

Assembly Guidelines

Matt Conner
LAUC President

Administrative

Special Assemblies

Tuesday, April 7 1-3pm

Tuesday, April 14, 11-1pm

ReadyTalk Info:

Phone: 866-740-1260

Access Code: 9181033#

- Please do not use a speakerphone unmuted. This has been identified as a possible cause of a persistent echo in the conference calls of the Exec Board. Any type of phone technology may be used for access—headset, hand receiver etc.—but please do not use an unmuted speakerphone. If an echo appears, experience has shown that if we push through, it will disappear. If it continues, I will mute everyone's phone. Then, to speak, you must unmute your line with *7 and remute when you finish with *6.
- Please have available at least the text of CPG Recommendations. In addition, you may want to have a copy of the current language of Article III of the by-laws for a clean comparison of the old with the new.

Goals

- The Special Assemblies will be voting to approve the CPG Recommendations for a vote by the full membership during our annual elections. (The Assembly, itself, does not approve the revisions.)
- Contrary to earlier statements, a simple majority vote by the membership will approve the changes to the by-laws which is lower than the 2/3 majority requirement mentioned before. See Article XII Section 5 of the by-laws.
- The logistics of the vote allow only one yes/no vote by the membership on all the changes collectively. There is no way a consensus can be constructed out of line item voting and we do not have the capacity for continual revotes. The membership vote on the changes will be all or nothing.

- In view of the above, the Assembly has to consider possible alternatives on behalf of the membership to produce the best single proposition for the yes/no vote. Amendments may be proposed as long as they are “germane.” No sneaking in pork for your division. As long as the proposed amendments have something to do with LAUC membership, there should be no problem.

Guidelines

- Complexity. What the recommendations propose is fundamentally simple which is a scale of different degrees for expanding the organization. The changes group themselves into (1) clarification of the current language (2) expansion of the affiliate category to additional staff (3) exceptional membership at the divisional level based on APM 360-4 as a criteria and processed through Standing Rules procedures rather than by-laws revisions. How far along this scale we are willing to go is the fundamental question. However, realizing these possibilities legislatively is complex and interfacing them with our current language is even more formidable. But if we don’t get distracted by details and have a clear sense of our goals, there will be nothing to worry about.
- Time. With two phone calls of 2 hours each that could potentially include the entire membership and one physical Assembly of 1 hour with all the delegates, time is short. Moreover, the quality of our time during the calls is uncertain. In scheduling them, there were some uncertainties about who exactly would be available and for how long, and I suspect that no one has attended a conference call with dozens of people. We are in new territory here.
- We are looking to cover all the issues in each of the two conference calls so that we have the benefit of reflection in the intervening time.
- The by-laws allow all LAUC members to attend the assembly and participate in discussion and all are welcome. However, we may not have the time for everyone to participate. If there is a need, I will restrict discussion to delegates only until time opens up for additional contributions.
- Because of the constraints of our format, we will also modify the usual parliamentary procedure. Each delegate has the right to make a motion, and we will honor that. However, formal motions are typically pursued until a vote after which they are finished. That could cause problems since, as you will see, the various changes are deeply interrelated. A premature amendment might be done without complete knowledge and could close off future possibilities or waste a great deal of time. What we will do instead is to ask delegates not to use the M-word, “motion.” Instead, please suggest or propose amendments. These will be acknowledged and a list will be published for the second call. Once we have discussed the issues as fully as possible, we will do a final sweep of the full text by section at which time we will call for formal motions on the issues on our list and put them to a vote. Everyone’s proposal will be processed,

but this method allows this to be done with the benefit of our full discussion and knowledge of context rather than haphazardly as proposals come up.

- Previous Assembly. Our efforts are complicated by the previous Special Assembly held in August 2014. A series of changes to the by-laws was approved for vote in the upcoming annual election. So the relation between our changes, what was approved for vote by the membership previously, and the current language is complicated. Fortunately, the membership issue is restricted to Article III and overlaps little if at all with the other changes. In any case, the executive officers will be monitoring this. Hopefully, a problem will not appear, but if it does, you will know why.