

**REGION IV BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT**

***ALABAMA FLORIDA GEORGIA KENTUCKY MISSISSIPPI***

***NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA TENNESSEE***

Bylaws Committee Report

September 27, 2022

The Call for 2022 Amendments to Region IV Bylaws was sent to Chapter Presidents and Executive Committee on April 6, 2022, with a submission date of August 17, 2022.

Two amendments were received.

Article VII, Meetings, Section 5, Executive Committee.

Article IX, Duties of Standing Committee, Section 6, Membership.

These amendments were sent to Chapter Presidents and Executive Committee on August 29, 2022, in accordance with Article XVII Amendments to Bylaws.“The Regional Council President or designee shall submit amendment(s) to all chapters in Region IV thirty (30) days prior to the next regular meeting (October 1, 2022). Amendments made to the bylaws shall become effective upon the approval of the Regional Council. Any amendments made to these bylaws shall be mailed to all chapters in Region IV within thirty (30) days after the Regional Council has approved them.”

**Article VII, Section 5** - Committee recommends Not To Adopt. Section 5 should remain as currently stated in the Region IV Bylaws.

**Rationale:**

Section 9 of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition (RONR) provides a framework for **Electronic Meetings.**

Section 9, paragraph 30 (9:30) states “Except as authorized *in the bylaws*, the business of an organization or board can be validly transacted only at a regular or properly called *meeting* - that is, as defined in 8:2(1), single official gathering in one room or area—of the assembly of its members at which a quorum is present.”

9:34 clarifies that the opportunity for simultaneous aural communication is essential to the deliberative character, regardless of technology used. This paragraph further states that an attempt to conduct a deliberative process in writing (such as by postal mail, e-mail, chat rooms or fax is not recommended as it does not constitute a deliberative assembly.

This was the rationale for inserting the words **“except by email”** when the bylaws were amended to allow virtual meetings.

**Article IX, Section 6** - Committee recommends Not To Adopt. Section 6 should remain as currently stated in the Region IV Bylaws. Committee also recommends that Section 6 be transferred to the Ad Hoc Committee currently reviewing Region IV’s Policy and Procedures Manuel to expand Section VI Chapter Assistance Program or add a section to assist struggling chapters.

**Rationale:**

According to RONR, 12th Edition: Chapter XVIII speaks to CONTENT AND COMPOSITION OF BYLAWS.

56:44 “…A separate section devoted to each of these committees should give its name, composition, manner of selection, and duties.”

56:8 “In order to give the organization the greatest freedom to act within its object, bylaws should be made no more restrictive nor more detailed in specification than necessary.”

56:11 “Indisputability of meaning and application is a more important consideration than “readability,” and the latter must be sacrificed when both cannot be achieved.”

The status of all chapters is received from the Regional Treasurer, Regional Council President, or Regional Director. Contacting a chapter to aid in becoming or remaining compliant is an implied responsibility and duty of the Regional Council President and Regional Director. Therefore, it is unnecessary for the Membership Committee to take on this responsibility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Honorable Alice D. Mercer, Chair

Jacqueline Wilkins

Al Taylor

Attachment: 2022 Proposed Amendments to Region IV Bylaws