

MEMORANDUM

To: Priscilla Ouchida, JAACL National Director, and National Council

From: Constitution and Bylaws Committee, 2015 National Convention

Date: May 29, 2015

Re: Proposals for Constitution and Bylaw Amendments

OVERVIEW: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee (“CBLC”) received two sets of proposals consisting of one amendment to the Constitution and two amendments to the Bylaws. They are attached to this memo. One set of amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws would change the requirement for a “chapter in good standing” by permitting the National Board of Directors to waive the 25-member requirement. The other would change the reference to the “Program for Action” to “Strategic Plan.” All amendments meet the CBLC deadline and requirements and should be considered by the National Council at the 2015 National Convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

- A. ***Board Waiver for “Chapters in Good Standing”***: The Seattle Chapter sponsors Bylaw Amendment No. 1 and Constitutional Amendment No. 1. The Pacific Northwest District Council moves adoption of the amendments.

1. **Bylaw Amendment No. 1**: Article II, Section 2 of the Bylaws currently provides:

SECTION 2. Chapters in Good Standing

The chartered Chapters to be in good standing shall have:

- a. A minimum of twenty-five (25) members unless the Chapter is operating under a special charter grant from the National Board;

Bylaw Amendment No. 1 would permit the National Board to waive the 25-member requirement.

2. **Constitutional Amendment No. 1**: Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution currently provides:

SECTION 2. Chapters

The individual members shall be organized into chapters of 25 or more members each.

Constitutional Amendment No. 1 would strike “of 25 or more members each.”

3. **Intent**: The intent of the proposals is to provide greater flexibility to permit chapters of less than 25 members by way of a National Board waiver.

4. **Fiscal Impact:** The proponents claim there will be no fiscal impact. The CBLC believes there will be no negative fiscal impact. If there is an impact, it may be a slight increase in membership dues by maintaining or creating chapters with less than 25 members.
- B. **Change “Program for Action” to “Strategic Plan”:** The Central California District Council moves adoption of Constitutional Amendment No. 2.
 1. **Constitutional Amendment No. 2:** Article VII, section 2 of the Constitution provides:

SECTION 2. Adoption of Program for Action

The National Council shall consider and adopt a Program for Action for the ensuing years designed to maintain and vitalize the National organization and to achieve its aim and purposes. Such actions shall be construed as establishing the policies of the National organization, and the National Board will be guided by such policies.

Constitutional Amendment No. 2 would change “Program for Action” to “Strategic Plan.”

2. Intent: The proponents claim that “strategic plan” is the more common terminology used by different agencies and groups to describe the type of plan described in Section 2 of Article VII of the Constitution.
3. “Program for Action” for National Youth/Student Council: Article VIII of Section 2 of the Constitution provides for the adoption of a Program for Action by the National Youth/Student Council (“NY/SC”). Constitutional Amendment No. 2 does not change the terminology for the plan adopted by the NY/SC.
4. Fiscal Impact: The proponent claims Constitutional Amendment No. 2 has no fiscal impact. The CBLC agrees.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. The National Executive Director or her designee should distribute copies of all proposed amendments to the chapters **no later than June 14, 2015.**
- B. The National Executive Director is requested to accept this report for distribution to the National Council.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee,

Dale Ikeda, Chair
Constitution and Bylaws Committee

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