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Proposed AJA Bylaws Changes

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PROPOSED AJA BYLAWS CHANGES

Editor's Note: These AJA Bylaws amendments have been submitted by the Bylaws Committee for consideration at the AJA Annual Conference in San Diego this September. There are four separate proposals; the comments shown are from the Bylaws Committee.

Deletions are shown in ~~strike-through text~~. New language is shown in italics.

I. Proposed Membership Provision Changes

Purpose: Clarify that judges from “ecclesiastical” courts and judges who have been suspended or removed from the bench are not eligible for membership.

Specific changes proposed:

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. ELIGIBLE COURTS. An eligible Court is defined as any duly constituted ~~judicial tribunal, serving at the local, community, State, Provincial or National level within the United States, any of its territories and possessions, the District of Columbia and Canada and Mexico, whether having trial or appellate, criminal, civil, or special jurisdiction. Such courts do not become ineligible by reason of being State, Provincial, or territorial Courts or by reason of having jurisdiction beyond the boundaries of the Governmental subdivision in which such courts are located. Courts of Indian Nations of the North American Continent and Magistrates, Masters, Arbitrators, Referees of any eligible judicial tribunal, if otherwise qualified, shall be eligible on the same basis.~~ *court of the federal, state, local, tribal, provincial, and/or territorial governments of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and any other countries within North America.*

Sec. 2. VOTING MEMBERS. Upon payment of the dues herein prescribed and upon approval of the application by the Board of Governors at any regular or special meeting, any present or former judicial officer *in good standing, or any former judicial officer who was in good standing at the time of separation, whose present or former court meets* ~~of any court, meeting~~ the qualifications of an eligible court as herein before defined, may become a regular voting member. The right to approve applications for memberships may be delegated by the Board of Governors.

II. Proposed Dues Provision Changes

Purpose: Allow for additional dues options besides annual payment, including the option of a discount for advance payment for multi-year membership.

Specific changes proposed:

ARTICLE IV DUES

Sec. 1. PAYMENT.

(a) Dues for membership in the Association are payable ~~annually~~ *per a schedule approved by the Board of Governors and payable* by the Court over which the individual member Judge presides.

(b) In the event a Court for any reason, fails to pay the dues of its Judge or Judges, any qualified Judge may apply for individual membership and be personally responsible for payment of dues.

(c) Honorary members shall not be assessed for any dues.

Sec. 2. RATES

(a) Dues shall be established ~~at an annual rate by a schedule approved~~ by the Board of Governors. ~~Any formal or informal association of five or more judges paying as one unit will be eligible for a discounted rate as set by the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors may also establish an annual, reduced rate for retired judges.~~

III. Proposed Bylaws Amendment Procedure Change

Purpose: Reduce costs by allowing for electronic notice of proposed bylaws changes.

Specific changes proposed:

**ARTICLE XVIII
AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

The Bylaws may be altered, adopted, amended or rescinded only by the majority vote of the members present and voting at the General Assembly of any Annual Conference provided, however, that notice of the proposed action of adoption, amendment or rescission shall have been given by the Secretariat or by the proponent of the proposed action to the members of the Association and to the members of the Board of Governors either by mail, *by electronic mail and publication on the AJA website*, or by publication in an official publication of the Association posted not less than thirty (30) days prior to such meeting; or by consent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at the General Assembly of any such Annual Conference if thirty (30) days notice has not been given. Publication in any official publication, mailed to the membership at least three times a year, shall constitute compliance with the aforesaid notice requirement regardless of the date of publication or mailing. The publications referred to herein are intended to mean the official publications of this Association by whatever name or title they may bear.

IV. Proposed Bylaws Change to Add At Large Representative to Board of Governors

Purpose: Address concerns raised at Denver General Assembly about general membership representation on governing bodies of AJA, by providing for an at large representative to the Board of Governors

Specific changes proposed:

**ARTICLE VII
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

...

Sec. 2. COMPOSITION. The Board of Governors shall include as members:

...

(e) ...

(f) An at large representative who shall represent the general membership of the Association. The at large representative shall be a duly qualified member of the Association, who is not at the time of initial election to this position a currently serving member of the Board of Governors.