

**National NASW Bylaws**

**PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT FORM**

**9/3/13**  
***CLEAN VERSION***

**Proposed Amendment Topic Summary**

At the close of the 2011 Delegate Assembly, one of the Emerging Issues forums requested that going forward, there be a review of the need to continue the Delegate Assembly structure. As a result, a Delegate Assembly Review Task Force was appointed by the President to make recommendations regarding the status of Delegate Assembly. After reviewing the issues, the Task Force produced a report in which it concluded that to improve the responsiveness and transparency of NASW governance mechanisms and to better utilize resources, the functions of Delegate Assembly could be more efficiently and effectively performed by the member-elected National Board of Directors and the appropriate Bylaws mandated committees. (Delegate Assembly Task Force Report-2013) The amendments proposed below, if adopted, will remove the provisions and references to “Delegate Assembly” contained in the NASW Bylaws and, as appropriate, transfer the functions to the NASW Board of Directors or to Bylaws mandated committees for performance of the designated duties. In order to accomplish this goal, each Bylaws amendment is identified separately for deletion or editing with the intention that the package of amendments be adopted to transfer the assignment of Delegate Assembly functions currently found in the NASW Bylaws.

**Check One:**

**Revision of existing Articles**

**Creation of a new Article**

**Submitted by:**

**NASW National Board Committee/Task Force**

**Date of Committee/Task Force vote: August 28, 2013**

**Key Contact Information:**

**Name:** Steve Karp, Executive Director, Connecticut Chapter  
Member – National Bylaws Committee; Delegate Assembly Review  
Task Force

**Email:** [skarp@naswct.net](mailto:skarp@naswct.net)

For each proposed bylaws amendment, please complete the following form. Completed forms should be submitted electronically by September 1 to [governance@naswdc.org](mailto:governance@naswdc.org).

1. If the proposal will require amendment of a current Article(s), list the Article(s) and full text:

- Article III**                      **Membership:** Delete Delegate Assembly and insert National Board of Directors as the body to create new classes of membership.
- Article IV**                      **Delegate Assembly:** Delete this Article in its entirety; transfer functions to other Articles.
- Article V**                        **Officers:** Delete the function of the President presiding over Delegate Assembly.
- Article VI**                      **Board of Directors:**  
A. Powers: Delete the reference to the Delegate Assembly as the basis for the policy and priority guidelines of the association.  
E. Duties: Transfer to the Board of Directors the duties previously assigned to the Delegate Assembly.
- Article VIII**                    **Nominations, Elections and Removal from Office:** Delete the sentence requiring Delegate Assembly review of the composition of regions every six years.
- Article XII**                    **Chapters:** Delete the reference to priorities set by Delegate Assembly.
- Article XV**                    **Amendments to Bylaws:** Delete the reference to the authority of Delegate Assembly to adopt Bylaws amendments related to Delegate Assembly and to the Chapter dues split.
- Article XVI**                    **Dues and Other Income:** Add two sentences providing that changes in the National/Chapter dues allocation requires approval by a majority of two thirds of the Chapter Boards of Directors voting on the proposed change.

2. Proposed Bylaws Amendment Text

- A. If amending *current* Article(s), copy the full text and use Track Changes to indicate proposed changes:

## **ARTICLE III -- MEMBERSHIP**

### A. Classes of Membership

There shall be three classes of membership in the association: regular members, associate members, and student members, as herein defined. Additional classes of membership in the association may be established by the y NASW Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE V -- OFFICERS**

### B. Duties

1. *President.* The President shall be the presiding officer of the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee and an *ex-officio* member of all committees and boards of related entities of the association; shall be available to consult with the staff on association matters between meetings of the Board of Directors; shall represent the Board of Directors between its meetings and shall report to the Board of Directors all important interim actions; shall, in consultation with the Board of Directors, appoint the chairpersons of all organizational units responsible to the Board of Directors whose selection is not otherwise specified in the bylaws; and shall appoint all personnel of all organizational units responsible to the Board of Directors whose selection is not otherwise specified in the bylaws, after consultation with the appropriate chairperson. Except with the approval of the Board of Directors, the President shall not appoint one person to more than one post.

## **ARTICLE VI — BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### A. Powers

The Board of Directors of the association shall exercise all the powers of the association, deciding on policy and priorities, policy implementation, and the equitable allocation of financial resources.

### E. Duties

In accordance with the broad policy and priority guidelines established by the Delegate Assembly, the Board of Directors shall be responsible for the following:

1. Taking final action on amendments to these bylaws

2. Taking final action on the Association's position on broad social and professional issues and social policy statements
3. Taking final action on the Association's program priority goals and the plan to implement them
4. Establishing professional standards for the field of social work
5. Approving a Code of Ethics which must be adhered to by members
6. determining, coordinating, and evaluating the program of the Association, including study of alternative program possibilities and establishment of preferential ratings of such alternatives to guide in the allotment of Association resources
7. establishing and disestablishing of national committees and task forces depending on the policy and priorities of the total Association, definition of their functions, and allocation of specific assignments
8. determining and administrating the policies and procedures for disposition of problems that may arise affecting local organizations representation of the Association in the community and maintenance of its relationship with other organizations
9. representing the Association in the community and maintenance of its relationship with other organizations
10. providing financial support for the Association, including the rendering of an annual accounting to members concerning sources and amount of income and nature and amount of expenditures
11. establishing membership policies and practices within the limits prescribed by these bylaws
12. approving personnel policies and practices of the Association within the limits prescribed by these bylaws
13. selecting and employing the Executive Director of the Association
14. providing at regular intervals for an evaluation and appraisal of operations in relation to fulfillment of Association goals
15. reviewing and resolving of intra-organizational issues and problems
16. all other business of the Association in the fulfillment of the association's purposes.

## **ARTICLE VIII – NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

### **A. Regions**

The Board of Directors of the association shall establish and revise as necessary 13 regions for the purpose of nomination and election of regional representatives to the Board of Directors and to the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification. So far as practical each region shall consist of contiguous chapters containing approximately an equal number of members.

## **ARTICLE XII — CHAPTERS**

### **G. Voluntary Regional Organization**

2. In accordance with the national Board's responsibility to ensure an equitable allocation of financial resources in keeping with the priorities of the Association , the Board is empowered to allocate funds for the purpose of encouraging chapters to form regional staffing units, meeting criteria established by the national Board to ensure an effective level of staff service.

## **ARTICLE XV — AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

Bylaws amendments shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors in attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting provided that such Bylaws amendments have been published and distributed to members and chapters at least 90 calendar days prior to meeting.

The Board of Directors, with a two-thirds vote, may determine the need for an emergency Bylaws amendment. Such amendments shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors in attendance at a properly scheduled meeting provided that the amendment has been published and distributed to members and chapters at least 30 calendar days prior to the meeting.

## **ARTICLE XVI — DUES AND OTHER INCOME**

- A.** The Board of Directors shall establish annual dues for members of the Association of which 50 percent is retained by the National Office and 50 percent shall be rebated to the Chapter. A change in the allocation of member dues to Chapters requires approval by a majority vote of two thirds of the Chapter Boards of Directors that return their results within a timeframe set by the national NASW Board of Directors of no less than (90) days, unless determined to be an emergency Bylaws amendment with thirty (30) calendar days' notice. The NASW Board of Directors will have final approval and shall report the outcome.