1990

SEAALL Bylaw Revision Materials, 1990

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February 26, 1990

Dear SEAALL Member:

Enclosed are proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws submitted by Pam Williams, Articles/Bylaws Committee Chair. In accordance with Article IV § 1 of the Bylaws, notice of the proposed changes are hereby given to all members. Balloting will take place at our annual meeting in Oxford.

These changes were sent to the Executive Board by our revered president, Marshal Wes(tlaw) Cochran. I have kept his comments (REASON) in the document so that everyone may better understand why changes are suggested.

Thank you for your consideration of the enclosed amendments. See you in Oxford!

Betty Kern
Secretary
A. Election of Treasurer - Amendment to Articles of Incorporation

ARTICLE III. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 2. Method of Election

The vice-president-president elect shall be elected by mail ballot in May of each year. The secretary-treasurer shall be elected by mail ballot in May of each even-numbered year. The secretary shall be elected by mail ballot in May of each odd-numbered year. The treasurer shall be elected by mail ballot in May of each odd-numbered year. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected. The membership is to be notified by the secretary of the outcome of the election by mail or at a meeting of the Chapter.

REASON: Staggering the election of the secretary and the treasurer creates more continuity on the Executive Committee.

B. Compliance with AALL - Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation

ARTICLE XIV. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Membership in the Chapter or participation in any activity of the Chapter shall not be denied to any individual, or abridged, on account of race, color, religion, sex or national origin or sexual orientation.

REASON: Under AALL Bylaws, each chapter must comply with AALL policies. The membership of AALL amended Article 9 of the Bylaws recently to prohibit discrimination on account of sexual orientation. To stay in compliance, our chapter must adopt a similar policy.

C. Student Members - Amendment to Bylaws

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

b. Student Members

Any person officially enrolled in an accredited graduate school of library science may become an active student member upon determination of eligibility by the Membership Committee.
c. Institutional Members

Any law library may become an institutional member upon payment of annual dues. The Executive Committee is empowered to determine whether the institution applying for membership is a law library. Such persons on the staff of an institutional member and for whom the institutional member has paid its annual dues in accordance with bylaws Section 2. (b)? shall be entitled to individual membership in the Chapter without the payment of additional dues.

d. Associate Members

Persons, companies and institutions not connected with law libraries, residing in or outside of the Southeastern region, or connected with law libraries but residing outside of the region may be selected to associate membership by the Executive Committee and shall pay annual dues.

e. Life Members

The Chapter may at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of those present elect to life membership those who have been members of the Chapter for at least 10 years, but who have retired from active fulltime library work, and any life member of A.A.L.L. who resides in the Southeastern Chapter area.

f. Honorary Members

The Chapter may at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of those present elect non-members as honorary members.

REASON: This proposal came from a suggestion made by Nancy Johnson, the Law Librarian at Georgia State University, who serves as an adjunct professor in the library school at Atlanta University. When she discussed chapter membership with the students, they indicated that our chapter is one of the few professional organizations without a student membership category and without reduced dues for student members. I believe that adopting this amendment and the one following would demonstrate our interest in recruiting new professionals.
D. Student Membership--Dues - Amendment to the Bylaws

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.

b. Dues

1. The annual dues for individual membership and associate members shall be $10.00. The annual dues for student memberships shall be $5.00. Life members and honorary members shall not be assessed dues.

E. Conforming Language - Amendments to Bylaws

ARTICLE IV. AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS

Section 1.

Any proposed amendments to the Constitution Articles or the Bylaws shall be filed with the secretary, and notice shall be sent by the secretary to all members through the mail at least 30 days prior to balloting.

Section 2.

Mail ballots may be conducted for the purpose of changing the Constitution Articles or Bylaws provided that ballots shall be mailed by the secretary to the membership immediately following a meeting where the amendments were discussed or 30 days after notice of the proposed amendments have been mailed to the membership. The Executive Board Committee must specify the time for closing the balloting, but in no case shall it be less than 30 days after the mailing of the ballots.

Section 4.

Meetings of the Chapter and Executive Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order except as otherwise specified by the Chapter Constitution Articles or Bylaws.

REASON: When we incorporated last year, our organic document changed from a Constitution to Articles of Incorporation. As such, we need to replace the word "Constitution" with "Articles" everywhere it appears. I noticed the need for another change as well in Section 2. For some reason, that section contains a reference to an "Executive Board", but the rest of our Articles of Incorporation, including Section 4 in the same Article, refer to the officers collectively as the "Executive Committee".
Ms. Pamela Williams, Chair  
SEALL Articles/Bylaws Committee  
Head of Public Service  
University of Florida  
College of Law Legal Information Center  
Gainesville, FL 32611  

Dear Pam:  

I hope that everything went well with your appointment and tenure.  

There are two bylaws issues which need to be reviewed this year. It appears that the SEAALL bylaws are more restrictive than the AALL membership bylaws. A person may remain an active member of AALL for seven years after they leave law library employment (if they want to remain a member), but the SEAALL bylaws do not have any stipulation for a person who is not "officially connected with a law library, . . ."  

The other category is voting rights of members. Mary Smith indicated to me that the lawyer working with our Articles and Bylaws recommends that the voting rights of the various categories be more clearly identified.  

Let me know what you think about these issues.  

Thanks.  

Sincerely,  

Timothy L. Coggins  
President, SEAALL  

TLC/skr  
cc: Peggy Martin
December 14, 1990

Tim Coggins  
University of North Carolina  
Law Library  
CB#3385, Van Hecke Wettach Bldg.  
Chapel Hill, NC  27599

Dear Tim:

After talking with Betty Kern and looking at her notes from the last meeting, the provision regarding notice of proposed changes was not on the ballot before. I have not altered the text from what was drafted last time. I don't think the other "cleanup" provisions were included in the last balloting either.

The membership status portions are as we discussed earlier. Let me know if they seem unclear, or if any further work on them or other portions needs to be addressed.

As it stands now, we will have to mail notice to all members of any proposed changes at least thirty days prior to a vote. It will be possible to discuss them in Tuscaloosa, send notice, and vote on them in New Orleans.

The mailing list is going fine and I've had no problem running label sets of members or of the entire list. My file should be convertible to Lotus or dBase.

Hope you have Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Pam Williams
Bylaws Article IV. Amendments and Bylaws.

Section 1.

Any proposed amendments to the Constitution Articles or Bylaws shall be filed with the secretary. Notice shall be given to members in one of the following ways:

a. notice shall be published in the Chapter newsletter Southeastern Law Librarian or its successor, at least 90 days prior to balloting, or

b. notice shall be sent by the secretary to all members through the mail at least 30 days prior to balloting.

Section 2.

Mail ballots may be conducted for the purpose of changing the Constitution Articles provided...

Section 4.

Meetings of the Chapter and Executive Committee shall be conducted with Roberts Rules of Order except as otherwise specified by the Chapter Constitution Articles or Bylaws.

Membership Status

Bylaws Article 1

Section 1.

a. Any person officially connected with a law library, or with a separately maintained law section in any library and currently or within the last seven years, employed at least 30% of full time may become...

Section 2.

a. Rights and Privileges

1. all members have the right to vote

2. The right to hold office shall be restricted to active members in the following membership categories: individual, institutional and life, individuals and institutionally designated members and to life members.