

# Memo

**To:** Montana State Library Commission

**From:** Anne Kish, Commissioner  
Bruce Newell, Commission Chair  
Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

**Date:** January 19, 2018

**Re: Bylaw Amendments**

Generally

The [Bylaws](#) are currently arranged rather haphazardly. This rearrangement strives to draw together bits relating to the same topic, and by simpler arrangement, make these bylaws more useful to future commissioners.

The impetus for reviewing these bylaws was the Commission's wish to regularize and make more transparent the election process for Commission Officers. Hopefully, this revision accomplishes that. In addition, we (Anne, Bruce, and Jennie) hope that we've increased these bylaw's utility and decreased their little ambiguities.

## 1.1. (1,2,3)

This was added to the bylaws, but is a direct cut-and-paste from MCA 22-1-101. Including it enables the document to stand more on its own, by including material important to understanding membership.

## 2. No change

### 3.1

New language, not new concept. We've just got it down in black and white.

### 3.4

Rethought. The old system was fairly complicated, we thought unnecessarily complicated. As rewritten, we believe this would simplify and streamline the process of

finding someone to preside at a meeting or represent the Commission, at no loss to transparency or fidelity to our duties.

4.

All new. As much as describing the process, by the way it's written, it makes (hopefully) the timing of elections simple and obvious. Nominate in June, discuss in June, elect in August, assume office immediately. We think we've left enough wiggle room in place to handle hiccups in meetings' timing.

5.

Nothing new.

6.1

The current bylaws name the state librarian as the commission's secretary. We thought 'secretary', the word, was misleading, a bit dated, and not as communicative as we hoped. We played with 'staff', but that didn't work well either. In the end, as you see, we cleverly ducked the entire problem and simply acknowledged that the state librarian manages the routine affairs of the commission.

6.1.1

Jennie recommended removing this language. She stated the obvious, that is, that we can always share financial updates at any time but, to take action on a quarterly financial report, the reports must be presented at a meeting.

Thanks for your close reading of these draft revised bylaws. We look forward to discussion them at our forthcoming February meeting. Action to adopt updated bylaws will be take in April.

Anne, Bruce, and Jennie