

## **OWFI Bylaws Change Recommendation 1**

### **ARTICLE VI**

#### **Meetings**

##### **CURRENT WORDING:**

3. Any Affiliate Member club that fails to send a delegate or designated proxy to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, be dropped from the rolls of OWFI as an Affiliate Member. Clubs may apply for reinstatement as an Affiliate Member with the approval of Board of Directors. Individual members of a dropped Affiliate Member club will remain as Members At-Large of OWFI through the term of their current dues.

##### **PROPOSED NEW WORDING:**

3. Any Affiliate Member club that fails to send a delegate or designated proxy to the **Board of Directors meeting that takes place during the organization's annual conference** may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, be dropped from the rolls of OWFI as an Affiliate Member. Clubs may apply for reinstatement as an Affiliate Member with the approval of Board of Directors. Individual members of a dropped Affiliate Member club will remain as Members At-Large of OWFI through the term of their current dues.

##### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The only definition of Annual Meeting in the Bylaws occurs in the Article VI, Paragraph 2 which states:

**2. Annual Meeting. A meeting of the general membership of the Federation shall be held at the annual conference for transacting such business as may come before the general assembly.**

The Annual Meeting therefore is NOT a Board Meeting, but a General Membership meeting. The intent of Article VI, Paragraph 3 is to make sure that all affiliates send a delegate to at least one meeting of the Board of Directors a year. Organization business is conducted at these meetings, business that affects all members of the organization. There are times when a quorum at the Board of Directors meeting – "...representation of at least one delegate from one-third (1/3) of the Affiliate Members of the Federation in good standing." – is not met, which means no business can take place.

Since the annual conference is attended by at least one member of most, if not all, Affiliate Members, there should be no excuse for Affiliate Members not to be represented at this meeting of the Board. It is critical that all affiliates remain involved in the organization and that decisions made by the organization represent as widely as possible all affiliate members' needs. The Bylaws Revisions Committee was tasked with this proposal by vote of the Board at the Sunday, September 11 regular board meeting.

## **OWFI Bylaws Change Recommendation 2**

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **Governance**

#### **Officers**

##### **CURRENT WORDING:**

1. The officers of this Federation shall consist of the President, Conference Chair, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Publicity Director, and together with the immediate past President they make up the Executive Committee of the Federation.

##### **PROPOSED NEW WORDING:**

1. The officers of this Federation shall consist of the President, Conference Chair, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Director, and **Grant Director**. Together with the immediate past President, they make up the Executive Committee of the Federation.

##### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The Organization relies more and more each year on grant support for the Annual Conference and Contest. Making this person an officer instead of an appointed position gives that person voting privileges in both the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. Such input could be important in obtaining larger grants. The Bylaws Revisions Committee was tasked with this proposal at the request of the President.

## **OWFI Bylaws Change Recommendation 3**

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **Governance**

#### **Officers**

##### **CURRENT WORDING:**

6. The Chain of Command and line of succession of the officers is as follows: President, Conference Chair, Past President, First Vice President, Secretary, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Publicity Chair.

##### **PROPOSED NEW WORDING:**

6. The Chain of Command and line of succession of the officers is as follows: President, Conference Chair, Past President, First Vice President, Secretary, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Publicity Chair, **Grants Chair**.

##### **JUSTIFICATION:**

This change would be required ONLY IF the recommendation on the addition of Grants Chairman as an officer is passed.

This change is needed for consistency in the listing of officers.

## **OWFI Bylaws Change Recommendation 4**

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **Governance**

#### **Officer Duties.**

#### **PROPOSED ADDITION TO CURRENT WORDING:**

**GRANT DIRECTOR: The grant director shall seek grants to support the efforts of the Organization, especially with respect to funding support for the annual conference and writing contest. He/she shall recommend any changes in the operation of the Organization or any aspect of the annual conference and contest that might enhance the prospects of receiving grant support. Such recommendations shall be regarded as suggestions only and have no force of rule unless properly voted on or otherwise implemented by the Board of Directors. He/she may appoint a committee to serve under him/her and to help with the fact-finding and grant writing process.**

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

This additional paragraph would be required ONLY IF the recommendation on the addition of Grants Chairman as an officer is passed.

This proposed new officer may potentially carry more weight with grant funding sources than a committee chair. It is likely he or she will have a better idea of any changes that the organization may make in its operations that could be beneficial in regard to obtaining grants. The Board would then have to weigh the cost/benefits of such changes and may choose to implement the suggestions or not. Committee chairs (the way the position has been filled up to now) are not members of the Executive Committee and have no vote on the Board, unless they happen also to be delegates, which is not required of committee chairs or committee members.

**OWFI Bylaws Change Recommendation 5: This was approved by the Board of Directors at the December 2010 regular Board meeting, but was not submitted for vote to the membership at the 2011 Annual Meeting. It is being resubmitted for approval and vote.**

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Membership**

#### **CURRENT WORDING:**

1. Affiliate Membership. Affiliate members of OWFI shall consist of those local writing groups in Oklahoma and elsewhere which seek membership in OWFI and have at least five (5) members who are also individual members in good standing of OWFI (current in payment of annual dues). Any group may apply for affiliate membership if it

consists of and maintains at least five OWFI members in good standing. Each affiliated member group of the Federation shall retain its own entity and be governed by its own constitution, bylaws or rules.

**PROPOSED ADDITION TO CURENT WORDING:**

**Added after above paragraph:**

**Any group of writers may request Affiliate Membership status in the Federation by filing the appropriate application with the OWFI Treasurer. The application will be tentatively approved by the Executive Committee and shall then be presented for final approval to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting. The application must include at least five (5) persons applying for individual membership or transferring from an existing Affiliate or Member At Large status.**

**JUSTIFICATION:**

There is no explicitly stated procedure to add new Affiliate Members to the organization. This corrects that oversight.