

# Proposed Bylaw Changes for Section 8.3

*As per indicated in the ISO of COSA Bylaws:*

## **Original Version**

# **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS**

## *8.1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES*

Except as expressly provided otherwise in these Bylaws, these Bylaws may be repealed or amended by, and new Bylaws not in conflict with these Bylaws hereof may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Trustees in office. The proposed amendments must be published to the delegates at least one (1) month prior to the annual meeting. Bylaws shall be amended at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees. Adopted changes or additions in Bylaws shall be ratified by a majority of delegates and the Trustees at the Annual Meeting.

*and*

## **Original Version**

3.3 TENURE A member group shall retain ISO membership until it shall voluntarily withdraw its affiliation with ISO, or as long as it shall remain a COSA group.

*The following shows the original version and proposed versions with changes highlighted. The areas highlighted in yellow were proposed by Amy S. and Sarah D. The board has proposed a friendly amendment highlighted in cyan. The board voted to approve and now brings these proposals to the delegates.*

## **Original Version**

8.3 STEPS, TRADITIONS, AND CONCEPTS In order to change the wording of any of the Steps, Traditions, or Concepts the following procedure will be followed: (Section Added in May 2011)

- a) A registered group (s) sends the suggested change(s) to the Board of Trustees in the form of a Proposal complete with “pro” statements.
- b) The Board of Trustees finds a registered group(s) to write a “con” statement.

c) The Board of Trustees sends out the proposed change(s) together with both the “pro and con” statements to all registered groups.

d) The Proposal passes when three-fourths (3/4) of the **registered** groups approve the proposed change(s) in **writing** to the Board of Trustees within a six (6) month time frame beginning with the date of mail-out.

e) Any approved change(s) will become effective at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees after the certification of the vote by the Executive Committee.

## **Proposed Version**

### **Section 8.3**

d) The Proposal passes when three-fourths (3/4) of the **responding** groups approve the proposed change(s) in writing to the Board of Trustees within a six (6) month time frame beginning with the date of attempted contact by **post, email, or telephone** and ending with the announced close of the voting period.

## **Proposed Version with friendly amendment by the Board**

### **Section 8.3**

d) The Proposal passes when three-fourths (3/4) of the **responding** groups approve the proposed change(s) in writing to the Board of Trustees within a six (6) month time frame beginning with the date of attempted contact by writing **or email** and ending with the announced close of the voting period.

**Rationale:** As the Bylaws are currently written, Sections 3.3 and 8.3 combine to create a situation in which meetings no longer in existence are never removed from the rolls, and yet are required to be counted in any poll of the membership that would affect changes to the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. Assuming that the Board would find it onerous and impractical to conduct a regular census of active meetings, we (Amy S. and Sarah D.) ask that the Board replace the word "registered" with "responding" in section 8.3 (change highlighted words for clarity).

We believe that the original intent of this section regarding updates or changes to the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts was to create a high bar, but not an impossible one. As

we've seen in the past, even something as simple as a grammatical or punctuation change has no actual chance of passing this process. Updating the language of this section of the Bylaws (or alternatively committing to a regular, perhaps yearly census to determine which groups are still in existence) would allow COSA a reasonable path to correction of errors or consideration of updates.