

**Q. What is the purpose of the upcoming special meeting of the Women's Council Governing Board?**

**A.** To vote on proposed changes to our bylaws regarding the timeline of the election of officers. No other business will be conducted.

**Q. What, specifically, is being proposed?**

**A.** All proposed bylaws changes pertain to a shift in the timeline of the nominations and elections of incoming officers. Specifically, the Nominating Committee will announce the slate for the new term in November (instead of the subsequent May), and elections will occur during our May Midyear Meeting (instead of the subsequent November).

**Q. Does this change the actual term of office for any of the elected positions?**

**A.** No. There is no change to the term of office. Terms begin on the Tuesday immediately following the conclusion of the NAR Annual Convention.

**Q. Why is this change being proposed?**

**A.** Under our current system, the Treasurer assumes office almost immediately upon election, thereby giving little opportunity to prepare. This individual is also excluded from the strategic planning and committee appointment processes, along with the Leadership Academy — all of which take place the summer prior to her or his election. By formally electing the officers in May, the group has a chance to form a cohesive leadership team prior to officially assuming their new positions in November.

**Q. Why is a special meeting required?**

**A.** To implement the change for the 2018 elections, the Governing Board must take action prior to the November meeting of the Nominations Committee. Such a special meeting, with voting conducted electronically, is allowed for within our bylaws, confirmed by legal counsel. Absent a special meeting, the benefits from the shift would not be realized until 2019.

**Q. What is the practical impact for the upcoming National Conference?**

**A.** If the proposed change is approved during the special meeting in September, we will hold the regularly scheduled meeting to elect 2018 officers, *and members of the 2018 Nominating Committee*, on 11/3. The newly-elected 2018 Nominating Committee will convene the following day\* (11/4) to create a slate for the 2019 officers (for whom elections will take place in May of 2018, with the elected officers assuming their positions in November of 2018).

*\*The instance of the just-elected Nominating Committee convening to create the slate of nominees is a one-time occurrence. Going forward, there will be, once again, several months between their election and their development of a nominee slate.*

**Q. What is the practical impact on the election of the Treasurer?**

**A.** If the timeline change is approved in September by the Governing Board, individuals interested in a line officer position for 2019 will need to come forward in an accelerated manner and prepare to begin their campaign efforts right after the November 4, 2017 Nominating Committee meeting, in preparation for the May 2018 election, as the timeframe for the campaigns will be reduced if the bylaws change is executed in 2017.

**Q. Aside from the line officers (Treasurer, First Vice President and President-elect), what other positions will be elected earlier?**

**A.** Also elected will be Regional VPs and members of the 2018 Nominating Committee. This is not a change, but rather the standard procedure.

**Q. How will the vote be facilitated?**

**A.** The National Council will use its existing teleconferencing service and Governing Board members will dial in to participate. President Sherri Souza will moderate the meeting. Any member will have the ability to virtually “raise their hand” to ask a question. All participating members will hear all questions and responses. Following discussion, a single vote\* will be taken electronically (using a mechanism included in our teleconferencing service) and the results announced immediately. Two-thirds of the quorum is required for passage. A quorum is 25 persons.

*\*Expect 6-8 amendments to be covered in a single motion; all of which are required to update multiple references to the election timeline.*

**Q. What is the associated cost for this meeting?**

**A.** A virtual meeting was planned to avoid the cost of flying in 100 members for a single item of business. As we will use an existing service provided for in our operational budget, there is no direct cost associated with facilitating the vote via teleconference.

**Q. Why was this not part of the bylaws changes made in 2016?**

**A.** Recent changes to the bylaws all pertained to the Chapter to Network project. This is an unrelated item, raised by the current leadership team and supported by the Executive Committee. Council bylaws are a living document and are regularly updated to reflect organizational growth and changes.

**Q. How does this impact potential national officer candidates for 2019?**

**A.** Candidate applications will need to be received by National by October 15, 2017 to schedule Nominating Committee interviews on November 4, 2017. It is suggested that candidate election campaigns start November 5, 2017, and that regional and state meeting campaign travel be scheduled as soon as possible after November 4, 2017.