

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

Bylaws Committee

April 2020

The following changes to the Humanists of Minnesota Bylaws are being proposed. References are made to the current Bylaws (C) and to the proposed Bylaws (P). Minor formatting and punctuation changes will also be made.

1. Article II: This article has been retitled “Principles, Mission, and Purposes.”

2. Article II, Section 2 and 3: Section 2 (P) is as follows:

Section 2. Mission of the Corporation: Humanists of Minnesota is a secular community that promotes ethical living, widespread human flourishing, and a healthy planet through its commitment to science, reason, compassion, and creativity.

Section 3. Section 2 (C) is now Section 3 (P), being introduced as follows: Purposes of the Corporation. The Corporation’s mission is further elaborated and pursued by means of the following purposes:

- a. Offer a caring community to humanists and other nontheists;
- b. Advocate for laws and policies that reflect humanist values, including those that help people in need and promote a healthy planet;
- c. Advocate for separation of religion and government;
- d. Promote and offer opportunities for community service;
- e. Educate the public about humanist worldviews, including the importance of science, reason, and critical thinking;
- f. Cultivate personal growth and ethical decision making.

3. Article III, Section 1: The second sentence has been restated as: Membership implies agreement with the Principles, Mission, and Purposes of the Corporation.

4. Article V, Section 1: The parenthetical “(aka Community Gatherings)” has been added in the first sentence, after “Chapter Meetings.”

5. Article VI, Section 1b: This section has been restated as: It shall be the duty of this Committee to organize elections and to nominate candidates for the offices and the Board to be elected at the Annual Meeting in May. All nominees must be members in good standing of the Corporation. The Nominating Committee may nominate more than one candidate for any position. Before reporting their nominations at a Special Meeting in April, the Nominating Committee will notify current Board members of their intended nominations, allowing them up

to seven days to comment on the nominations. Additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted at the Special Meeting in April, at the end of which nominations will be closed. The names of all nominees to all offices and a brief background of each candidate shall be published in the May edition of the Corporation newsletter.

6. Article VII, Section 4: A record-keeping responsibility of the president has been transferred to the secretary. Thus, Section 4c (C) is now Section 6f (P).

7. Article VII, Section 6: In addition to the new record-keeping responsibility in Section 6f (P), noted in #6 above, Section 6d (C) is now 6c (P), Section 6c (C) is now 6d (P), and the following responsibility has been added as Section 6e (P): maintain, update, and renew, as necessary, documents regarding state and federal corporate regulatory requirements. Section 6g (P) adds an additional responsibility: amend state and federal corporate filings to designate the Secretary's home address as the registered office of the Corporation.

8. Article VII, Section 7: The following changes to this section are proposed:

- An additional responsibility of the treasurer has been added as Section 7a (P): within three months after being elected and with the assistance of a person appointed by the President, verify the accuracy of the Corporation's balance sheet by confirming the values of stated assets and identifying all liabilities, and submit a signed report of this audit to the Board;
- As well as relettering subsequent subsections, Section 7e (C) has been restated as 7f (P): chair the Finance Committee.
- Budget responsibilities have been consolidated in Section 7g(P): prepare an annual budget, present it to the Board, publish the approved budget in the Corporation's newsletter, and present this budget to the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting;
- Section 7h (P) acknowledges an existing responsibility of the Treasurer: prepare and submit all tax documents required by state and federal authorities.

9. Article XI, Section 1: This section has been amended to clarify several points: in the first sentence, that a group consisting of at least five members of the Corporation can propose amendments; and in the second sentence, that the Board will review proposed amendments and can suggest changes to the proposers, but that the Board cannot keep proposed amendments from being submitted to the membership for a vote.

10. The contents of Attachments I and II have been updated to reflect the current contents of the referenced documents.