

# **MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION BYLAWS**

Revised 2022

## **AMENDMENT HISTORY**

### **ARTICLE I. NAME AND NATURE**

Section 1. Name

Section 2. Nature

Section 3. Tax status

### **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

### **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership and Subscribers

Section 2. Application to Membership

Section 3. Privileges of Members

Section 4. Dues

Section 5. Terms of Membership

Section 6. Resignations or Removal of Members

### **ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. Officers

Section 2. Executive Board

Section 3. Election of Officers

Section 4. Terms of Office

Section 5. Compensation

Section 6. Resignation of Officers

Section 7. Additional Officers

Section 8. Committees

### **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

Section 1. Frequency of meetings

Section 2. Form of the annual meeting

Section 3. Additional meetings

Section 4. Notice of meetings

### **ARTICLE VI. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

### **ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Proposal of Amendments

Section 2. Discussion of Amendments

Section 3. Adoption of Amendments

Section 4. Effective Date of Amendments

## **AMENDMENT HISTORY**

- October 25, 2021 (e-voting)
- October 8, 2020 (e-voting)
- November 16, 2016 (e-voting)
- November 20, 2015 (MELA Annual Meeting)
- January 20, 2013 (e-voting)
- November 16, 2012 (MELA Annual Meeting)
- November 16, 2007 (MELA Annual Meeting)

## **ARTICLE I. NAME AND NATURE**

### **Section 1. Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Middle East Librarians Association.

### **Section 2. Nature**

The Association shall be a private non-profit organization of librarians, archivists, and other information specialists interested in those aspects of librarianship which support the study of or dissemination of information about the Middle East, and the preservation of Middle East materials. The area signified shall be considered to include those countries from Morocco through Pakistan as well as other areas formerly included in the Arab, Ottoman or Mughal empires.

### **Section 3. Tax status**

- A. MELA is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- B. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

It shall be the purpose of the Middle East Librarians Association to facilitate communication among Members through meetings, the MELA Listserv, and publications, to improve the quality of area librarianship through development of standards for the profession and education of Middle East library specialists, to compile and disseminate information concerning Middle East libraries and collections and to represent the judgment of the Members in matters affecting them, to encourage cooperation among Members and Middle East Libraries, especially in the acquisition of materials and the development of bibliographic control, to cooperate with other library and area organizations in projects of mutual concern and benefit, to promote diversity, inclusion, and the integration of Middle East librarians within the broader library profession, to promote research in and development of indexing and automated techniques as applied to Middle East materials

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Membership and Subscribers**

- A. Any person who is currently employed at or has retired from an institution to service Middle East library materials in a professional capacity (selection, acquisition, collection development and assessment, cataloging, reference work, administration, and/or preparation of research tools) or any person interested in Middle East library materials shall be eligible for Membership.
- B. Organizations and institutions may subscribe to [MELA Notes](#), the official publication of the Association.

### **Section 2. Application to Membership**

Prospective members shall apply for Membership to the Secretary-Treasurer. Membership becomes active upon payment of dues.

### **Section 3. Privileges of Members**

- A. Members may attend all meetings of the Association, including the Annual Meeting, and participate in discussions and programs. Members may attend committee meetings not designated as closed. Only Committee Members may vote in committee deliberations. Members in good standing shall be eligible to serve on committees
- B. Members shall be entitled to receive or have access to all correspondence and publications of the Association, including:
  - 1. Minutes of meetings
  - 2. Notice of meetings
  - 3. Agenda of meetings

4. Roster of Members and Committee Members
5. Bylaws and amendments
6. MELA Notes
7. Subscription to MELANET-L listserv

C. Members who have paid their annual dues are considered to be in good standing. They may serve on committees, as officers of the Association (Executive Board) and vote in elections and meetings.

D. Members elected on the Executive Board or serving on a Committee commit to fulfill the duties of the position.

#### **Section 4. Dues**

Members may be required to pay such annual dues as voted by a simple majority of the Members present at the Annual Meeting. Retirees may pay dues at half the rate of other members. Dues must be paid in U.S. currency by any means approved by the Executive Board. Notice for payment of dues will be sent to the membership thirty days before the annual meeting.

#### **Section 5. Terms of Membership**

All Members, including Retirees and Students, may be required to pay such registration fee as determined by the VP/Program Chair and Secretary-Treasurer and approved by the Executive Board. Registration fees can be adjusted by a simple vote of the Executive Board when necessary. The registration fee must be paid in U.S. currency by any means approved by the Executive Board. Notice for payment of registration fees shall be sent to the membership prior to the annual meeting.

#### **Section 6. Resignations or Removal of Members**

- A. Any member may resign at any time, forfeiting dues paid for the balance of the year.
- B. A Membership may be revoked by:
  1. A majority vote of the Members present at any business session, in which case dues would be returned.
  2. The Secretary-Treasurer if the Member is more than twelve months in arrears of dues.
- C. Any Member who has resigned from or has been removed from Membership and whose dues are in arrears and has continued to receive the benefits of Membership shall pay their back dues before being reinstated as a Member.

### **ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION**

#### **Section 1. Officers**

The officers of the Association shall consist of the following:

A. President, whose duties shall include:

1. Operating and managing the association in accordance with its Bylaws and governing documents
2. Chairing the meetings of the Association and Executive Board
3. Setting and distributing agendas for Executive Board meetings and the Annual Business Meeting
4. Appointing members of the Association to fill vacancies in the membership of the Executive Board and MELA committees in consultation with the Executive Board
5. Presenting an Annual Report to the Association at the Annual Business Meeting detailing activities of the Association and Executive Board
6. Providing timely input and advice on issues, proposals and activities brought to, and developed by, the Executive Board and committees
7. Promoting the activities and mission of MELA to its members and to other organizations
8. Acting as the point of contact for MELA, especially in the event of a crisis, being the first official spokesperson for MELA, representing the Association on appropriate occasions or in correspondence as necessary
  - a Specifically, this includes attending the Middle East Studies Association's "Affiliated Associations Officers Meeting."

B. Vice-President/President-Elect, whose duties shall include:

1. Forming the Programming Committee as specified in [Article IV Section 8. I of the Bylaws](#)
2. Developing the program theme, writing the formal call for papers, and ensuring its wide circulation at least 120 days in advance
3. In the event of an in-person meeting, securing the meeting location(s)
4. Developing the MELA annual meeting schedule including all sessions, business meeting, committee meetings, and vendors showcase as well as their locations and time
5. Working with the Secretary/Treasurer and getting Executive Board approval to establish the registration fee for the MELA annual meeting
6. Working with the Secretary/Treasurer to contact donors to help underwrite the cost of the meeting
7. Working with the Webmaster to publish and update website information about the program, registration, accommodations, etc. related to the MELA meeting
8. Notifying all Members of the date, time, place, and agenda for all meetings of the Association

9. Sending MELA meeting information to MESA for inclusion in the MESA program bulletin
10. Overseeing catering arrangements for breaks and lunch, as needed
11. Determining business meeting packet order, program handouts: agenda, site related handouts, maps, etc. and obtain all available handouts to copy
12. Confirming any technology needs and arrangements
13. Chairing the Program portion of the annual meeting
15. Chairing the Programming Committee only. To comply with [Article IV, Section 8. I of these Bylaws](#), the Vice-President will be required to resign from any other committee Chairship
16. Chairing the meetings of the Association in the absence of the President
17. Carrying out other duties as delegated by the President

C. Past President, whose duties shall include:

1. Serving as member on the Executive Board
2. Chairing of the [George N. Atiyeh Prize Committee](#)

D. Past-past President, whose duties shall include:

1. Serving as member on the Executive Board
2. Chairing the Leslie M. Wilkins Award Committee

E. Secretary-Treasurer, whose duties shall include:

1. Recording and submitting to all Members, by submission to [MELANET-L](#) or for publication in [MELA Notes](#), the minutes of the Annual Meeting and any other meeting of the membership or of the Executive Board
2. Managing the budget and finances of the association in consultation with Executive Board members
3. Maintaining membership database and roster to be used as the basis for membership directory, e-voting ballots, and other functions as needed by the association
4. Carrying on the correspondence of the Association excepting that requiring the signature of the President
5. Working with the Vice-President/Program Chair and getting Executive Board approval to establish the registration fee for the MELA annual meeting, and collecting registration fee from registered attendees
6. Collecting from each Member the dues as voted by the membership and notifying Members in arrears

7. Revoking the Membership of any Member more than twelve months in arrears of dues
8. Paying all invoices charged to the Association
9. Submitting annually an account of the finances of the Association, either at the annual meeting or by mail, to all Members
10. Collecting the revenues from non-Member subscribers to the publications of the Association
11. Maintaining subscription files to the publications of the Association
12. Chairing the Finance Committee when convened by the President as needed to review financial matters.

F. Editor, whose duties shall include:

1. Gathering and disseminating news of Members and news of interest to Members
2. Selecting articles of interest to Members submitted by Members or others
3. Editing and publishing the aforementioned items and articles at least annually in [MELA Notes](#)
4. Editing book reviews prior to their publication in [MELA Notes](#) and submitting them to the webmaster for publication in [MELA Notepad](#)

G. MELA Listserv Manager [a.k.a. List Owner], whose duties shall include:

1. Managing MELA Listservs ([MELANET-L](#), Middle East Book Vendors, and [MELA DSIG discussion list](#)) and their archives when applicable and assisting in management of the cataloging listerv ([MIDEASTCAT cataloging List](#)) when needed
2. Setting policies for the lists in consultation with the Executive Board and membership and sending periodic reminders of list guidelines to subscribers
3. Deciding how the lists are managed in consultation with the Executive Board
4. Reporting annually to the Executive Board and membership

H. MELA Webmaster whose duties shall include:

1. Administering [MELA website](#)'s front-end interface, back-end hosting, and cyber security
2. Updating the information content of the MELA website
3. Taking editorial responsibility for the content, quality, and aesthetic of the site
4. Serving as backup to the MELA List Manager
5. Reporting annually to the Executive Board and membership
6. Chairing the Web and Social Media Committee

7. When needed, designate a suitable backup from another member of the Executive Board

I. Members at Large (three) whose duties shall include:

1. Representing the membership in Executive Board decisions
2. The two non-senior Members-at-Large serve as ex-officio members on remaining committees that do not already have members of the Executive Board as their chairs, dividing these committees based on recommendation of the president in consultation with the Members-at-Large. Ex-officio responsibilities include communicating with their committees and acting as liaison to the Executive Board.
3. Senior MAL serves as chair of the Bylaws Committee when convened by the President as needed to review or correct MELA Bylaws.
4. Carrying out other duties as required by the Executive Board
5. If the Bylaws Committee is not charged with amendments, the senior MAL will also take on ex-officio responsibilities to the committees.
6. MAL ex-officio terms for each committee are one year.

## **Section 2. Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President/President-Elect, Past President, Past Past President, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor, three Members at large elected from the Membership, the Listserv Manager, and the Webmaster. It shall meet prior to each business meeting of the Association to prepare the agenda and act on any necessary business midterm during the fiscal year and at any other time at the call of the President or by a majority of members of the Executive Board. Such meetings shall be called by the President and may be in person or online. Two thirds of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Board shall appoint the chair to all committees not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws. The chair will then choose the committee membership with the approval of the Executive Board.

## **Section 3. Election of Officers**

Offices available for election must be announced by the Nominating Committee at least 90 days before each annual meeting. The final slate must be announced 60 days prior to the annual business meeting. Nominations and self-nominations from the membership will be accepted until the announcement of the final slate. Nominees shall be selected from among members with good standing. Election to all Offices shall commence at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting and conclude 7 days before the meeting. Ballots must be time-stamped, postmarked, or otherwise dated at least 7 days before the meeting. Position announcements, nominations, and elections shall be held by electronic and/or regular mail. The election shall be by secret ballot. Members



may choose to vote for write-in candidates. Ballots will be preserved for a period of sixty days to allow for a recount if called for. After this period, ballots will be destroyed. The nomination and election process shall be conducted by the Nominating Committee, as stipulated in [Article IV, Section 8, B](#).

#### **Section 4. Terms of Office**

The President shall serve for one year and then become the Past President for two years (the second year is considered Past Past President). The Vice-President/President-Elect shall serve for one year and then become the President. The Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor, the Listserv Manager and the Webmaster shall each serve for terms of three years and may serve for an unlimited number of three-year terms. The three Members-at-Large of the Executive Board shall serve for three years with one being elected at each annual meeting. During their terms of office, the officers listed above shall constitute the Executive Board.

#### **Section 5. Compensation**

Officers serving voluntarily shall not receive compensation for their services. They may request from the Secretary-Treasurer reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the Association. The Secretary-Treasurer may approve amounts up to \$100. Expenses beyond that amount must be approved by the Executive Board.

#### **Section 6. Resignation of Officers**

Any Officer may resign at any time. The Executive Board may appoint any Member in good standing to serve the remaining portion of a vacant term. If a vacancy occurs in the Office of the President, the Vice-president/President-Elect will assume the office of the President immediately and serve the unfilled portion of the vacated term. The vacancy in the Vice-president/President Elect's position will be filled by the appointment of an interim Vice-president who shall serve until a new Vice-President/President-Elect is elected. This appointment will be made by the Executive Board. The nominating committee shall organize the election of the new Vice-President/President-Elect within 60 days of the resignation.

#### **Section 7. Additional Officers**

A majority of members may elect such additional officers or appoint such agents or employees, and determine their term of office and compensation, if any, as they may deem advisable

#### **Section 8. Committees**

All committees shall be formed and approved by the Executive Board. Specific terms of service are defined for each committee; otherwise, the terms are as described in Section 8.E.

##### **A. Ad hoc Committees**

## 1. Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee is convened by the current MELA President in order to revise the Bylaws. It is chaired by the senior Member-at-Large, who chooses the members of the committee with approval of the Executive Board. There will be two to four members, in addition to the Chair. Each member will have one vote, except the chair who will vote only in the event of a tie.

- a. The term of office must begin no later than 90 days before the next annual conference and ends at the conclusion of the Business Meeting. The committee will propose amendments to the Bylaws as they see fit. Each amendment must be approved by a majority of the committee.
- b. Once all the proposed amendments to the Bylaws have been completed and approved by the committee, they shall be submitted to the Executive Board for review and approval. Once approved by the EB, the amendments should be made available to the membership for comment. This should happen at least 90 days prior to the next annual meeting.

C. Amendments to the current Bylaws will be accepted or rejected by majority vote of the membership. Voting will be done electronically. A simple majority of votes cast is needed for an amendment to pass. Balloting will be administered by the Bylaws Committee. A minimum of 30 days and a maximum of 40 days will be allowed for voting by the members, with the voting completed 60 days before the annual meeting. The results will be reported to the Executive Board, who will make them known to the membership through the MELA website. See also [Article VII below](#).

## 2. Finance Committee

The committee is convened by the current MELA President in order to review MELA financial matters and make recommendations to the Executive Board. It is chaired by the Secretary-Treasurer, who chooses the members of the committee (at least 2) with the approval of the Executive Board.

- a. The term of office must begin no later than 90 days before the next annual conference and ends at the conclusion of the Business Meeting.
- b. The committee will present its recommendations to the Executive Board no later than 30 days before the Business Meeting.

## B. Standing Committees

### 1. Committee on Cataloguing

The [Committee on Cataloguing](#) shall be a permanent standing committee to identify and consider cataloging issues, to make recommendations, to provide training and support via workshops and online documents, and to cooperate with other institutions and bodies on matters related to descriptive cataloging and subject cataloging, classification, and content designation of materials from and about the Middle East. The Committee Membership shall consist of five to seven members with the appropriate level of technical expertise and skills, among whom are the liaison to CC:AAM (ALA's Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials), a voting member, and the LC ex-officio liaison, a non-voting member. The Chair of the Committee shall be either nominated by the current chair or self-nominated and approved by the committee membership.

## 2. The Endangered Libraries and Archives Committee (ELAC)

The [Endangered Libraries and Archives Committee \(ELAC\)](#) is charged with raising awareness, providing education about, and advocating for shared standards and disaster preparedness for libraries and archives in the Middle East. It will seek out cooperative and collaborative arrangements with librarians, scholarly groups, and libraries in the Middle East to encourage training, the building of region-wide library and expert networks, the designing of prevention plans, and the formation of immediate response projects. The chair is appointed by the MELA President and Executive Board. With the approval of the MELA President and Executive Board, there may be a co-chair. The chair/co-chairs are expected to guide the Committee and to work with the members to develop necessary project plans and meeting agendas. The chair/co-chairs shall serve as chairs for only ELAC during their term of service, as stipulated in the MELA Bylaws. The Committee shall consist of up to five additional MELA members in good standing, appointed by the Executive Board. The names and terms of office for each Committee member, including the chair/co-chairs, shall be posted on the MELA website, in accordance with the MELA Bylaws.

## 3. The Education Committee

The [Education Committee](#) shall be a permanent standing committee to further the initial and ongoing training of Middle East area studies librarians by providing, in collaboration with library science and other faculty, learning opportunities in varied formats including workshops, special courses, or distance learning. The Education Committee offers a [Mentorship Program](#) open to all MELA members supporting successful career development in Middle East Librarianship. The Committee Membership shall consist of a Chair appointed by the MELA President and Executive Board and up to five additional Members, appointed by the Executive Board.

## 4. Nominating Committee

The [Nominating Committee](#) is a permanent standing committee charged by the President to oversee the election process. It is constituted of the Chair and a maximum of four and minimum of two members. The Chair is chosen by the President and the members are chosen by the Chair and approved by the Executive Board. The chair and Committee members may serve for one year. The Committee assembles a slate of candidates for any open Executive Board positions. These candidates shall be presented to the membership at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting. The Committee then conducts the election by electronic means, and posts the results on the [MELA website](#).

#### 5. Programming Committee

The [Programming Committee](#) shall be a permanent standing committee, composed of the Vice-President/President-Elect, as chair, and at least two members appointed for a term of one year by the Vice-President/President-Elect after deliberation with the Executive Board. The Committee members shall be appointed every year during the annual business meeting. Duties of the Committee include assisting the Vice-President in writing the CfP, and responding to conference proposals 90 days in advance of the conference.

#### 6. Web and Social Media Committee

The [Web and Social Media Committee](#) shall be a permanent standing committee to administer MELA's social media platforms. It shall be composed of the Chair (Webmaster), one standing member (MELA Listserv Manager), and a minimum of two and maximum of three other Members. The Members are chosen by the Chair and approved by the Executive Board.

### C. Awards Committees

#### 1. The George N. Atiyeh Prize Committee

The [George N. Atiyeh Prize Committee](#) shall be a permanent standing committee to select annually suitable candidates among library science students who apply for the Award. Underrepresented groups in librarianship are strongly encouraged to apply. The award provides financial assistance to attend the MELA and MESA Annual Meetings. The George N. Atiyeh Prize Committee shall be chaired by the Past President. Members of the committee (two other MELA members) shall be appointed by the Past President as Chair and approved by the Executive Board within three months following the conclusion of the annual meeting. The call for applications shall be circulated in the Spring, and award recipients notified at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting. The George N. Atiyeh Prize Committee membership shall be constituted as a one-year commitment, and members may serve no more than two terms in succession.

## 2. The M. Lesley Wilkins Award Committee

The [M. Lesley Wilkins Education Award Committee](#) shall be a permanent standing committee to select in alternance with the David H. Partington Award an early-career professional to receive a cash prize to facilitate either travel to the annual MELA meeting or a mentoring visit to another library for professional development. Members of the committee shall consist of three MELA members appointed by the MELA President for a one-year term. The Past Past President will serve as Chair of the committee

## 3. The David H. Partington Award Committee

The [David H. Partington Award Committee](#) shall be a permanent standing committee to select in alternance with the E. M. Lesley Wilkins Education Award a current or former Member to receive this citation for outstanding service to the profession and/or Middle East bibliography. The award provides a cash award and the name of the recipient engraved on a trophy/plaque which circulates with each annual meeting. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the MELA President and the Executive Board and shall consist of two MELA members, plus one member of MESA, appointed for a one-year term. The senior MELA member will serve as Chair of the committee.

## D. Other Committees

The Executive Board, in session or by correspondence, or the Members in any business session, may constitute such other committees with such functions, powers and duties as the constituting body shall provide. Each such committee shall enact rules and regulations for its governance, which will include the number of members and terms of service. The Chair of each committee shall post these rules and regulations on the [MELA website](#).

## E. Committee Terms of Service

1. The chairs of all committees, both Standing and those convened by the Executive Board, shall serve for a one-year term, and one year as past chair (as committee member), unless otherwise stipulated elsewhere in the Bylaws
2. Committee chairs may chair only one committee at a time
3. Members shall serve for a two-year term unless they are elected/appointed chair, in which case they could serve for a third year as past chair (committee member)
4. Members may serve on no more than two committees simultaneously
5. Members may serve on a committee for no longer than two consecutive terms, a maximum of four years
6. These terms of service are applicable unless a different term is stipulated elsewhere in the Bylaws

## F. Committee Regulations

1. The names of the Members of each committee and the terms of office shall be posted on the website. This information shall be updated yearly within two months following the annual meeting.
2. Each Committee shall present a report approved by the membership at the annual meeting, and the report shall be published in [\*MELA Notes\*](#).

## ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

### Section 1. Frequency of meetings

The Members shall meet at least once each year at such places and times as designed by the Executive Board. If possible, the annual meeting shall directly precede the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Inc., and be collocated with that meeting.

### Section 2. Form of the annual meeting

The annual meeting shall normally consist of a business session, a program, discussion groups, and a vendors showcase.

#### 1. Business Session

The business session shall be chaired by the President, or the Vice-President/President-Elect in the absence of the former. All Members of the Association present at the annual meeting shall constitute a quorum. Other observers may attend this session but may not vote in the business session.

#### 2. Program

The program shall be chaired by the Vice-President/President-Elect, or any Member of the Programming Committee in the absence of the former. The program shall be open to all interested persons.

#### 3. Discussion Groups

Discussion groups may be scheduled at the time of the annual meeting whenever a topic meriting discussion by the members is proposed by the Executive Board or by petition to the Executive Board by five or more Members. Such discussion groups will be open to all interested parties, Members and non-Members, unless otherwise designated.

#### 4. Vendors showcase

The vendors showcase shall be organized and convened by the Secretary-Treasurer. It gives vendors of Middle Eastern materials an opportunity to present to the membership their products and services. The vendors showcase shall be open to all interested persons.

### **Section 3. Additional meetings**

If necessary, additional meetings may be held on dates and at places determined by the Executive Board

### **Section 4. Notice of meetings**

Notices of all meetings shall be sent to all Members via electronic mail at least 120 days prior to meetings

## **ARTICLE VI. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

The conduct of all meetings shall be governed by [Robert's Rules of Order, revised.](#)

## **ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1. Proposal of Amendments**

Amendments of these by-laws may be proposed by:

- A. The Executive Board in session or by correspondence
- B. Petition signed by one-fifth of all the Members
- C. The Bylaws Committee as convened by the President

### **Section 2. Discussion of Amendments**

Discussion may be conducted electronically via the [MELANET discussion list.](#)

### **Section 3. Adoption of Amendments**

After discussion, all proposed amendments must be submitted to the Members for approval. They shall be considered adopted if a simple majority of the Membership approves on a ballot, submitted via electronic voting. A majority of votes cast by ballots returned by the designated date will carry.

### **Section 4. Effective Date of Amendments**

Amendments shall become effective immediately upon adoption by vote of the membership, Amendments affecting terms of office shall not take effect until after the election following their passage, unless otherwise provided for at the time of voting.