

2022-23 Bylaws Committee Annual Meeting Report

The Bylaws Committee consisting of Mary Collins, Dawn Hallsten, and Alice Newlon held its first meeting on May 12, 2022. In that initial meeting, we agreed that we would:

- (1) Determine that we were working from the latest version of our LWVMC Bylaws adopted at an Annual Meeting. Our **current Bylaws are the LWVMC Bylaws adopted in 2011 that were included in the 2018 Annual Meeting Report.**
- (2) Review and address the **list of concerns regarding our current Bylaws** received from Alice Newlon and other League members. The bulk of these suggestions related to governance issues that came up during the pandemic and changing times: the need to have a virtual annual meeting as well as the increased use of electronic notice, email, and meetings. Another requested change was to allow two persons to share an officer position. **These issues are addressed in the proposed Bylaws (herein referred to as “Proposed Bylaws”).** As we have worked preparing for this Annual Meeting, the suggestions for additional changes to the Proposed Bylaws have arisen. These items will be considered in the coming year.
- (3) Study the resources on the LWVUS website available to Bylaws committees that included the LWVUS Bylaws, sample of local league Bylaws, a List of Do’s and Don’ts for Bylaws, and a two hour webinar. We did so. Among other things we learned that the **LWVUS requires that the first three Articles of each local league Bylaws must conform to those of LWVUS Bylaws.** We followed the **LWVUS guidance to separate the Bylaws from the League Policies.** However, the LWVUS required nonpartisan and DEI policy statements are also set forth within the third Article of the Proposed Bylaws in conformity with LWVUS requirement discussed above.
- (4) Look over the LWVFL Bylaws and inquire from the state office if there were any resources we should use. We did so. The **LWVFL Bylaws** provided us with some excellent ideas and **language to deal with the issues of electronic notice, email, and meetings as well as co-officers.**
- (5) Create a calendar list of the deadlines and tasks required by the Bylaws, government and other levels of the League. This Administrative List of Dates and Deadlines was created and is an important working document for the Board and League Committees to use throughout the year.

In our second meeting Mary Collins volunteered to become “keeper of the drafts” using her professional skills honed creating audit reports to keep a history of the documents so we could keep track of the Proposed Bylaws changes vis a vis the current Bylaws and Policies. Mary’s role was key to this committee’s work and **we thank Mary for her excellent work.**

We met throughout the summer and fall and met our goal of submitting the Proposed Bylaws to the Board of Directors for their review and suggestions before the December Board meeting. After the December Board meeting the Bylaws Committee met to review and address the

suggestions we received from the Board and to prepare the drafts of the Proposed Bylaws and proposed Policies (**herein after referred to as “Proposed Policies**) as well as the List of Administrative Dates and Deadlines to present to the February Board meeting.

At the February Board meeting the Board reviewed and approved submitting the Proposed Bylaws and Proposed Policies to the membership for your approval at the 2023 Annual Meeting. The Bylaws state that our Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members at an annual meeting, providing a quorum is present. The Proposed Policies will be presented for your approval by a majority vote of the voting members at this Annual Meeting because they follow the current Bylaws in the same document.

Below the link to this report you will find the links to the Proposed Bylaws, the Proposed Policies, the current Bylaws and Policies, a comparison of old and new Bylaws (in red), and a comparison of the new and old Policies (in red).

At the Annual Meeting, the LWVMC Bylaws Committee will present the Proposed Bylaws and move for their approval as the amended Bylaws of LWVMC. We will also present the Proposed Policies for your approval as a separate LWVMC governing document, which can be updated by the Board in conformity with national, state and local League requirements.

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

Dawn Hallsten on behalf of the Bylaws Committee (Mary Collins, Dawn Hallsten, and Alice Newlon)