEMBERSHIP Section 1 Individual Members.

Amend by inserting: “and ordained Spiritual Advisors”

If adopted, the section would read: Individual membership is open to individual women and ordained Spiritual Advisors of the Catholic faith who subscribe to the purposes of NCCW and who are domiciled within the United States, military personnel stationed abroad, or U.S. citizens living outside the United States.

Annual membership dues must be current for an individual member to be considered “in good standing” as used in these Bylaws.

Rationale: Extending Individual Membership to ordained Spiritual Advisors at the same dues rate and with the same privileges extended to women Individual Members permits our ordained Spiritual Advisors to have access to member-only benefits, ensuring that they are able to obtain and use our resources, prayers, and participate in the NCCW fully.

Thank you for your careful attention so that you are ready to vote at Convention where we shall adopt amendments to the Bylaws,

Maribeth Stewart Blogoslawski
NCCW President