

Proposal #1: Rename the “Active Member” membership level to “Government Member”

Proposed by: Chris Bateman, Bylaws Committee Chair

- *Rationale:*
 - The bylaws use the term “Active” as an adjective but also to refer to the “Active Member” *Membership Level*.¹ It is inherently ambiguous and often confusing.

Proposal #2: Define “In Good Standing” as being “current on membership dues.”

Proposed by: Chris Bateman, Bylaws Committee Chair

- *Rationale:*
 - The bylaws do not define what it means be “in good standing.”
 - Members must be “in good standing” to vote.
 - Defining “in good standing” as “being current on membership dues” seems to be within the Spirit of the current bylaws.²

Proposal #3: Change the membership dues deadline from July 1st to “the first day of the AGFOA annual conference.”

Proposed by: Jeff Rogers, President-elect

- *Rationale:*
 - The current deadline of July 1st seems arbitrary.
 - Most members pay dues when registering for the annual conference.
 - An unintended consequence of the July 1st deadline is that we have a sizable percentage of membership that is ineligible to vote from July 1st (the current deadline) until they register for the conference in November.

¹ E.G. Compare Article IV, Section H, Subsection (3), “any *active* past president” & Article IV, Section K, “the *Active Membership*” to Article III, Section D, Subsection (2): “after a nomination from an *Active Member*.”

² The current bylaws impose an *automatic suspension of membership* on members who do not pay dues by the deadline. Presumably, a member whose membership has been suspended is not in good standing and therefore cannot vote.

Proposal #4: Remove the *Automatic Suspension of Membership Until all Dues are Paid* Provision

Proposed by: Chris Bateman, Bylaws Committee Chair

- *Rationale:*
 - As a practical matter, there is no mechanism in place to *automatically* suspend someone from membership, (give formal notice, etc.). It is difficult to quantify the number of people who have (unknowingly) been *automatically suspended* for not paying dues, and the bylaws do not require the Board to track this information.
 - We would like to create a welcoming atmosphere and propose that anyone who meets the membership criteria in Article III, Section A, “Memberships,” can still be a *member* of AGFOA, regardless of whether fees have been paid.
 - To vote, however, members must be in good standing, which requires membership fees. See Article III, Section C, “Voting.”

Proposal #5: Address the voting status of members *not* in good standing by adding the word “only” to Article III, Section C, “Voting.”³

Proposed by: Chris Bateman, Bylaws Committee Chair

- *Rationale:*
 - The current bylaws state that “[...] members in good standing are entitled to vote[.]” Article III, Section C, “Voting.”
 - The bylaws do not reference the voting status of members *not* in good standing.
 - Adding the word “only” removes any question as to the voting status of members *not in good standing*.

³ This section currently reads, in its entirety:

- (1) Active Members in good standing are entitled to vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the Members.
- (2) Associate Members in good standing are entitled to vote only in the election of Associate Members.

Proposal #6: Clarify the voting status of Associate Board Members by adding the following clause (underlined below) in Article III, Section C, “Voting”:

Proposed by: Chris Bateman, Bylaws Committee Chair

Nothing in this section is intended to limit the voting duties and responsibilities of Government or Associate Board Members. See ART. IV, SEC. D (3)).

- *Rationale:*
 - The current bylaws state that “Associate members in good standing are entitled to vote only in the election of Associate Members.” (Article III, Section C, “Voting.”)
 - The current bylaws also state that Associate *Board* Members “shall have voting authority at board meetings.” (Article IV, Section D, (3)).
 - One could argue that, because an Associate *Board* Member is still an “Associate Member,” they are limited to vote only for the election of other board members. (Article III, Section C). But Associate Board Members are also authorized to vote at board meetings by Article IV, Section D, (3).
 - The proposed clause clarifies that Associate Board Members board voting rights are not limited by Article III, Section C.

Proposal #7: Reduce the minimum required number of board members from 12 to 11.

Proposed by: Margarita Bell, President, & Jeff Rogers, President-elect

- *Rationale:*
 - Most boards have an odd number to prevent ties and the proposed reduction in the board will not negatively impact AGFOA business.
 - High levels of turnover amongst municipal finance officers has resulted in fewer government members who have the capacity to serve on the AGFOA board.

Proposal #8: Reduce the number of “Government” Board members from 9 to 8 and increase the number of “Associate” Board members from 2 to 3.

Proposed by: Margarita Bell, President, & Jeff Rogers, President-elect

- *Rationale:*
 - Associate members provide critical assistance to the board in the planning process for the conference and the execution of AGFOA services.
 - Our associate members have vital roles such as scholarship chair, education chair, and communications chair.
 - Adding another associate member would be in the best interest of AGFOA while maintaining government members as majority.

Proposal #9: Remove the requirement that the “immediate past president” serve on the board

Proposed by: Margarita Bell, President, & Jeff Rogers, President-elect

- *Rationale:*
 - It may not be realistic to have the “immediate past president” serve on the board due to retirement or personal time constraints.
 - The bylaws still prioritize the “immediate past president” for filling vacancies (See Article IV, Section H).

Proposal #10: Add the following sentence (underlined, below) regarding the Membership Committee Subsection of Article IV, Section E (3):

Proposed by: Chris Bateman, Bylaws Committee Chair

The Membership Committee is also responsible for administering AGFOA “Conference Scholarships.” (See ART. VII, SEC. A).

- *Rationale:*
 - The proposed language, above, helps establish the separation of scholarship duties that currently exists in the bylaws, and therefore helps readers better understand the bylaws.
 - The bylaws already assign this responsibility to the Membership Committee. (See Article VII, Sec. A)
 - There is a “Scholarship Committee” and it is easy to think that the “Scholarship Committee” would be responsible for “AGFOA Scholarships” (but this is not the case).

Proposal #11: Remove references of gender specific pronouns “he/she” & “his/her.”

Proposed by: Chris Bateman, Bylaws Committee Chair

- *Rationale:*
 - Gender specific language is not necessary to convey anything within AGFOA bylaws and removing it improves readability. For example, compare the following excerpt from the existing bylaws to the proposed revision:

Current Bylaws (Article VI, Section A):

“Special meetings may be held upon the call of the President at such times as in **his/her** judgment **he/she** deems advisable for the general welfare of AGFOA[.]”

Proposed Revision (Article VI, Section A):

“Special meetings may be held upon the call of the President at such times as **the President** deems advisable for the general welfare of AGFOA[.]”

Proposal #12: Replace references to “Executive Board” and “Board of Directors” with “the Board.”

Proposed by: Margarita Bell, President

- *Rationale:*
 - The bylaws interchangeably use “Executive Board,” “Board of Directors,” and “the Board” with no apparent distinction.⁴
 - Using simply “the Board” (instead of three different terms) improves readability and comprehension.

Proposal #13: Require the AGFOA Treasurer and Scholarship Committee Chair to “prepare reports,” identical to the current requirement for the Membership Committee.

Proposed by: Chris Bateman, Bylaws Committee Chair

- *Rationale:*
 - Article VII “Scholarships,” Section A, reads (in part):
 - “The AGFOA Treasurer and the Chair of the Membership Committee shall be responsible for maintaining scholarship records and preparing reports.”
 - Article VII “Scholarships,” Section B, reads (in part):
 - “The AGFOA Treasurer and the Chair of the Scholarship Committee shall be responsible for maintaining scholarship records.”
 - Given that the language is identical, with no apparent rationale for why the Membership Committee would prepare reports but not the Scholarship Committee, the omission of “prepare reports” appears inadvertent.
 - Moreover, it seems prudent that AGFOA would want reports for both types of scholarships (regardless of which committee is administering the scholarship).

⁴ AGFOA Scholarships are awarded by the AGFOA “Board of Directors,” but the AGFOA “Executive Board” determines if a person will be awarded AGFOA Honorary Membership. (Compare Article VII with Article III, Section A). The bylaws do not define “Board of Directors.”