

Report of the NRHS Bylaws Committee - April 2016

The Bylaws Committee consisting of Bob Ernst - Chair, Joe Maloney, John Fiorilla, Scott Andes, John Simanton and Jon Baake, is recommending the following changes be made to the existing NRHS Bylaws. In some areas we discussed several options and they are presented here for your input and comments. All questions, comments and input can be presented at the NRHS Spring Conference Advisory Council meeting on April 23, 2016 in Cumberland MD or via email at secretary@nrhs.com. Email comments will be included in the discussion at the meeting. Other changes also can be presented to the Committee for consideration at this time.

NRHS Board of Directors

The Committee is recommending the NRHS Board of Directors should consist of seven (7) Directors down from the current twenty-five (25) Directors. All Directors would be "Global" eliminating the need for districts. There are several options that the committee is requesting your input and comments.

Makeup of the Board

Option 1: The seven Directors include five (5) Global Directors, the President and the Vice President. This option allows the membership to vote directly for the President and Vice President. The President and Vice President besides being part of the management team responsible for the day-to-day operation of the NRHS are involved in the decision making process of the Board.

Option 2: The seven Directors are all Global Directors. The President and Vice President are elected by the Board but are not on the Board of Directors. The President and Vice President are part of the management team responsible for the day-to-day operation of the NRHS.

In both options the Secretary and the Treasurer would be elected by the Board as per the current Bylaws. With the small Board the need for an Executive Committee would cease to exist.

Terms for the Board

Option 1: The Directors would have four (4) year staggered terms in which half of the Board is elected every two years. This option would be similar to current NRHS Bylaws.

Option 2: The Directors would have two (2) year terms. This would mean all Directors are on the same terms and would be up for re-election every two years. (Note: The Committee discussed the shorter terms as a way to allow members to serve on the Board without a long commitment. For some members a 4 year term may be a roadblock to serving.)

In any option the Committee is recommending term limits of eight (8) years. Changes, if adopted, for the Board of Directors would take effect with the next NRHS Election cycle which means the current Board and the newly elected members of the Board in 2016 will hold office to 2018.

Chapters and Affiliate Groups

While the Chapters have been the backbone of the Society it has become increasingly clear that a number of chapters do not adhere to the Society's Bylaws Article X. Chapters. The Committee discussed various options on defining a NRHS Chapter and what an Affiliate Group would look like.

Definition of a Chapter

A Chapter would be defined as such:

- **ALL** chapter members and officers are NRHS members.
- NRHS will track the chapter's membership.
- Full use of the NRHS name and logo.
- The chapter is eligible for NRHS chapter award recognition.
- The chapter has a representative on the Advisory Council.
- Chapter can participate in the NRHS Fund fundraising activities.

Full Members of Chapter and At-Large:

- Pays Regular membership Annual Dues, or Family rate if and only if:
 - Dues are paid with Regular Member
 - Same residence as Regular Member
- Full voting privileges in NRHS matters.
- First in line for the NRHS Convention and any other NRHS activity.
- NRHS Discount list available to the members.
- Individual members can participate on the Advisory Council.
- Each member receives individual copies of all NRHS publications, electronic or printed.
- Each member is eligible for NRHS membership awards.

The above items are in line with the current Bylaws and the Committee would revise the sections on Chapters and Membership as necessary to clarify the Bylaws Articles.

Definition of an Affiliate Group

An Affiliate Group would be defined as such:

- A flat fee paid to the NRHS for affiliation. (Recommending 5X the current due rate.)
- NRHS membership is not required for the group's members. Individuals of the group can be At-Large members or members of a Chapter.
- NO voting privileges on any NRHS matter (Group or Individual).
- One set of NRHS publications to the group's address, electronic or printed.
- 2nd tier of sales for conventions and any other NRHS activity for members of the Affiliate Group. (30 days after NRHS members but before public sales)
- NO Advisory Council representation.
- NRHS will not track group's membership.
- Limited use of NRHS name and logo or create a NRHS Affiliate Group logo.
- NO organization / service awards. (Group or Individual)

The Committee is recommending to create an Affiliate Group category and would revise the Bylaws based on the outcome of the discussion at the Spring Conference.