

Summary of Amendments to the By-Laws of the Northwest Anthropological Association Proposed for Consideration in 2023

March 3, 2023

Background

The Northwest Anthropological Association (NWAA) and Northwest Anthropological Conference (NWAC) operate through a bylaws framework that dates to 2004. Present-day circumstances from Covid-19 and lessons learned throughout the last two decades demonstrate the need for revisions to better enable the purpose of the organization. Bylaws discussions historically take a backseat at business meetings due to the prioritization of pressing matters and time limitations. To facilitate greater NWAC member accessibility and engagement, and completion of bylaws updates in future, an isolated change is proposed. The proposed update entails adding the option for use of secure electronic ballots. This isolated change is presented for consideration and vote at the NWAC NWAA business meeting, scheduled at noon on April 14, 2023, at the Centennial Hotel, Spokane, Washington.

Provided for review are the pertinent 2004 bylaws excerpt and the proposed isolated change.

Proposed Isolated Change

The proposed isolated change entails the addition of the option for use of a secure electronic ballot to Article XIV. Amendments and Ratification, C:

Existing 2004 Bylaws Language:

C. Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted to the membership for approval (vote) at the annual meeting or by U.S. mail.

Proposed Isolated Change in Tracked Changes:

C. Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted to the membership for approval (vote) at the annual meeting, ~~or~~ by U.S. mail, or by secure electronic ballot.

Proposed Isolated Change Result:

C. Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted to the membership for approval (vote) at the annual meeting, by U.S. mail, or by secure electronic ballot.

Why just this isolated change?

The isolated change will enable greater access for consideration bylaws updates in future as well as participation in voting.

Next Steps

1. Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be presented, in writing, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of the amendment. The bylaws will be distributed via email as well as posted to the NWAC website, <https://www.nwaconference.com/nwaa-bylaws>.
2. The NWAA Board requests your review of the proposed isolated change to the bylaws, provided above, and participation in the vote at the NWAA business meeting held at NWAC 2023:

When: 12:00 pm (noon) PST, Friday, April 14, 2023

Where: Pavilion Room, Centennial Hotel, Spokane, Washington

3. A majority vote of the membership responding in favor of an amendment shall be required to amend the bylaws.