

Proposed Bylaws Amendment to be Introduced

A proposed amendment to revise the Civic Federation Bylaws will be introduced at the June 4 ACCF meeting. The amendment would eliminate the requirement that Member Organizations submit a membership certification by Oct. 31 of each year.

The CivFed Bylaws specifies that Delegates may amend or revise the Bylaws by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment is provided in writing to Delegates at the previous membership meeting (Bylaws, §8.04). The amendment will be considered and voted on at the next ACCF meeting, which is Tuesday, Sept. 3.

The proposed amendment states:

Proposed Amendment to Section 2.03 of the ACCF Bylaws

WHEREAS, the new ACCF Bylaws, as well as the old ones, require that Member Organizations certify they have 20 members by October 31 each year (Bylaws §2.03(a)(1), Old Bylaws Article III, §3);

WHEREAS, if a Member Organization fails to comply, the Board of Directors shall disqualify the organization from membership and remove its Delegates/Alternates from the membership rolls (Bylaws §2.03(b));

WHEREAS, it takes significant time and resources of the Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Committee to get Member Organizations to submit their annual certification of membership and, as a result, no one wants to serve on the Membership Committee, and it has been hard to get people to run for Secretary and Treasurer;

WHEREAS, even after the efforts of the Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Committee to get Member Organizations to submit their annual certification, several Member Organizations fail to provide the certification;

WHEREAS, to date, the Board has not disqualified any non-compliant Member Organization from Civic Federation membership, which makes the certification requirement seem like a meaningless paperwork burden for Civic Federation and the Member Organizations;

WHEREAS, in the past under the old Bylaws, the Civic Federation did not actively enforce the annual membership certification requirement, so Member Organizations did

not comply with it and CivFed has not been successful changing the mindset of Member Organizations;

WHEREAS, although the proposed amendment deletes the annual certification requirement, it still gives the Board authority to take action if it has reason to believe that a Member Organization fails to meet the requirements in Section 2.01 (membership certification when applying for membership) or 2.03 (annual dues); and

WHEREAS, the Civic Federation has other ways to ascertain whether a Member Organization continues to be active or has an at least 20 has members, such as does the Member Organization have 4 Delegates and 4 Alternates, do Delegates and Alternates attend CivFed meetings, does the organization pay its annual dues, and does the organization hold meetings, have meeting minutes, have an active website or other form of member communication?

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the title of Section 2.03 of the Civic Federation Bylaws be amended to state: “Annual Dues; Termination of Member Organization and Member”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Article II, Section 2.03(a) of the CivFed Bylaws be amended to delete the requirement that Member Organizations submit a written membership certification by October 31, of each year it has twenty (20) members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Section 2.03 be amended to state:

(a) To remain a Member Organization, each organization shall submit:

~~(1) Written certification by October 31 of each year that they organization meets the Member Organization requirements set forth in this Article II; and~~

~~(2) P~~ayment of annual dues, which dues are payable starting July 1 of each year and must be paid by December 31 of each year.

(b) If a Member Organization does not comply with the requirements in this Section 2.03, or otherwise meet the requirements set forth in Section 2.01, the Board of Directors shall disqualify the organization as a Member Organization, and remove its Voting Members and Alternate Members from Membership. Such Voting Members and Alternate Members shall cease to be Members and lose all rights and privileges associated with Membership under these Bylaws and the Act, including voting and participation requirements. If at any time a Member Organization is disqualified pursuant to Sections **2.01 or 2.03**, it must reapply under Section 2.01 to regain Membership Organization status.