

EXPLANATION OF REVISION TO BYLAWS AREA 12 OF HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA

Area 12 members,

Thank you for taking the time to review and vote on this Bylaws revision. The change is extensive, but it is very necessary to keep our organization current in its operation.

One of the first things to clarify is that, legally, we are recognized as THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ENGLISH HANDBELL RINGERS, Inc., AREA XII. Although we do business as Handbell Musicians of America, Area 12, we are not recognized that way by the State of California, where our Articles of Association are filed and we hold our not-for-profit status. This is also true of our national organization — they are still legally AGEHR, so that is the language we use in the Bylaws.

There were two main objectives with this revision:

- The first was to change the language regarding elections. You will see in our current Bylaws, ballots must be mailed. That means we could not choose to take advantage of any electronic forms of voting. By changing the wording to 'provide a ballot', we allow ourselves the option to do that in the future.
- The second objective was to align our Bylaws with the national organization. This will allow for us to continue to take advantage of our not-for-profit status in conjunction with the national organization. We corrected outdated language (due to certain things not being in existence any more), cleaned up the formatting, and fixed several typos.

The following is an explanation of this revision. **Articles in red** refer to the current Bylaws, **Articles in blue** refer to the proposed Bylaws.

1. General clean up of format and typos.
2. **Preamble** was added to describe our status as a not-for-profit association in the State of California.
3. **Article I** was split into **Article I and Article II**, and ensuing articles were renumbered.
4. **Article I, D.** was removed as it became redundant with the Preamble.
5. **Article II, A. & B** were reworded to be clearer about definition of membership and privileges, and was renamed **Article III**.
6. **Article II, C & D** were moved to **Article IV** and given greater definition.
7. **Article III** is renamed as **Article V**. Clarification of tenure, election, and appointment. **Article IV** was also folded in here as this is relevant to this subject.
8. **Article V** is now covered in **Articles IV and VIII**.
9. **Article VI** added to define duties of officers.
10. **Article VII** added to define committees and appointments.
11. **Article VIII** added to define record keeping — covers old **Article V**.
12. **Article IX** added to address compensation and conflict of interest issues.
13. **Article X** added for legal reasons.
14. **Article VI** renamed **Article XI**. Language referring to the Bylaws Review Committee was removed as this committee no longer exists due to reworking of National Organization. Also added language to clarify voting on amendments and revisions.
15. **Article XII** renamed **Article VII** to line up with other articles.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Tessique Houston
Chair, Area 12
Chair, Area 12 Bylaws Revision Committee