

Proposed ORN Bylaws Changes

May 22, 2018 Revision

The original American Sociological Association Opportunities in Retirement Bylaws were approved at the August 24, 2015 ASA annual meeting. Since then, ORN has successfully sponsored sessions at ASA annual meetings, and has become more visible within ASA.

The ORN Elected Board is proposing the following changes to the ORN Bylaws. The changes listed below will be brought to the ORN business meeting during ASA in Philadelphia this August. If approved at the business meeting, the Bylaws will then go to ASA Council for its approval in early 2019. If approved by Council it will be on the spring 2019 ballot that will go out to all ASA retired members for their approval. The changes will then go into effect at the end of the ORN 2019 business meeting.

The first set of proposed changes are “housekeeping,” that is, they correct errors, clarify procedures or update information in the existing Bylaws. The second set are changes that would facilitate Board functions and procedures. Additions are in **red** and deletions are ~~struck through~~.

SET 1: “Housekeeping” Changes

Article I Organization

1. Spells out **American Sociological Association** in title but deletes ASA in front of ORN throughout the Bylaws.
 - a. Rationale: Sections have ASA in their title/name but do not have ASA mentioned every time before their section name in the rest of their Bylaws.

Article III Membership

2. Deletes Emeritus here and throughout Bylaws
Rationale: This change is to be consistent with ASA’s current official categories. Not all ASA retirees worked in Academia and would not be emeritus/emerita.

Article IV Elected Board

3. Deletes paragraph on establishing first elected Board.
Rationale: No longer needed. In most organizations, the Bylaws section dealing with the start-up is removed after two or three years.
4. Deletes “~~At least five (5) members of the Advisory Board shall be Emeritus/Retiree category ASA members.~~”
Rationale: Non-retirees are not on our listserv and do not have a vote. They are welcome to participate in meetings and activities of ORN. (see Article III)
5. Deletes “consensus” at “The elected board shall select ~~by consensus~~ one member to be the Chair...”
and at “...the remaining board members may appoint ~~by consensus~~ a replacement...”
Rationale: Deleting “consensus” does not preclude an attempt to reach a unanimous decision but allows calling for a vote to elect officers or fill a board vacancy by ending a long drawn-out discussion.
6. Deletes “elements” at “Ensure the timely planning and occurrence of **ORN activities and programs** ~~each of the elements approved by the ASA Council~~”
and at “Board members shall volunteer or be appointed by the Chair to address **ORN activities and programs** ~~the required elements of the organization~~ as follows:”

Rationale: No longer needed since the “elements” are now incorporated under tasks for all Board Members.

7. Deletes “~~responsibility for securing funding for reception~~” and replaces with **work with the appropriate staff person at ASA**

Rationale: The ASA has agreed to fund the reception following the Life in Sociology lecture.

Article VII Amendments

8. Inserts **Upon approval, the amendments shall be submitted to ASA Council for its approval and then placed on the spring ballot that will go out to all ASA retired members for their approval.**

Rationale: Inserts the procedure for amending the Bylaws.

SET 2: Changes to the Board Functions and Procedures

Article IV Elected Board

9. Changes from Co-Chair to **Chair-elect** here and throughout Bylaws.

Rationale: Clarifies succession of officers and continuity in leadership. It conforms with other ASA entities which have a chair and chair-elect serving one year terms.

10. Inserts **The Chair-elect shall present a slate of candidates for officers to the annual ORN business meeting at ASA followed by the election.**

Rationale: Specifies the process for electing officers.