



Proposed Changes to AAUW Delaware Bylaws 2016

A Guide for Branches and Members

National Model State Bylaws

- Blue and black texts include provisions and language that are designed to apply to all states.
- Blue text shows mandatory changes from National
- Black text reflects suggested changes and language
- Black text is used as well for provisions and language that are found in our current bylaws.

Individualizing – Making the bylaws work for Delaware AAUW

- The model used parentheses to show places where states could make decisions about their own operations.
- An example is choosing how many officers to have on the Board, how they would be nominated and elected, the qualifications for an office, and timelines for selection.
- Where individual changes reflect choices we made for Delaware you will see green text.
- All green text items are in response to strategic questions the state model bylaws required state AAUW organizations to consider.

Major changes in the document

- More democratic composition of boards.
- An example would be for more officers to be elected than appointed.
 - Our Organization has 3 elected officers plus 6 directors who are presidents of the 6 Delaware AAUW branches, each of which has been elected by their own members.
 - Only two officers are appointed. The bylaws do not specify the duties of these officers so that different choices can be made on what positions are most needed.
 - A vacancy in the position of president must be filled through an election.

Major changes in the bylaws, continued

- Clarity around payment of dues.
 - National AAUW waives dues for Life and Fifty-Year members.
 - States may choose whether to waive dues or not for these members.
 - AAUW Delaware will not waive these dues.

Major changes in the bylaws, continued

- Better use of the bylaws vs. policies and procedures documents
 - Specific policies and procedural items are best captured in the policies and procedures documents where they can be changed more easily as needs evolve.
 - An example would how and when dues are paid, who does what and when. In the bylaws a simple statement could be something like “see the state policies and procedures for an explanation of dues payment procedures.”
 - Removing from the bylaws procedures which may require updating more often allows bylaws changes that require ratification by the entire membership to be less frequent.

Major changes in the bylaws, continued

- Simplification
 - A move from delegate voting to one person, one vote.
 - Deletion of the concept of a Leadership Team. The Board of Directors is small enough so that the Board itself can constitute state leadership. The three elected officers (president, finance officer and communications officer) comprise the Executive Committee.
 - The Board of Directors is allowed to propose and vote on changes to dues rather than bringing such proposed changes to the membership at the biennial conference.

Major changes in the bylaws, continued

- Timelines for the nominations, announcement and elections process.
- A nod to technology through allowing for electronic voting to occur when expedient, for example, confirmation of appointed directors.
- A move to a 7% quorum for allowing votes to be taken on proposed motions. Once a quorum is established a simple majority is needed to pass most motions and to elect officers. A two-thirds majority is required for changes to dues.

What Do We Anticipate for Future Changes?

We expect few changes in the next few years in terms of bylaws. We were given a model with a great deal of mandatory and suggested language and strategic questions which allowed us to make choices appropriate for our needs.

We think this watershed year has required us to do a lot, but we hope that future years will not be as effortful as this year.

Thank you so much for going through this demanding bylaws season with us.