

Bylaws Task Force Report and Recommendations

Prepared for the DCS Executive Committee on April 25, 2015

The bylaws committee met several four times since the January meeting and submits the following recommendations to clarify the Club's response in case of an unexpected vacancy in the position of President and in lowering the age of membership to 13 years.

Recommended changes to the Bylaws

Section 2.1. Eligibility

2.1. Eligibility. The following persons shall be considered eligible for membership in the Club:

2.1.1. Persons who are registered to vote as Democrats, or

Current:

2.1.2. Residents of Sunnyvale 18 years or older who are ineligible to vote in U.S. elections who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents ("Green Card" holders) and who declare in writing that they support the Democratic Party and its platform.

Proposed:

2.1.2. Residents of Sunnyvale 18 years or older who are ineligible to vote in U.S. elections who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents ("Green Card" holders) and who declare in writing that they support the Democratic Party and its platform, or

2.1.3. Non-Residents of Sunnyvale 18 years or older who are ineligible to vote in U.S. elections who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents ("Green Card" holders) and who declare in writing that they support the Democratic Party and its platform, or,

2.1.4. Residents of Sunnyvale 13 to 17 years old and who declare in writing that they support the Democratic Party and its platform, or

2.1.5 Non-Residents of Sunnyvale 13 to 17 years old who declare in writing that they support the Democratic Party and its platform.

Section 4.3 Nominating Committee

4.3. Nominating Committee. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee, ...

Current:

...The Nominating Committee is charged with calling all eligible members and explaining the elected positions that are available.

Proposed:

...The Nominating Committee is charged with contacting all eligible members and explaining the elected positions that are available.

Section 5.3. Interim Appointments.

Current:

If an Executive Board position other than President becomes vacant other than by recall, the Executive Board shall announce the vacancy to the General Membership and seek to appoint or have the members in good standing elect a new individual as soon as practicable to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. If the position of President becomes vacant other than by recall, the Executive Board shall fill the position by the order of succession outlined in Article 3 for the remainder of the term.

Proposed:

If an Executive Board position with the exception of the President becomes vacant other than by recall, the Executive Board shall announce the vacancy to the General Membership and seek to appoint or have the members in good standing elect a new individual to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term as soon as practicable. If the position of President becomes vacant other than by recall, the position will be filled by the order of succession outlined in Article 3 until a special election can be held by the General Membership to elect an individual to fill the vacancy as soon as practicable for the remainder of the term, Immediately following the election of a new President the acting president will step down and reassume their previous position for the remainder of the term.

Section 6.4.1. Committee and Task Force Chairs

Current:

The Chair for each Committee or Task Force shall be selected, removed, or replaced by the President at will.

Proposed:

The Chair for each Committee or Task Force shall be a member in good standing who shall be selected, removed or replaced by the President at will.

Section 6.5. Committee and Task Force Participation

Current:

Members may join any Committee or Task Force at the discretion of the Committee or Task Force Chair. The Chair shall have the discretion to remove committee members for repeated absences from committee meetings, at the request of the member, or for any reason deemed necessary.

Proposed:

Members and volunteers may join any Committee or Task Force . . . (no further changes)

Recommended Additions to the Bylaws

3.14. Code of Conduct and Privacy.

DCS is committed transparency, accountability and integrity in conducting Club business and in safeguarding the personal information of Members. The Executive Board will use information from Members only to facilitate club business, which may include but is not limited to, communicating with members, promoting membership, meeting the requirements for maintaining a charter with local, state and national Democratic organizations, and analyzing data to better understand the needs of the club.

Upon providing DCS with an email address, Members and visitors agree to be contacted about various Club activities. Persons who no longer wish to receive announcements will be removed from notification lists upon request.

DCS will limit exposure of personally identifiable information so that only those who are required to process it for club business have access to the data only during their tenure.

Membership information will not be disclosed to any campaign, the press, or other third parties, unless such disclosure is agreed upon in advance by a majority of the Executive Committee.

Upon taking office, each member of the Executive Board shall sign both the Code of Conduct and Data and Document Destruction Policies. The text of these policies are found in the DCS Standing Rules. Further, the Executive Board will ensure that all Committee and Task Force Chairs are instructed in and abide by these policies as well.

Section 6.7. Use of Personal Contact Information.

Members and volunteers who express an interest to serve on a DCS Committee or Task Force to serve authorize the Executive Committee to share contact information to the Chair of the Committee or Task Force.

Respectfully Submitted,

DCS Bylaws Committee: Phyllis Freeman (chair), Nancy Smith, Margaret Goka, Garrett Wessel