The Links, Incorporated

Tacoma (WA) Chapter

**Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws for the 44th National Assembly**

National Assembly--June 19-23, 2024, Dallas/Ft. Worth Area, TX

Bylaws Committee Recommendations

1. Amendment #1

As of July 1, 2024, a Link **Shall** Remain in her Chapter of Induction “unless she moves from the locality or her original residence at the time of induction.”

**Current provision:** Link Must remain in her Chapter of Induction for two years before she can transfer to a Chapter closer to her residence (P. 6) unless her residence changes.

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee:** Adoption not recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee:** Adoption not recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* The Constitution and Bylaws Committee opines this amendment is procedural and doesn’t belong in the Bylaws.

2. Amendment #2- Redefines DOL to include Stepdaughter and Adopted Daughter

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**: Adoption not recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee:** Adoption not recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* The term, “daughter” is applied to “all biological daughters and those legally recognized as such by court decrees” and that by expanding the definition is overbroad and overreaching.

3. Amendment #3- Strike words, “Daughters of Links”

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**: Recommend Adoption

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Recommend Adoption

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* Language fine as is and my preference would have been to leave it, but no strong concern about making the change (especially, if DOL is defined elsewhere).

4. Amendment #4- Change term for voting on DOLs from September to May to September to January as the vote for non-DOL candidates

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**—Recommend Adoption

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Recommend Adoption

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* Allows chapters to embrace all new members at the same time. DOLs, who are voted on in May, would not be able to participate in orientation and induction until the following year. DOLs already can be voted on two months before non-DOLs--Sept & Oct v. Nov for non-DOLs.

5. Amendment #5 – Attempts to Clarify the five-year period for the 1-in-5 Conference Attendance Requirement

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption not recommended (should be in Manual of Procedures)

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption not Recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* This information is on the website and in the Manual of Procedures.

6. Amendment #6- Active: Attendance Sabbatical

Provides additional reason to place a member on sabbatical leave from meeting attendance.

If a member has caregiving responsibilities for immediate family/household member or individuals with special needs and unable to secure support during meetings …

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption not recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption not recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* Currently overbroad. Recommend they narrowly define the group. If done correctly, this is a viable amendment for the future.

7. Amendment #7 – Active: Attendance Sabbatical

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Recommend Adoption

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Recommend Adoption

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* Allows attendance sabbatical for a Link member is the primary caregiver of a spouse or parent, with medical documentation of her primary care status. (This provision is narrow in scope as opposed to the above amendment about caregiving responsibilities).

8. Amendment #8- Responsibilities for a Member on LOA

Currently, a member on LOA is **not** responsible for Chapter dues or 48-hour service requirement; she is only responsible for National/Area dues/assessments and the 1-in-5 obligation. This amendment would require a member on a LOA to pay Chapter dues and assessments.

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption not recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption not recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* Could create a financial burden for a member already dealing with financial hardship and/or other life events.

9. Amendment #9- Provisory Member Status

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Recommend Adoption

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Recommend Adoption

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* New clarifying language is provided for provisory status.
* Language removed about member being unable to participate “in any activity outside of her home.” A member may be able to leave her home for medical appointments and treatments but is unable to participate in chapter meetings.

10. Amendment # 10- New Members and Transferring Members Unable to Hold Office Their First Year

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Recommend Adoption

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Recommend Adoption

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* New and transferring members must participate in a mentoring program. They may not hold office during their one-year development period.

11. Amendment #11- Boundary Change Decision(s)

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Recommend Adoption

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Recommend Adoption

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* The business related to boundary changes is not made at Area Conferences but must first be approved by the Area Executive Committee and Executive Council as provided in the Manual of Procedures.

12. Amendment # 12- Chapters that Induct Members outside their Boundaries

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption not recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption not recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* The Bylaws of the Links, Incorporated and the Manual of Procedures already address this and are clear that chapters that induct members outside of their locality will be sanctioned.

13. Amendment # 13- Electronic Meetings

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption not recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption not recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* By virtue of a member’s participation in an electronic meeting, the member is agreeing to the meeting being recorded without notice to the member or her express consent.

14. Amendment # 14- Virtual Meetings

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption not recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption not recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* While regular meetings are face to face, this gives the Chapter President discretion to conduct two-chapter meetings per program year virtually **And**, in the event of inclement weather, disasters, or security/safety risks, to conduct meetings virtually.
* National asserts friendship is strengthened through face-to-face contact and that amendment is not necessary as Article II, Chap. Sec 3C of National Bylaws permits virtual meetings upon approval by Executive Council when exigent circumstances arise.

15. Amendment # 15- Eastern Area: states are listed to include London, United Kingdom

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* London, United Kingdom became a part of the Eastern Region in 2016

16. Amendment # 16- Area Representative to the Links Foundation, Inc.

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption not recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption not recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* Amendment imposes the requirement the representative have served as a Chapter officer. This restriction would narrow the pool of members eligible, and prevent the highly accomplished members from lending their talents to the position of Area Foundation Representative.

17. Amendment # 17-The President is Ex-Officio Member of all Committees, except Nominating and Audit Committee

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* The President is an ex-officio member of all committees except **Nominating** and **Audit** Committees. The Amendment strikes *Program Awards Committee* and adds Audit Committee.

18. Amendment # 18- The Area Director is Ex-Officio Member of all Committees, except Nominating and Audit Committee

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* The Area Director is an ex-officio member of all committees except **Nominating** and **Audit** Committees. The Amendment strikes *Ethics and Standards* *Committee* and adds Audit Committee.

19. Amendment # 19- Voting Procedures for Election Committee

The Election Committee shall develop voting procedures and make all preparations for balloting. No substantive change; only change to section number from Section 14.F.1 to Section14.D.11.

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

20. Amendment # 20- Amend Article VII, Section 4 to strike “credential” and add “or Professional Registered Parliamentarian credentials”

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* The Links, Inc. recognizes the credentials of Registered Parliamentarians and Professional Registered Parliamentarians earned through the National Association of Parliamentarians

21. Amendment # 21-Duties of National Elected Officers

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* Duties of National President, etc. are delineated.

22. Amendment # 22- Allows the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to edit and make non-substantive changes to bylaws amendments it receives

In addition to making and receiving recommendations for amendments, the Committee will correct grammatical, typographical, punctuation and such other conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of The Links, Incorporated.

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* To empower the Committee to make editorial and non-substantive corrections to the Bylaws to reflect the intent of The Links, Incorporated.

23. Amendment # 23- The National Audit Committee shall be a Standing Committee

To add the National Audit Committee as a standing committee- Article IX. Section 13 (New)

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

24. Amendment # 24-The National Rituals Committee shall be a Standing Committee

To make the National Rituals Committee a standing committee. If approved, the Standing Committees list will need to be re-numbered.

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

25. Amendment # 25- All Dues and Assessments will be Paid Electronically to National Headquarters

**National Constitution and Bylaws Committee**— Adoption recommended

**Tacoma (WA) Bylaws Committee**: Adoption recommended

**National Assembly:**

Rationale:

* All Dues and Assessments will be paid electronically to National Headquarters by April 1st each year to codify and improve business operations.

Respectfully submitted,

The Tacoma (WA) Links Bylaws Committee 5.18.24

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