

# WILPF US SECTION 2022 ELECTION BALLOT BYLAWS AMENDMENT INFORMATION

Changes in text being proposed to amend certain language pertaining to "Staggered Elections" system as currently set out in our Bylaws of January 2021



## Editing Keys:

Only Bylaws sections and language applicable to this Amendment proposal are included here.

 Deleted Language has strikethroughs  **New Language is bolded and underscored**

 [Administrative & explanatory notes are in this font style]

[NOTE: Bylaws sections / language not applicable to this Amendment proposal are not detailed here. Nothing in this Amendment changes how we, our general membership, elect our Board Members; nor does this change any Board Member terms - THIS ONLY "CLEANS" THE RELEVANT BYLAWS LANGUAGE]

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## **US SECTION BYLAWS (Effective January 2021)**

## **US SECTION BYLAWS (Effective January 2023)**

Adopted in 1996, revised and adopted by the National Board in April 2002, with changes based on amendments made through December 2019 **2022**, including those amendments made as a result of votes of the membership in October 2012, March 2013, January 2015, December 2017, December 2019, and December 2020, **and December 2022**. Also, in March 2016 the national *ad hoc* Bylaws Committee made non-substantive clerical and formatting corrections and updated the language quoted from the International WILPF aims and principles (Section I. A., below) to reflect the language of the International Constitution (as revised and adopted on August 5, 2011).

I. ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY [No changes]

II. MEMBERSHIP [No changes]

III. MEETINGS AND SUBDIVISIONS [No changes]

IV. NATIONAL BOARD [No changes]

V. **SELECTION OF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

[Amendment proposed changes below, are as specified [strikethroughs OR **bolded & underscored**, with notes in this font]

A. National Positions

1. **Election Timeline:** At its first meeting each year the Board shall receive from the Nominating Committee a timeline for the election process for the elected positions to be initiated at that time. Elections for positions will be staggered so that approximately one-third of the Board is elected each year. [This subsection 1. has been given a heading]

2. [No changes in this section]

3. [No changes in this section]

4. **Board Member Elections and Terms** [Adds a heading to the number and moves all the language that had been in "4." to a new subsection "a." under this section 4. Also, deletes entirely the former subsections "a." and "b.," establishing new subsections "b." through "f." The language in the new subsection "b." comes in part from the former section 5. (bold & underscored print is new). Subsections "c." through "f." are new. The former detailed explanations of how "staggered elections" work are now described using an arithmetical description with further reference to the graphical chart included in this ballot packet and which will be hyperlinked to the text once the amended Bylaws are posted to our [www.wilpfus.org](http://www.wilpfus.org) website.]

**a.** The following positions are selected by membership ballot: One Board President or two Co-Presidents, Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair, Secretary, Personnel Committee Chair, one Development Committee Chair or two Development Committee Co-Chairs, Program Committee Chairs, Nominating Committee Chair, Membership Development Committee Chair and two At Large Board Members.

**b.** **The newly elected Board Members take their positions and begin their terms of office when installed at the first regularly-scheduled Board meeting following the election. The term of each outgoing Board Member ends upon the installation of the newly-elected Board Member for that position.** [NOTE: There will be a HYPERLINK in the web-published Bylaws to the chart which is being provided with ballot information to members along with this proposed Amendment language.]

c. The elections for the Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair, Program Committee Chair "A," the Personnel Committee Chair, and the Membership Development Committee Chair occur in years divisible by three (for example, 2022 = 2+0+2+2=6, which is divisible by 3).

d. The elections for the Secretary, the Program Committee Chair "B", and At-Large Board Member "A" occur in years one year after years divisible by three (for example, 2023 = 2022+1).

e. The elections for President (or Co-Presidents), the Development Committee Chair (or Co-Chairs), the Nominating Committee Chair, and At-Large Board Member "B" occur in years two years after years divisible by three (for example, 2024 = 2022+2).

f. Each position will be elected for a three-year term, except in elections for a partial term, when candidates are running to fill out a term that was not completed (view "Annual Staggered Elections Cycles" [Chart [hyperlink to chart here]]. [NOTE: The language, "Each position will be elected for a three-year term" had been part of the former language of this section 4., under former language of subsection b.]

a. For the elections for the 2014 term, the following terms of office apply: President(s): two years;

~~Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair: three years;~~

~~Program Committee Chairs: candidate for this office with the most votes will serve a three-year term and second-place candidate will serve a one-year term;~~

~~Development Committee Chair: two years; Nominating Committee Chair: two years; Personnel Committee Chair: three years; Secretary: one year;~~

~~Membership Development Committee Chair: three years;~~

~~At-Large Board members: candidate for this office with the most votes will serve a two-year term and second-place candidate will serve a one-year term.~~

b. For future terms of office after 2014, each position will be elected for a three-year term.

5. The newly-elected Board members will be installed at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following the election. The term of each outgoing Board member ends at the time for installation of the newly-elected Board member for that position. [No change]

6. Co-Positions [No change]

B. International Positions [No change]

VI. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD [No change]

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**WHAT THIS IS:** The Bylaws Committee & National Board Members offer this "Staggered Elections" Bylaws Amendment for general membership approval of this proposed major "clean up" of our Bylaws. **WHY?**

You may recall that for many years, we used to elect the whole Board (all positions) once every three years but we, the general membership, voted to change that, starting in 2014, from a "WHOLE BOARD 3-YEAR ELECTION CYCLE" system to our current system of electing about a third of our Board positions each year (each regular position still has a three-year-term) in a system of "STAGGERED ELECTIONS." This Staggered Elections system works very well, AND THIS PROPOSED AMENDMENT DOES NOT CHANGE HOW WE ELECT OUR BOARD. The Bylaws Committee and the Board Members are asking us all to VOTE YES on this BYLAWS AMENDMENT so that we can clean-up the Bylaws language that describes the system of staggered elections, so that the detailed explanations we used in the original amendment to start the staggered elections system can be updated and simplified, as shown below in the proposal. **BOTTOM LINE:** We need YOUR VOTE - A YES VOTE lets us clean up our Bylaws AND keep our existing Staggered Elections System! We are including an updated version of the 2014 chart as an FYI to let you see a visual image again of how it works.

**End of Proposed "Staggered Elections" Bylaws Amendment Provisions**

**But wait, there's more! See PROS & CONS, and graphical CHART, below!**



# PROS & CONS

## Regarding Proposed Amendment to Bylaws "Staggered Elections" Provisions



PROS	CONS
<p>We have had positive results and responses with the change to the member-approved "staggered election system" and our Bylaws are cluttered by the lengthy language used when we approved the system; this will clean up the document while leaving the system intact (i.e., make no changes to board elections system). We can keep using this 'staggered election system" without needing to take up so much space to describe it in our Bylaws as is now being used.</p> <p><i>[Yes, you may wonder WHY ME, WHY VOTE? But only we, the general membership members, have the right and also obligation to approved changes in our Bylaws and, other than being asked to take the few minutes required to do so by voting YES on the accompanying ballot, there isn't much of a downside to this. YOUR vote will help us keep our main governing document (our Bylaws) current.]</i></p>	<p>Sometimes we members forget that only our general membership has the authority to approve changes in our Bylaws, even if the change or amendment is solely to "clean-up" outdated ways of describing how things happen. It may seem like a bother to seek everyone's vote, but only members can make this choice.</p> <p><i>[Yes, this isn't a big "CON," but other than the need to "bug everyone" to utilize our general membership rights and obligations to vote, there isn't much of a downside to this.]</i></p>



See Next Page for Staggered Elections System Chart

**WILPF-US National Board  
Annual Staggered Elections Cycles**

Years for Term of Office	STEERING CTTE MEMBERS [OFFICERS & STANDING CTTE CHAIRS] [Bylaw VI. B.]										041214 - rev 2022-10-18			
	OFFICERS of Corporation			STANDING CTTEs INCLUDE FINANCE CTTE/TREASURER, TOO							General Bd Mbrs	ex officio Bd Mbrs		
	President or 2 Co-Presidents (shared position) [OFFICER(S)]	Secretary [OFFICER]	Treasurer [OFFICER] (also Finance Ctte Chair) [STANDING CTTE]	Devel Ctte Chair/Co-Chairs [STANDING CTTE]	Nominating Ctte Chair [STANDING CTTE]	Personnel Ctte Chair [STANDING CTTE]	Program Ctte Chair (x2) [STANDING CTTE]	Program Ctte Chair (x2) [STANDING CTTE]	Membership Devel Ctte Chair [STANDING CTTE]	At-Large Board Member (no standing committee to chair)	At-Large Board Member (no standing committee to chair)	US Member of the International Board (IB) (appointed by US Board)	Immediate Past President (Co-Presidents)	
2008	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Tied to International Congress	1 Year	
2009	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Tied to International Congress		
2010	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Tied to International Congress		
2011	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Tied to International Congress	1 Year	
2012	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Year 2	Tied to International Congress		
2013	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Tied to International Congress		
2014	T-Year 1	T-Year 1	T-Year 1	T-Year 1	T-Year 1	T-Year 1	T-Year 1	T-Year 1	T-Year 1	T-Year 1	T-Year 1	As of 2018, US Section has "Liaison to Americas Region Rep/Alt" position; no longer direct IB Membership	1 Year	
2015	T-Year 2	Year 1	T-Year 2	T-Year 2	T-Year 2	T-Year 2	T-Year 2	Year 1	T-Year 2	T-Year 2	Year 1		US President(s) serves 1 - 2 terms (3-years each) then 1 year as Past President (Co-Presidents) on ex-officio basis	
2016	Year 1	Year 2	T-Year 3	Year 1	Year 1	T-Year 3	T-Year 3	Year 2	T-Year 3	Year 1	Year 2			
2017	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 1	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3			
2018	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 3	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1			
2019	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 1	Year 3	Year 3	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2			
2020	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 1	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3			
2021	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 3	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1			
2022	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 1	Year 3	Year 3	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2			
2023	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 1	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3			
2024	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 3	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1			
2025	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 1	Year 3	Year 3	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2			
2026	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 1	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3			
2027	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 3	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1			
2028	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 1	Year 3	Year 3	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2			
2029	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 1	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3			
2030	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 3	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1			
2031	Year 1 ...	Year 2 ...	Year 3	Year 1 ...	Year 1 ...	Year 3	Year 3	Year 2 ...	Year 3	Year 1 ...	Year 2 ...			

*Sequence repeats per office, after 2014, every three years - national board elections held annually in fall, new Boards seated each January*

2014 began our transition to "staggered elections" board term cycles and these "Transition" years are indicated by the term "T-Year #" on this chart - the last 2 "regular" board term cycles are shown for contrast to the new process

**2014 Board terms ONLY** were defined as either one-, two-, or three-year terms by the Bylaws amendments approved by a vote of the general members in October 2012 to set in motion annual elections for about a third of the Board every year going forward

**2015 Board elections saw roughly 1/3 of the 2014 Transition group positions** up for election for new three-year terms of office;

**2016 Board elections were for the next 1/3 of the 2014 Transition group positions** up for election for new three-year terms of office;

**2017 Board elections were for the last 1/3 of the 2014 Transition group positions** up for election for new three-year terms of office

Our general membership approved the idea of staggered election cycles so that, going forward, the board would no longer be wholly new in any given year but always has continuity (carry-forward to next year of continuing board members in at least some of the positions)

Shaded boxes on chart indicate new term cycle post-election for each position. A VACATED POSITION mid-term in any office may be filled by Board approval of volunteer candidate on an "interim" basis solely for remainder of current calendar year until next new annual election cycle. Any member filling in as an "interim" committee chair may seek a term as a board member after meeting all criteria for such position, including recommendations

Some of our members may recall that the International Board ("IB") used to have a Representative of every Section and Group, in addition to the Officers (President, Treasurer, Vice Presidents), until the 2018 Int'l Congress ("IC") in Accra, when the IC voted to change the IB composition from dozens of individuals each representing their Section or Group, and downsized into an IB with only six Representatives from the six Regions in WILPF; each Section and Group is part of one of these six Regions and our US Section is one of the seven Sections in the Americas Region. Like all Sections and Groups, our Section now has a "Liaison" position to the Rep/Alt Rep for our Region (Americas). All IB-related positions have terms of service that match the cycles of the IC at which their term began (2018-2022; 2022-2025, etc.).

Further, during the 2022 IC, (virtual from Brisbane, Australia) the Delegates approved the establishment of a new International entity, an "Advisory Board" ("IAB") to the IB, which has a Representative and Alternate Representative ("Rep" and "Alt Rep") from each Section and Group. Our national Board has appointed an IAB Rep and an Alt Rep who will be dealing with the IAB as everyone begins to explore how the IAB's Reps will be interacting with the IB's Reps and what that will mean for us in Sections. Feel free to check with the national Board for more information on any of the IB-related positions.