

2010 Bylaw review proposed changes

Forward

As stated in Article XVI, Section 1 of CHN's bylaws, a review of the bylaws must be completed in even numbered years. In reviewing the bylaws, the Board of Trustees has identified and is proposing the 6 changes listed below. Under each proposed amendment, you will find information on where to find the wording in the current bylaws, the current wording of the bylaws and the proposed wording of the bylaws with proposed changes italicized in each, and an explanation of the reason for the proposed change.

Article XVI, Section 1 states that "These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership." As required, a general election is being held and members are asked to vote yes or no on adapting these changes into the bylaws.

Proposed Amendment A

Article I Offices
Section 1 Principal Office

Bylaws currently read: The principal office of the corporation for the transaction of its business is located in *Alameda County, California*.

Proposed change: The principal office of the corporation for the transaction of its business is located in *Los Angeles County, California*.

Explanation for change: CHN must maintain a principal office where a copy of minutes and the bylaws are kept. In past years, this office was at the home of our recording secretary who lived in Alameda County. Since she has retired, the principal office will now reside at our address 2640-A7 South Myrtle Avenue in Monrovia which is in Los Angeles County.

Proposed Amendment B

Article IV Members
Section 5 Duration of Membership
Subsection C, 2nd to last sentence.

Bylaws currently read: Following the *regional hearing*, the Board of Trustees shall ratify, modify, or reject the *regional decision*.

Proposed change: Following the *hearing*, the Board of Trustees shall ratify, modify, or reject the *decision*.

Explanation for change: In the original bylaws, the state was split into several regions, and trustees were elected from each of the regions. This was changed by membership vote in July 2005. Now our six trustees may come from any area of the state, and they represent members across the entire state. The word "region" was deleted from the bylaws, except for in a few spots. In this sentence, the word has no meaning since we no longer divide the state into regions.

Proposed Amendment C

Article V Meetings
Section 1 Membership Meetings

Bylaws currently read: Quarterly meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be deemed membership meetings and be open to all members. These meetings shall be held at least four (4) times in a 12-month period, *at least one time in each region, on the first Saturday of August, November, February, and May, although the specific dates of the meetings may be adjusted at the Board's discretion.* Notification of these meetings will be *published in CHN's newsletter.*

Proposed change: Quarterly meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be deemed membership meetings and be open to all members. These meetings shall be held at least four (4) times in a 12-month period. Notification of these meetings will be *distributed to the CHN membership.*

Explanation for change: These dates for the quarterly member meetings were set to make it convenient to publish them in CHNews. Since the dates of publication of CHNews have now changed, and communication with members now comes in the form of our ezine, member emails, our web site and our social networking sites, the Board regularly exercises its option of adjusting the specific meeting dates and publishes the dates in a variety of ways to best reach members. Removing the specified dates and means of publication from the bylaws at this time will more accurately reflect the reality of how meetings are currently scheduled and allow a more timely notification to members.

As stated in Proposed Amendment B, in this section, the word "region" has no meaning since we no longer divide the state in to regions. CHN's Board will continue to schedule meetings at a variety of locations throughout the state to facilitate attendance by members from all areas.

Proposed Amendment D

Article VI Board of Trustees
Section 2 Election of Trustees
Second to last sentence.

Bylaws currently read: Trustees shall be voting members in good standing and have been CHN members for at least 365 days prior to the date ballots are mailed, March 1, shall have volunteered for CHN for 6 months, be an active or retired homeschool parent, and shall uphold *CHN's bylaws, Declaration of Homeschool Independence, and Mission Statement.*

Proposed change: Trustees shall be voting members in good standing and have been CHN members for at least 365 days prior to the date ballots are mailed, March 1, shall have volunteered for CHN for 6 months, be an active or retired homeschool parent, and shall uphold *CHN's bylaws, Mission Statement and the general policies adopted by the Board of Trustees.*

Explanation for change: Each year, the Board of Trustees reviews the current Board policies and decides whether to accept, reject or revise those policies. The Declaration of Homeschool Independence aka DoHI is a Board policy that was created back in 1998. Although all elected trustees are expected to

abide by the policies the Board adopts by majority vote, the DoHI may or may not be a part of those policies depending on the decision of the sitting Board.

Proposed Amendment E

Article VI Board of Trustees

Section 2 Election of Trustees

Under the section "Election Procedures shall be as follows:"
Subsection C.

Bylaws currently read:

C. The Ballot Committee chair shall be responsible for: *mailing written notification* to each CHN member of the impending elections at least 60 days prior to the election date; soliciting nominations; compiling the ballot (which shall include for every open position designated spaces for both a write-in vote and an opportunity to vote for "none of the above"); providing to all nominees an equal and reasonable opportunity to communicate to the members their qualifications and reasons for candidacy; *distributing by mail or e-mail*, election ballots 30 days prior to the election deadline; validating voter eligibility; distributing results to all CHN members, beginning with the President and the Recording Secretary.

D. If on December 1st, the Election Committee determines that there is only one candidate running for *each open position and there are no proposed bylaw amendments*, said committee has the option to utilize the following procedure to forego the balloting procedure and declare the candidates defacto elected.

1. The Election Committee shall notify the eligible voting *membership via the next issue of CHNews that*: a. The Election Committee has determined that the balloting procedure is not mandatory because *there are no bylaw amendments and no contested seats*; and b. A comment period will commence through February 20th. Comments are to be addressed to the Election Committee via email or regular mail and postmarked no later than February 20th.

2. On February 25th, the Election Committee shall tally all comments from CHN members. The usual balloting process will be followed if requested by at least 5% of the voting membership.

3. All decisions of the Election Committee shall be final.

Proposed change:

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D. If on December 1st, the Election Committee determines that there is only one candidate running for *each open position*, said committee has the option to utilize the following procedure to forego the

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1. The Election Committee shall notify the eligible voting *membership that*: a. The Election Committee has determined that the balloting procedure is not mandatory because *there are no contested seats*; and b. A comment period will commence through February 20th. Comments are to be addressed to the Election Committee via email or regular mail and postmarked no later than February 20th.

2. On February 25th, the Election Committee shall tally all comments from CHN members. The usual balloting process will be followed if requested by at least 5% of the voting membership.

3. All decisions of the Election Committee shall be final.

Explanation for change: With the proposed wording, the Balloting Committee will have more leeway in deciding the most timely and efficient manner of distributing notifications and ballots to members. Notification by email and web sources and/or balloting by email for those members that provide an email address saves our volunteers time, gets the information to members quicker and saves money.

Since this section of the bylaws specifically addresses election of trustees, the parts that mention bylaw amendments are not appropriate here. A separate section of the bylaws, Article XVI, deals directly with bylaw amendments, and declaring a defacto election would not prevent us from holding a general vote on bylaw matters only.

Proposed Amendment F

Article VIII Duties of Officers
Section 1 President
Third to last sentence.

Bylaws currently read: The President shall provide a yearly "State of the Organization" report *to be published and mailed* to the CHN membership following the first membership meeting of the fiscal year.

Proposed change: The President shall provide a yearly "State of the Organization" *report to be distributed* to the CHN membership following the first membership meeting of the fiscal year.

Explanation for change: This sentence refers to the annual statement that the President writes and distributes to the membership at the end of each fiscal year. It is usually published in CHNews, but there may be occasions where it is more timely to distribute it, such as via email, to the members.

Proposed Amendment G

Article XVII Membership Rights

Bylaws currently read: Any rights, duties, privileges, or responsibilities not set forth in these bylaws are retained by *the Regions and CHN Members therein*.

Proposed change: Any rights, duties, privileges, or responsibilities not set forth in these bylaws are retained by *CHN Members*.

Explanation for change: As explained in Proposed Amendment B, the word "region" is no longer defined in these bylaws.

