

Memo

To: Commission Members

From: Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian

Date: May 20, 2011

Re: Proxy voting

The question has come up if the Commission allows proxy voting. Your bylaws do not currently provide for proxy voting but your bylaws do state that the Commission will be governed by "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR), most recent edition.

Robert's Rules define proxy as:

A "proxy" is a means by which a member who expects to be absent from a meeting authorizes someone else to act in his or her place at the meeting. Proxy voting is not permitted in ordinary deliberative assemblies unless federal, state or other laws applicable to the society require it, or the bylaws of the organization authorize it, since proxy voting is incompatible with the essential characteristics of a deliberative assembly. As a consequence, the answers to any questions concerning the correct use of proxies, the extent of the power conferred by a proxy, the duration, revocability, or transferability of proxies, and so forth, must be found in the provisions of the law or bylaws which require or authorize their use. (RONR (10th ed.), p. 414-15)

At least one Commissioner would like the opportunity to use proxy voting, so the question to you today is:

Do you want to allow proxy voting? If so we will need to add it to your bylaws and address the questions noted above such as extent of the power conferred by a proxy, the duration, etc.