

**Society of North Carolina Archivists
Constitutional Amendment Proposal**

27 January 2012

We, the undersigned, would like to propose the following three amendments to the SNCA constitution:

Article IV. OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD states:

A) The officers of the Society shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The vice president shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a term of one year and shall serve as president elect of the Society, automatically succeeding to the presidency the following year. The secretary and treasurer shall be elected at alternate annual business meetings for two year terms.

In case of a vacancy in the presidency, the vice president shall assume that office and hold it for the remainder of the term. A vacancy in any of the offices, except president, may be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Board. The person designated shall hold the position for the remainder of the unexpired term. However, a vice president elected by the Executive Board shall not succeed automatically to the presidency the following year, but rather a president as well as a vice president shall be elected at the next annual business meeting.

B) The Executive Board shall consist of the officers, a publications chairperson, membership chairperson, immediate past president, an electronic resources chairperson, a development chairperson, an Archives Week chairperson and two members at large elected by the Society.

The PROPOSED AMENDMENT is as follows:

A) The officers of the Society shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The president and vice president shall be elected for a term of one year. The secretary and treasurer shall be elected in alternate years for two year terms.

In case of a vacancy in the presidency, the vice president shall assume that office and hold it for the remainder of the term. A vacancy in any of the executive board positions, except president, may be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Board. The person designated shall hold the position for the remainder of the unexpired term.

B) The Executive Board shall consist of the officers, a publications chairperson, a membership chairperson, immediate past president, an electronic resources chairperson, a development chairperson, an Archives Week chairperson, an education committee chairperson, and two members at large.

Article V. MEETINGS states:

A) The Society shall meet annually in the spring in order to transact any business to come before it and to provide a program of general interest to the members. The annual business meeting shall be held at this meeting. Written notice of the spring meeting shall be mailed to the membership at least forty-five (45) days in advance.

B) Special meetings of the Society may be called by the president, upon approval of the Executive Board, or at the written request of one-third (1/3) of the membership. These may be called in order to transact special business or special workshops. Written notice of such meetings shall be mailed to the membership at least forty-five (45) days in advance.

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Article VIII. AMENDMENTS states:

Amendments to the Constitution must be proposed in writing by a least five (5) members of the Society and filed with the secretary. Copies of the proposed amendments shall be put before the membership by mail referendum within twenty-one (21) days of the filing of the amendment. Completed ballots must be returned to the secretary within forty-five (45) days of the date of mailing. Three fifths (3/5) of the votes cast by referendum shall constitute a majority for the passage of an amendment.

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Jan Blodgett
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Explanation/Rational for Proposed Amendments

Amendment to IV (A):

Removes the requirement that VP/Program Chair also serves president elect, and therefore automatically becomes president:

- We have many officers serving in positions other than VP who would make excellent presidents, but are prevented from doing so either until they serve as Program Chair, or because they are not comfortable with event planning and therefore will never serve as Program Chair
- Similarly, we have some excellent event planners in our midst who are not really enthusiastic about leading our organization, and therefore are hesitant to serve as Program Chair if it means committing to 2 additional years in a leadership position they don't really want
- This amendment will eliminate the circumstance where a VP/Program Chair who is unable to allocate the time needed to serve as President is automatically required to fill this role or resign
- This amendment allows for multi-term program chairs and presidents.

Removes the requirement that board members be elected at business meetings

- By removing this stipulation, SNCA can explore the possibility of online officer elections, which A) means that members who aren't attending the meeting can still vote, and B) leaves more time at the business meeting for things that cannot be effectively addressed online. SAA currently does electronic voting before the annual conference. (See Amendment to V. (A and B) below. Officer elections will also be addressed in changes to the Bylaws, Section III, which will be proposed at the 2012 Annual Business Meeting)

We propose that the president become an annually-elected position, with candidates drawn from the entire pool of those who have previously served on the board (in any position).

Amendment to IV (B):

Removes the duties of Education Chair from the Past President, making the former an elected position.

- Unfortunately, the reality is our current practice of having a minimum 3 year commitment (VP/Programs->President->PastPres/Education->usually Nominating Chair) has proven to be ineffective, as many people elected to fill these positions are unable to allocate the necessary amount of time for 3-4 consecutive years. This is a crucial position, and deserves to be filled by someone who can devote themselves to it
- Likewise, in our current system there is a great potential to have presidents who are perhaps good administrators but who are not particularly enthusiastic about planning bootcamps or working with graduate programs essentially forced into a position they don't really want

Removes the confusing/conflicting phrase "elected by the Society"

- Article IV. Part A allows for circumstances where the Executive Board is comprised of officers who were NOT elected by the Society—specifically, those who were elected by the Executive Board to finish out the term of an officer who resigned. Also, the current wording/punctuation is unclear as to whether the phrase was meant to apply to all of the positions, or just member at large. Amendment adds serial (Oxford) comma.

We propose that the past president take on the duties of nominating chair (rather than Education chair), retaining the same full voting rights as currently given to our past president in the Constitution. Education Chair will become an elected 2-yr position.

Amendment to V(A) and (B):

Removes the requirement that we must have an annual meeting/conference in the Spring.

- the removal of this requirement provides flexibility in conference planning. In particular, we have been asked to participate in a joint conference with SGA and SCAA that might occur in the Fall of 2013, but currently are constitutionally prevented from even considering it

Removes the restriction that notice is provided via mail.

- Most members are fine with, and actually prefer, communication via e-mail. Snail mailings continue to increase in expense to SNCA, are not very “green,” and generally waste time and resources. Because we have no way to predict how communication technology may change in the future, removing the mention of any specific type of transmission method seems most prudent at this juncture.

Removes some confusion over the intent of the word “meeting”

- We hope dispel some confusion by henceforth referring to the entire annual event as the SNCA *conference* and the business portion of it as the *meeting*; programming or educational events scheduled at a time outside the annual conference will be referred to generally as *workshops*. The vagueness of the proposed wording will also allow for the possibility of electronic conferencing and similar technology-enhanced meeting methods in the future.

In summary, while there are no plans to permanently change the timing of our annual conference, we would like to make it possible for occasional exceptions to the spring tradition. Notification of events will continue to be primarily by e-mail, unless surface mail is specifically requested by a member.

Amendment to VIII:

Removes the restriction that amendments be sent and voted on “by mail referendum”

- Snail-mailing is time consuming, expensive in supplies and postage, and not environmentally friendly. Removal of any reference to notification method allows for use of e-mail.

Removes the restriction that voting must occur on returnable ballots.

- Preparation and postage of paper ballots is a hassle. Elimination of this restriction allows us to consider electronic alternatives for referendums.

In summary, we propose to update our governing document so as not to prevent the use of newer communication technologies.