

Notice of Motion

The following resolution is to be voted upon at the annual general meeting of the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association, to be held on Friday, June 3 at the Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton.

Resolution moved by Amanda Zimmer seconded by Lisa Sygutek that the AWNA Bylaws be changed as follows:

1. A Newspaper

Current Wording:

1. A NEWSPAPER

A newspaper, for purposes of membership in this Association, shall be a publication, which serves a community through the production of a paper copy from a printing press. It shall be evaluated on content in preference to format or appearance. Over the course of a year, the average news content shall not be less than thirty (30%) percent, excluding flyers. The newspaper's flag must appear on the front page of the newspaper.

Proposed Wording:

1. A Newspaper

Some members have switched to digital only publications. Should they be allowed to retain their AWNA membership?

Should we change the definition of a newspaper to state "the production of local news" instead of "the production of a paper copy from a printing press."

Current Wording:

1. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The application deadlines for new applications and reapplications are May 31 and November 30 of each year.

Each applicant for membership shall have published continuously for at least 18 months prior to its application, such that they will have published for at least two years when they come up for review by the Membership Committee".

To apply for membership, an applying paper must provide:

- a) a completed membership application form;

b) circulation audit; circulation audits are only required for publications distributing more than 50,000 copies per year.

c) one copy for each membership committee member, as well as Central Office for two weeks as randomly predetermined by the committee each year for that year and a copy of one issue for each membership committee member and Central Office for one week of the applicant's choosing, i.e., a total of three issues of each applying paper will be evaluated for the year;

d) application fee;

e) all membership application materials must be received at Central Office by 5:00 p.m. on the application deadline;

The Membership Committee will meet prior to the Spring Meeting and fall Board of Directors' meeting each year to review and discuss all applications.

The Committee will make its recommendation on each application to the Board of Directors at the Spring Meeting and at the fall Board meeting each year by way of a vote, which will be accompanied by a short report.

The Board may use its discretion to vote either in accordance with or against the recommendations of the Membership Committee so long as that discretion is exercised in good faith, in view to the best interests of the AWNA and in accordance with the provisions set out in Section 3 of the Bylaws dealing with membership.

Proposed Wording:

c) One digital issue copy for the committee and Central Office for two weeks. A total of three issues of each applying publication or newspaper will be evaluated for the year.

3. Membership

Current Wording:

(E) Subject to review by the Board, the Association shall be, and remain, a member of the Alberta Press Council. The Association will inform members of activities and decisions of the Press Council and pay dues approved by the Council. While AWNA is a member of the Press Council, a member newspaper must publish verbatim any decision of the Council regarding a complaint against that newspaper.

It is Proposed that this wording be deleted in its entirety as the Alberta Press Council no longer exists.

Current Wording:

1. ANNUAL GENERAL/ GENERAL MEETING

- (A) The annual general/ general meeting of the Association shall be held in such place and at such time as may be decided upon by the Board of Directors, to receive the annual reports, to elect officers for the ensuing year, and for all other business and general purposes relating to the affairs of the Association. Notice of the Annual General/ General Meeting shall be sent to all members of the Association by prepaid mail at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting and shall be mailed to the last known address of each member. The notice of motion is sent out as outlined in schedule A "Notice of Annual Meeting".

Proposed Wording:

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general/ general meeting of the Association shall be held in such place and at such time as may be decided upon by the Board of Directors, to receive the annual reports, to elect officers for the ensuing year, and for all other business and general purposes relating to the affairs of the Association. Notice of the Annual General Meeting/ General Meeting shall be sent to all members of the Association by prepaid mail at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting; and shall be sent to the last known address of each member; and posted on the Association website.

Current wording:

12(C) Notice of the Special Meeting shall be sent to all members of the Association by prepaid mail at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting; and shall be mailed to the last known address of each member.

Proposed wording:

12 (C) Notice of the Special Meeting shall be sent to all members of the Association by email at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting; and shall be sent to the last known address of each member; and posted on the Association website.

Current Wording:

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION PROCEDURES:

17 (D) Voting shall take place by secret ballot. The Returning Officer shall not vote except in the case of a tie as outlined in Section 18 (E). Holders of proxy rights shall be given a number of ballots equal to their own vote plus the number of proxies they have been given.

PROPOSED WORDING:

17 (D) Voting shall take place by a show of hands, or if requested by more than 10% of members in good standing; by secret ballot; proxy rights shall be given a number of votes equal to their vote plus the number of proxies they have been given.