

PROPOSED CHANGES TO WOMEN'S LEAGUE BYLAWS **For presentation at Convention 2012**

INTRODUCTION

On October 5, 2010, the Women's League for Conservative Judaism board of directors enthusiastically accepted a new Strategic Plan that will help the organization meet current and future needs by becoming the vital network of *all* the women of the Conservative movement.

In order to implement the Strategic Plan, it is necessary to amend some of our current bylaws. The following are the primary amendments being presented for approval at Convention 2012 in Las Vegas, December 2-5, 2012:

1. The fiscal year is being changed to July 1- June 30 to be more in sync with our sisterhoods.
2. Membership will be open to all women who support the mission of Women's League and pay dues.
3. Any Women's League member who attends a convention or annual meeting will be a voting delegate.
4. The term of office for Women's League [1] officers, [2] nominating committee, [3] activity chairs and liaisons, [4] members-at-large appointed by the president, and [5] trainers will be three, rather than two, years. The following are not changes to the bylaws:
 - a. Members of the board who are named by their region, region presidents and immediate past region presidents will serve two-year terms, in line with the region election schedule.
 - b. Past international presidents and honorary board members remain permanent members of the board.
5. Convention will be held every third year.

Please read these bylaws amendments carefully and share them with others. If you have questions, please contact Parliamentarian Sandy Myers (smyers58@verizon.net).

PROPOSED CHANGES TO WOMEN'S LEAGUE BYLAWS

ARTICLE I THE CORPORATION

CURRENT: Section 2

Membership. Members in the League shall be members of synagogue organizations of women who support the mission of the League and have affiliated with the League through payment of per capita or in the event that a synagogue women's group is not feasible or is not affiliated, individual Jewish women who pay dues to the League. Voting members of the League shall consist of:

- a.  women selected through the affiliated synagogue women's groups and individual members of Regions as defined in Article II and Article I Section 3;
- b. the Board of Directors.

The total number of voting delegates of the League should not be less than 125. At least two-thirds of the voting delegates must be selected by the Regions and affiliated synagogue women's groups. All those selected shall be voting delegates only for the term to which they have been selected and only for as long as they are members of the League.

SUGGESTED REVISION:

Section 2 Membership. Members of the League shall be women who support the mission of the League. Members may be members of an affiliated synagogue women's group **or** individuals who pay dues to the League.

Rationale: Clarification of membership eligibility. Deletion of second paragraph to avoid redundancy with current Article I Section 3: Selection and term of Delegates to League meetings.

CURRENT:

Section 3 Selection and Term of Delegates to League meetings. Each affiliate women's group shall be entitled to select one voting delegate for every 25 members. Every Region shall be entitled to appoint one (1) delegate per hundred (100) individual members or portion thereof who reside within the geographical area included in the Region not to exceed (7) delegates. Delegates shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors are selected.

SUGGESTED REVISION:

Delete Section 3

Rationale: Delegates to conventions and meetings have shown their interest in and desire to affect the future of the organization through their attendance and should be allowed to vote.

CURRENT:

Section 5 Annual Meetings 
a. Convention. A biennial meeting of the League shall be in even-numbered years. The exact time and place of each Convention shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Notice of the time, place and purpose of the meeting, together with the slate of nominees for all offices or positions to be filled pursuant to these Bylaws, shall be given personally or mailed to each voting delegate of the League not less than 60 days before the meeting.

SUGGESTED REVISION:

Section 5

Annual Meetings 

- a. Convention. A meeting of the League shall be held every three years at which the officers will be elected and installed. The time and place of each Convention shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Notice of the time and place of the meeting, together with the slate of nominees for all offices or positions to be filled pursuant to these Bylaws, shall be provided to each voting delegate of the League not less than 60 days prior.

Rationale: In concert with Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Directors on October 6, 2010 that recommends adjusting the international convention to every three years to better utilize our staff, volunteer and financial resources.

CURRENT:

Section 5

Annual Meetings 

- b. A meeting of the members shall be held in the fall of non-Convention years. The exact time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

SUGGESTED REVISION:

Section 5

Annual Meetings 

- b. A meeting of the membership shall be held in each non-convention year. The time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Rationale: To allow for flexibility in programming.

CURRENT:

ARTICLE III

Section 2

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Method of Election, Term and Vacancies.

- a. Members-at-large of the committee shall be elected by voting delegates of the League for a term of two years or until their successors are elected.
- b. Members-at-large of the committee shall not be eligible again for Nominating Committee membership until a lapse of two years.

- c. Members of the Nominating Committee may not stand for election as an officer of the League.
- d. Terms of office shall begin at the close of the meeting of the League at which the elections are held. The Board of Directors shall have the power to fill vacancies in the committee until the expiration of the term.

SUGGESTED REVISION:

Section 2

Method of Election, Term and Vacancies.

- a. Members-at-large of the nominating committee shall be elected by voting delegates of the League for a term of three (3) years or until their successors are elected.
- b. Members-at-large of the committee shall not be eligible again for Nominating Committee membership until a lapse of three (3) years.

Rationale: Change from two to three year term to coincide with term of officers.

CURRENT:

Section 4

Term and Vacancies of the Chair. The chair of the committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the term by the president of the League with the approval of the Board of Directors for a term of two years and shall not be eligible again for chair until a lapse of two years. 🗳️ Regardless of the number of terms any person shall have served as a member-at-large, such person shall be eligible to serve as chair.

SUGGESTED REVISION:

Section 4

Term and Vacancies of the Chair. The chair of the committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the term by the president of the League with the approval of the Board of Directors for a term of three years and shall not be eligible again for chair until a lapse of three years. 🗳️

Rationale: Change from two to three year term to coincide with term of officers.

CURRENT:

ARTICLE V

Section 2

OFFICERS

Election, Term and Vacancies.

- a. The president, vice presidents, secretaries and treasurer shall be elected together in the same year by the voting delegates of the League for a term of two (2) years, or until their successors are elected, and shall be eligible to serve as an officer for two (2) consecutive terms in two (2) different

offices for no more than eight (8) consecutive years, exclusive of the presidency.

- b. Regardless of the number of consecutive terms any person shall have served in any one or more of these offices, such person shall be eligible to serve two (2) consecutive terms as president.

SUGGESTED REVISION:

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section 2

Election, Term and Vacancies.

- a. The president, vice presidents, secretaries and treasurer shall be elected together in the same year by the voting delegates of the League for a term of three (3) years, or until their successors are elected.
- b. Term:
 - 1. A woman shall be eligible to serve as an officer in two (2) different offices for no more than six (6) consecutive years, exclusive of the presidency.
 - 2. A woman may serve as president for one three-year term.

Rationale: In concert with Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Directors on ????? that recommends creating more opportunities for members to serve in leadership roles.

CURRENT:

Section 2

Composition and Appointment. The president shall appoint the chair of committees with the approval of the Board of Directors.

SUGGESTED REVISION:

ARTICLE VII

BOARD COMMITTEES

Section 2

Composition and Appointment. The president shall appoint the chair of committees with the approval of the Board of Directors. A person shall serve no more than one term (3 years) as chair of the same committee.

Rationale: In concert with Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Directors on ????? that recommends creating more opportunities for members to serve in leadership roles.

CURRENT:

ARTICLE IX

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League shall be from September 1 to August 31.

SUGGESTED REVISION:

ARTICLE IX FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Rationale: To maintain consistency with Women's League affiliates and many of the other Conservative Movement organizations.