

Region Bylaws Template – Please Read

Note to Region G Members: From Helen Patricia

*Following is an excerpt of a presentation by Naomi Brill regarding the Region Bylaws Template. In October of 2003 the Society adopted newly written bylaws, which have changed the way SWE does business. As a result of this change, it is necessary for the Regions and Sections to revise their bylaws to be compliant with the changes to the Society bylaws. The first step in this process is to review the bylaws template that has been prepared by the Bylaws Committee and compare our current bylaws with the new template and determine what has changed and what needs to be revised so that our bylaws can be made compliant with the Society bylaws. It is my goal for our Region to have a proposal for amended bylaws for Region G by June of 2005. To this end, please review the following information along with the template and current Region bylaws and provide your input to me at any time. There will be a scheduled meeting at the **Region Conference in Toledo** for additional review and discussion.*

- ❑ **Created by Bylaws Committee, Parliamentarian, Director of Regions**
- ❑ **Includes feedback from Region Governors**

Region Bylaws Standardization Nightmare

- We have 10 Regions
- Each has a unique personality and a unique way of doing business
- What are the minimal requirements that define us all?
- How do we implement those requirements so as not to constrain our uniqueness?

Solution: Region Bylaws Template

- The Bylaws Committee, under the guidance of Susan Best, created a region bylaws TEMPLATE
- The template calls out basic rules for being a region that cannot be changed. These basic rules for all regions provide consistency from region to region for positions specified in Society bylaws and ensure that all region bylaws follow good practice
- The template also identifies areas where regions are free to customize their bylaws so they can conduct business per their unique culture.

What's Unchangeable?

- Name and objectives
- Membership
- Nomination and election of Region Governor
- Region Council (definition)
- Dissolution
- Parliamentary authority
- Amendment process

What Can Be Customized?

- Region Officers
 - Is there a Lt. Governor?
 - Is there a Secretary and Treasurer? [Or]
 - Is there a Secretary/Treasurer? [Or]
 - Is there only a Treasurer?
- How region officers are elected
- Region committees
 - Asking for audit committee
 - Others are optional

Key Questions

- Could [our] region operate right now under the region bylaws template...SUPPLEMENTED by the right combination of region policies and procedures?
- What areas of the template would have to be customized to maintain the region's way of doing business?
- Are those areas in compliance with the (new) Society bylaws?
- Can we live with this template while SWE works through the process of moving forward in our thinking?

Current Status

- Motion for BOD to approve Region Bylaws Template Version 6.0
- Governors committed to work with template
- Governors will be encouraging dialog on composition of region councils, voting rights of affiliates and associates, student inclusion and representation
- Changes will occur to template as SWE moves forward