Several Bylaws amendments have been proposed for NCRA members to consider at its next Annual Business Meeting. Amendments #1 through #6 cover issues brought forward by the Constitution & Bylaws Committee. Most of the proposed amendments bring further clarity to processes already in place. The most substantial change, Amendment #6, asks membership to consider changing National Committee of State Associations to National Congress of State Associations.

Amendment #7, which was proposed by a group of members in accordance with the Constitution & Bylaws, addresses the requirements on state associations.

The following serves as official notice that amendments to NCRA's Constitution & Bylaws have been proposed and will be voted upon immediately following the next Annual Business Meeting of the membership, Aug. 15, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colo. Voting on amendments will be held electronically, and the voting period will be open for 24 hours. To vote, make sure that NCRA has an up-to-date email address for you in its database by July 31.

**NOTES:**

For your reading ease, the language to be added is italicized. Language to be stricken is indicated by strikethrough.

To review the full text and the changes, visit NCRA.org/bylaws.

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**Amendment #1 – Membership Reinstatement**

**RATIONALE**

*This proposed amendment clarifies that membership reinstatements may be written or verbal requests.*

**Constitution & Bylaws: Article III – Membership Section 14 – Membership Reinstatement**

a) A Member in good standing who terminated Membership by resignation may be reinstated to the Member’s former class of Membership upon written request and payment of the full current year’s dues. In the case of a Registered Member, reinstatement to the former class of Membership will be dependent upon fulfilling the continuing education requirements and such other requirements as may be in effect at the time of reinstatement.

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**Amendment #2 – Membership Reinstatement**

**RATIONALE**

*This proposed amendment clarifies the requirements for reinstatement for Registered Members.*

**Constitution & Bylaws: Article III – Membership Section 14 – Membership Reinstatement**

b) A Member whose Membership has been terminated for nonpayment of dues or charges may be reinstated by fulfilling the current requirements for Membership and paying any delinquent charges. In the case of a Registered Member, reinstatement to the former class of Membership will be dependent upon fulfilling the continuing education requirements and such other requirements as may be in effect at the time of reinstatement.
**Amendment #3 – Proration of Dues**

**RATIONALE**
Any change in the annual dues for any class of membership from that of the previous year shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and shall be approved by the Voting Members at the annual business meeting. The Proration of Dues is more appropriately found in Policies and Procedures.

**Constitution & Bylaws: Article IV – Dues**

**Section 2 – Proration of Dues**

a) Applications approved between January 1 and March 31 shall require payment of a full year’s dues.

b) Applications approved between April 1 and December 31 shall require payment of such prorated portion of dues, if any, as determined by the Board of Directors.

c) Members being reinstated shall pay the full current year’s dues.

d) All other classes of Membership shall pay the full current year’s dues, as applicable.

**Amendment #4 – Term of Office and Vacancies**

**RATIONALE**
The following proposed amendments clarify the term of service and procedure when the President-Elect fills a vacancy in the office of President.

**Constitution & Bylaws: Article VI – Officers**

**Section 4 – Vacancies**

a) If there is a vacancy for any reason in the office of the President, the President-Elect shall succeed to the office immediately and shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the office. If the President-Elect serves as President for half a term of six (6) months or less, such person shall have the opportunity serve a full term as President.

b) If there is a vacancy for any reason in the office of the President-Elect, the Vice President shall succeed to the office immediately, and shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the office. At the completion of the term of office of the Vice President as President-Elect, the offices of President, President-Elect, and Vice President shall be filled by the Voting Members.

**Consequential amendments:**

**Section 2 – Election, Qualifications, and Term of Office**
The Officers (except the President, the Immediate Past President, and the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer) shall be elected each year by the Voting Members. The term of each elected Officer shall begin at the close of the annual business meeting and the Officer shall serve until the Officer’s successor is elected. No elected Officer shall serve for more than one full term in the same office except the Secretary-Treasurer, who may serve for no more than three (3) consecutive terms, or as provided by Section 4. The President-Elect shall automatically succeed to the office of President at the completion of the President’s term of office.

**Amendment #5 – Nominating Committee Meeting prior to next election**

**RATIONALE**
This is a housekeeping change for consistency.

**Constitution & Bylaws: Article VIII – Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors**

**Section 2 – Duties of Nominating Committee**
The Nominating Committee shall meet at least ninety (90) days prior to the next annual convention election of the Association and shall nominate one or more nominees for offices to be filled and report the committee’s nominations to the President, President-Elect and the Executive Director. The Nominating Committee shall be authorized to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic communications media.
Amendment #6 – National Committee of State Associations Name Change

RATIONALE
This name change represents the importance of NCSA and of the delegates and state leaders who dedicate their time to mobilizing a national coalition of court reporters and captioners. By renaming NCSA as the National Congress of State Associations and imparting on the Delegates more responsibilities, we take a step towards creating a truly representative body of the court reporting and captioning professions that can assist the Board of Directors in guiding NCRA into the future.

Constitution & Bylaws: Article XVI – Affiliated Units

Section 3 – Definitions
a) The term “unit” and/or “units” shall be synonymous with the term “association.”
b) A “state” shall be defined as a state or territory of the United States or foreign nation which is approved for membership in the National Committee Congress of State Associations (“NCSA”) by the Board of Directors.
c) Only one affiliated unit may be recognized from any one state, with the exception of states wherein the number of NCRA members exceeds ten percent (10%) of total NCRA membership.

Section 5 – National Committee Congress of State Associations
A National Committee Congress of State Associations (“NCSA”) shall be convened annually. NCSA shall be composed of two (2) representatives from each affiliated unit and two (2) alternates, who shall not be entitled to represent more than one affiliated unit as a delegate, each of whom shall be appointed by such person’s respective affiliated unit. ...

Amendment #7 – Removal of Majority Requirement for Affiliated Units

RATIONALE
The requirement that affiliated state associations include a majority of verbatim stenographic reporters is limiting the opportunities of some state associations to both join together with other colleagues to create economies of scale in association/volunteerism and for legislative groundwork. In our home states, we have limited options when seeking volunteers. Our current volunteer pool has been active for a decade or longer. Two years ago, when the North Carolina state association was working toward a combined association, one of the obstacles was this rule. If this rule did not exist, our state would have created a unified state association with more members, a greater pool of volunteers, and a greater ability to effect change in the legislative and educational arena for the benefit of court reporters, captioners, and the public.

This amendment was submitted by:
Victoria L. Pittman, FAPR, RDR, CRI
Cindy Hayden, RMR, CRR
Mary Ann Ridenour, RPR

Constitution & Bylaws: Article XVI – Affiliated Units

Section 4 – Affiliation Policy
a) A state association is eligible for affiliation if (1) it evidences through its constitution and bylaws or a statement of purposes that it espouses and embraces the purposes and precepts promulgated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and all applicable statutes, including antitrust laws; and (2) a majority of its members are verbatim stenographic reporters.