

Bylaw Amendment Proposals

Bylaw Amendment Proposal #1 **National Board of Directors Oversight of Committees**

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1 [Unchanged]

SECTION 2 – GENERAL DUTIES

A-C [Unchanged]

D. Shall be available as a general resource to all Standing Committees. Shall oversee Standing Committees as defined in the LPA Policy Manual.

E-G [Unchanged]

SECTION 3-4 [Unchanged]

SECTION 5 - SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A, 5. ~~Shall oversee the following Committees: Bylaws and Policy, and any Committee not specifically assigned to another Director.~~

B, 6. ~~Shall oversee the Finance Committee.~~

C, 3. ~~Shall oversee the following Committees: Membership, Parent, Young Adult, Teen, Older Adults, International, Hispanic Affairs, Dwarf Artists and Rainbow.~~

D, 4. ~~Shall oversee the Inclusion, Employment and Historian Committees.~~

E, 4. ~~Shall oversee the Adoption Committee.~~

F, 3. ~~Shall oversee those committees that deal with the media and public relations.~~

G, 4. ~~Shall oversee the Advocacy Committee.~~

H, 3. ~~Shall oversee the Fundraising Committee.~~

SECTION 6-12 [Unchanged]

PROPOSED BY:

Mark Povinelli, President.

REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGES:

With the recent changes to the structure of the Board of Directors, the reporting structure for the Standing Committees to the Board members has become misaligned. Rather than having to realign this reporting by Bylaw amendments in the future, it will be more practical to remove it from the Bylaws, and define it in the Policy Manual, which the Board of Directors can update as needed. On September 1, 2022, the Board of Directors approved a motion:

The Board of Directors will submit a Bylaw amendment proposal for the 2023 national election to amend Article VI, Section 5 describing the Directors' specific duties to change all statements "Shall oversee (specific) Committee(s)." to "Shall oversee Standing Committees as defined in the LPA Policy Manual."

If this proposal is approved by the membership, the Board will then implement policy in the Policy Manual, Article IV, Section C adding Standing Committee oversight to the Duties defined for each Director.

This Bylaw amendment proposal implements that directive.

STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT: None received.

STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal #2 Chapter Meetings Accessibility

ARTICLE IX – LOCAL CHAPTERS

SECTION 1-8 [Unchanged]

SECTION 9 - MEETINGS

The Chapter President shall be responsible to see that at least four meetings per year are held. ~~All Chapter meeting sites that are in a public facility will be fully accessible to people with disabilities.~~

All in-person chapter meetings and events, both in a public and private setting must be held in a location that is fully accessible to people with disabilities, including those who use mobility devices such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, etc. The meeting/event space must also include a bathroom that is accessible.

SECTION 10-18 [Unchanged]

PROPOSED BY:

Danielle Frank, Programs Director; Samantha Rayburn-Trubyk, Advocacy Director; Sofiya Chyenenne, Inclusion Director and Faith Pedersen, Membership Director.

REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGES:

LPA is an organization that serves people with disabilities. A portion of our membership use mobility devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, etc and/or have mobility challenges that would prevent them from attending LPA events that were inaccessible. Under the current bylaw, there are no accessibility requirements for chapters to follow when chapter events are held in private settings including officers and members private residences. Unfortunately, throughout the years many chapter events are being held in spaces that are not accessible (e.g., steps in entrances and exits, bathrooms that do not fit a scooter or mobility device, high top tables at event spaces, no stools present). These barriers have led members to not be able to attend chapter events or have put our members' safety in jeopardy as they try to navigate chapter event spaces that are inaccessible. This bylaw amendment would make it a requirement for all chapter events, both in public and private settings, to be accessible for our members. LPA will provide Guidelines which will define accessibility and lay out suggestions and recommendations for all events. Although we realize membership access needs may go beyond physical accessibility, this is a start to implementing new standards for our organization. This will be new for us, but LPA is committed to full inclusion for membership. All LPA members deserve to have access to all LPA events, including at the local level. LPA members deserve to be able to independently navigate an event space free of physical barriers and have access to the bathroom with dignity. We cannot

be an organization that prides ourselves with serving people with disabilities, but allows for local events to take place in locations that may cause barriers to membership. National LPA leaders and staff members, including the Inclusion Committee, are committed to working with local leaders to address accessibility needs and come up with alternative accessible low-cost event spaces such as parks, community centers, clubhouses, fire halls, etc. that would allow for full member participation.

STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT:

Growing up in LPA I've been to many members' homes where meetings took place most of which were inaccessible to people needing mobility assistance. My family hosted an event just about once each year. I never stopped to consider our house was inaccessible to other members until now. I'm sure this will not be an easy task moving forward, however I believe it is a positive step in the right direction to ensure all of our members are supported. I want to thank all the countless volunteer members who opened the doors to their homes for LPA all these years.

Casey Hubelbank, District 1 Member

STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received.