

Dear Nurse Colleagues,

The NHNA Board of Directors has a responsibility to assure that the Association is acting in accordance with its bylaws – a challenge when the bylaws haven’t been officially updated in three years, despite changes to the organization. To address this issue, the Board established the Bylaws Task Force, chaired by Carmen Petrin NHNA Director at Large and gave members an opportunity to get involved.

How it worked/what’s next

- Feb** NHNA Board requests member volunteers to work on Bylaws Task Force, Carmen Petrin, Chairperson
- March** NHNA Board approves Task Force Membership: Amy Curley, Tabitha Dowd, Jeanne Hayes, Mary Catherine Rawls, Tracy Martino-Hsu
- Apr-Jul** Task Force active: one face-to-face meeting May 4, frequent emails, feedback from Board. Bylaws draft completed.
- Jul 14** NHNA Board approves draft; Task Force submits for review to ANA Committee on Bylaws
- Sept 17** ANA Committee approves, with recommendations for minor changes; provides “Letter of Conformity”
- Sept 17-21** Task Force revises Bylaws as recommended; delivers to NHNA Board for final review; is notified of electronic vote Board approval
- Sept 22** Task Force submits revised draft to ANA.
- Sept 24** Task Force receives ANA final approval
- Oct 5** NHNA Board approves proposed revised Bylaws
- October 6** NHNA electronically distributes proposed revised Bylaws to membership
- October 22** Revised Bylaws to be submitted for vote by attendees of Annual Meeting; adopted only with two thirds majority vote.

What’s changed – in a nutshell

Article #/ Change	Rationale
IV: Revision of Organizational Affiliate Membership language	Make language match what our agreements say
V: Change the term of office of President to two, rather than one year; added a proviso to extend term of office of current President for six months to support transition; codified the role of Past President as Board Member for one year, affirmed the role of President elect. Insert Nurse Exec	Acknowledged the steep learning curve in the role of President, provides for greater continuity; Change in management to use of Nurse Exec and elimination of Exec Dir.
VII, Sec 5,6,7: Deletion and elimination of references to obsolete Commissions and Committees; clarifying revision of responsibilities of remaining commissions	Say what the Commissions really do
IX: Deletion; changed to Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces	Members more willing to do “this one thing now” than commit to one or two years of a committee
And ... language edits throughout to assure congruent message	

A copy with tracking changes is attached for your review. Please plan to attend the Annual Membership Business Meeting at 5PM on October 20th at the Holiday Inn in Concord.

Respectfully,
 Carmen J Petrin, MS APRN
 Director at Large, NHNA