

Bylaws

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Objectives

- What are Bylaws? 15 minutes
- What role do they play in a non-profit corporation? Importance?
- What do Bylaws mean to the member?
- How can members present an amendment to the Bylaws?
- Why and what we are currently amending in the Bylaws

What are Bylaws?

- Rules that can't be suspended—you better mean them; they better be important. Derived from Robert's Rules of Order
- Members ♦ Officers ♦ Meetings ♦ Committees ♦ Parliamentary Authority ♦ Amendments
- Can be changed by amendment. 2/3 member vote; posted 90 days prior to Board and 30 days to members prior to meeting date

What roles do Bylaws play in nonprofit?

- Contract between members/organization
- Rights and responsibilities of members when they meet together as a group
- If it's not in the Bylaws, CANA cannot do it
- We could not have meetings such as this one, unless described in the Bylaws
- Officers, committees, Board roles are all spelled out in the Bylaws

What do Bylaws mean to the member?

- Tells you what the organization does, can do, and what it better not do
- Tells you what rights you have as a member, and what rights the Board has when you elect them
- If you want to figure out if something CANA does is authorized by the Bylaws, all you have to do is look it up
- And if you don't like something, you can change it with an amendment

How can a member change the Bylaws?

- Compose an amendment
- Mail it to the Board 90 days prior to meeting
- Mail it to membership (post on website) 30 days prior to meeting
- Presented to membership at general meeting
- 2/3 vote of those present will change the Bylaws

Current Bylaw Amendments: Examples

- Inserting California Corporations code language
- Dealing with member complaints: Ethics Committee
- Dues: stipulated by AANA; supplementary assessment [voluntary]
- President may not be a member of nominating committee
- Duties and office of Treasurer better defined
- Student representative role defined
- Tweaking the duties of all the standing committees and adding a new committee (Ethics)

Conclusion

- Bylaws are an essential and important component of modern non-profit organizations such as CANA
- Tell us what we can, can't, should, better not do, and how to do these things
- Any member who has any questions about Bylaws or any other CANA issue please see me after the meeting. cgriffis@mednet.ucla.edu