

NCJW Bylaws 2020-2023 Process

The president appoints a Bylaws committee for the triennium to review revised Section Bylaws as they are submitted, as well as reviewing submitted changes to the National Bylaws for consideration at any National Voting Meeting during the triennium. In advance of a National Voting Meeting, a Bylaws packet is sent to Sections and other leadership groups eligible to vote at a National Voting Meeting, such as the NCJW, Inc. Board of Directors and Honorary NCJW, Inc. Directors and Officers. Section leaders are encouraged to appoint a Bylaws committee to review the National Bylaws and submit changes on the enclosed Bylaws matrix after Section board approval. After the submissions are returned to NCJW, Inc., the National Bylaws committee meets to review all the submissions. At this meeting, the committee develops a suggested set of amendments to submit to the National Voting Meeting delegate body. It is then the responsibility of the voting delegates to debate, amend, and, finally, to approve the NCJW Bylaws, as amended.

Pursuant to NCJW's Bylaws, at least 40 days prior to the National Voting Meeting, NCJW, Inc. will mail a report of the Bylaws committee to each section, explaining the committee's action of the submitted amendments. This report will include accepted changes, rejected changes and accepted changes with alterations.

What happens with the Bylaws at the National Voting Meeting?

The committee's action is not final. Final decisions are up to the delegates of the National Voting Meeting where voting delegates actually debate and vote on the proposed changes to the Bylaws. At the Bylaws plenary the proposed amendments will be brought up, one at a time, for consideration. At that time, with the participation of an official parliamentarian, the Bylaws are debated, amended, and adopted. Any recommendation that had previously been submitted to, but not approved by the Bylaws committee, may be offered during the business session as a motion by any voting delegate and seconded by a delegate from another Section. Each motion must include a persuasive rationale. Often sections advocate with others at or before the voting meeting to enlist support. If a recommendation, including one that is editorial, was not submitted by anyone to the committee, it may not be brought before the delegate body.

Will there be an opportunity to have questions answered at the National Voting Meeting?

Yes. Early in the agenda of the National Voting Meeting, a special Bylaws hearing will take place at which anyone may ask questions of the Bylaws committee. Although debate on the Bylaws is not in order at the hearing, questions about the committee's report and the process in general are appropriate. Once the business session begins, questions unrelated to the debate are not appropriate.

If you still have questions about the Bylaws process, please contact Sarah Feinberg, (sfeinberg@ncjw.org or 202-375-5062) or Sue Tilis, NCJW Bylaws Committee Chair (suetilis@gmail.com).