

American Sokol Bylaws Change Proposal
Proposed by Sokol Spirit
December 27, 2021

- **Areas requested for change and text changes/additions request**
 - **Article 7** (Page 9)– To be stricken
 - **Article 8** (Page 10) – This article and all subsequent articles should be moved up in number (8 becomes 7, and so forth)
 - **Other Articles Require Changes (for continuity)**
 - Article 5, Sections 3 & 4 (Page 5) – Strike Section 3; Section 4 becomes section 3
 - Article 6, Section II, Sub Section A, Number 5 (Page 6)
 - Strike **[board of governors]**
 - Add **[EXECUTIVE BOARD]**
 - Article 6, Section III, Sub Section A, Number 4 (Page 8)
 - Remove Content – The Convention shall elect an Executive Board comprised of the following: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Foundation Director, Membership Director, Educational Director, Public Relations Director, and **[three (3) At-Large Board. All Districts should be represented on the Executive Board.]**
 - Add Content – The Convention shall elect an Executive Board comprised of the following: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Foundation Director, Membership Director, Educational Director, Public Relations Director, and **[ALL DISTRICT PRESIDENTS, OR THEIR DULY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE]**
 - Article 6, Section IV, Paragraph 1 (Page 9) – Strike **[and the board of governors]**
 - Article 7 (Page 9) – **[remove entire section]** Some below items to be incorporated into Article 8 as listed below
 - Article 8, Section 1 (Page 10)
 - Remove Content (last sentence) – **[In addition, the Executive Board will also follow the directives of the Board of Governors in any matters not determined by the Convention.]**
 - Article 8, Section 2 (Page 10)
 - Remove Content **[bold in lower case in brackets]** – The Executive Board shall be comprised of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Educational Director, Foundation Director, Membership Director, Physical Director(s), Public Relations Director and **[three (3) At-Large Board Members.]** The National Bylaws Chairman shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Board.
 - Add Content **[bold in all caps and underlined]** – The Executive Board shall be comprised of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Educational Director, Foundation Director, Membership Director, Physical Director(s), Public Relations

Director, and **ALL DISTRICT PRESIDENTS, OR THEIR DULY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE.** The National Bylaws Chairman shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

- Article 8, Section 4, Subsection W, X, and Y (Page 11)
 - Add Content [Previously duties of BOG items 4, 5, and 6 in Article 7] –
 - New W – **SHALL REVIEW SUCH FINANCIAL MATTERS AS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES AND TRAVEL AND DAILY EXPENSES SHOULD SUCH NEED ARISE**
 - New X – **MAY SELECT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN SOKOL AND DETERMINE THE SALARY, TERM AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**
 - New Y – **SHALL MEET AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS PRIOR TO THE CONVENTION TO RECOMMEND A SITE FOR THE AMERICAN SOKOL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE ENSUING CONVENTION PERIOD.**
- Article 9, Section 4 (Page 11)
 - Remove Content [**bold in lower case in brackets**] - The Secretary shall have charge of all official correspondence of the American Sokol, [**board of governors,**] and Executive Board; record and prepare the minutes of [**board of governors and**] Executive Board meetings; send an accurate copy of these minutes in a timely manner to the [**board of governors and**] Executive Board as directed.
- Article 9, Section 6 (Page 11)
 - Remove Content [**bold in lower case in brackets**] - The Treasurer shall accept and deposit all moneys for the Organization; make payments authorized by the appropriate officer(s) or authorities as outlined in the Spending Authority Policy; be responsible for all cash-on-hand, financial assets, and promissory notes of the American Sokol; present a report with the monthly and annual running status to forecast for each line item in the budget of the General Fund and for each additional account at each meeting of the Executive Board or other reports as requested by the Executive Board; ensure that all federal, state and local tax returns, corporate registrations, tax exempt registrations and reports are prepared and filed in a timely manner; submit to the Auditing Committee all promissory notes, reports of cash-on-hand and bank statements at the time of its quarterly examination of the books; distribute to the Executive Board, [**the board of governors**] and each Unit President a copy of the annual audited financial statement showing all assets and liabilities; and prepare and file the end of year financial reports for publishing. Upon a drop lower than a 4-month reserve, the Treasurer will notify all directors with budgets about any temporary halt on expenses except salaries and essential products for the running of the organization.
- Article 9 Section 7 (Page 11)

- Remove Content **[bold in lower case in brackets]** – The **[at-large board members and]** Vice Presidents shall be assigned a specific portfolio of responsibility as identified in Article 8, Item 4, and others as necessary.
- Article 25, Section 5 (Page 18)
 - Remove Content **[bold in lower case in brackets]** – The decision to expel a Unit lies with **[the board of governors upon the recommendation of]** the Executive Board.
- Article 26, Section 1, Sub-section c (Page 18)
 - Change Content/Punctuation at end of line from semi-colon to period
 - Remove Content **[bold in brackets]** - From District Executive Board to the American Sokol Executive Board[;]
 - Add Content **[bold in all caps and underlined]** - From District Executive Board to the American Sokol Executive Board.
- Article 26, Section 1, Sub-section d (Page 18)
 - Remove Content of entire line **[bold in lower case in brackets]** – **[d. from the american sokol executive board to the board of governors.]**
- Article 27, Section 2, Sub-section a (Page 19)
 - Remove Content **[bold in lower case in brackets]** - Proposal will be sent to the members of the **[board of governors]** and National Bylaws Committee 30 days prior to a regular or special Board of Governors meeting for initial consideration of the proposal;
 - Add Content **[bold in all caps and underlined]** - Proposal will be sent to the members of the **EXECUTIVE BOARD** and National Bylaws Committee 30 days prior to a regular or special Board of Governors meeting for initial consideration of the proposal;
- Article 27, Section 2, Sub-section c (Page 19)
 - Remove Content **[bold in lower case in brackets]** - If the proposal is deemed not ready for membership approval by the **[board of governors]** (“ready” requires simple majority of all **[board of governors]** members) or needs significant content revision, it goes back to the submitting entity for rework. When rework is completed, repeat 2a) and 2b) above;
 - Add Content **[bold in all caps and underlined]** - If the proposal is deemed not ready for membership approval by the **EXECUTIVE BOARD** (“ready” requires simple majority of all **EXECUTIVE BOARD** members) or needs significant content revision, it goes back to the submitting entity for rework. When rework is completed, repeat 2a) and 2b) above;
- Article 27, Section 2, Sub-section d (Page 19)
 - Remove Content **[bold in lower case in brackets]** - When the **[board of governors]** deems the proposal is ready for membership vote (“ready” requires simple majority of all **[board of governor]** members), the proposal will be sent to all Units for a vote; the **[board of governors]** will establish a deadline date (maximum of 60 days, not less than 30 days) by which Units must submit their vote. All negative votes should be accompanied by a

written explanation. Votes will be acknowledged upon receipt. The ballot will go to the Unit Presidents or their designated representatives.

- Add Content [**bold in all caps and underlined**] - When the EXECUTIVE BOARD deems the proposal is ready for membership vote (“ready” requires simple majority of all EXECUTIVE BOARD members), the proposal will be sent to all Units for a vote; the EXECUTIVE BOARD will establish a deadline date (maximum of 60 days, not less than 30 days) by which Units must submit their vote. All negative votes should be accompanied by a written explanation. Votes will be acknowledged upon receipt. The ballot will go to the Unit Presidents or their designated representatives.

- Article 43, Section 1, Sub-section A (Page 26)

- Change Content/Punctuation at end of line from semi-colon to period
- Remove entire Content [**bold in lower case in brackets**] – From the District Executive Board to the American Sokol Executive Board[;]
- Add Content [**bold in all caps and underlined**] – From the District Executive Board to the American Sokol Executive Board.

- Article 43, Section 1, Sub-section B (Page 26)

- Remove entire Content [**bold in lower case in brackets**] – [**b**] from the **american sokol executive board to the board of governors.**]

- **Rationale for Changes**

- **The World of Communications has changed** – This structure was established during a different time-period that did not have the same opportunities for mass communication and quick feedback. Electronic communication now allows for expedited communications and for our membership/units/districts to provide quick feedback. Our current structure was intended to create oversight during a time when gathering this board took more time, and feedback was not as quickly accessible. Video Conferencing, Email, Text Messaging, and other new channels mean that information can be disseminated quickly, and action can be taken swiftly.
- **Executive Board is no longer an exclusively Chicago Board** - The Board of Governors was established to create a checks and balances for what was at one time an Executive Board composed almost exclusively of Chicago area members. Due in large part to changing technology (mentioned above), many members of the Executive Board are from locations well outside of the Chicago area. Due to video Conferencing, our District Presidents can easily participate in the executive board meetings and be included in the decision-making process. The need to have an additional board (BOG), is not ideal for empowering nor for increasing the efficiency of the Executive Board.

- **Excessive Governance** – Our current structure is not efficient, especially in a world where most of our Sokol leaders hold multiple roles. We have the technology for this combined board to become a more concise governing body. This proposal would still provide District oversight and engagement at the national level without excessive governance. The Executive Board would still be held accountable at each convention.
- **Current System creates an imbalance of Authority** – The current set up creates an additional level of bureaucracy that is not needed. Our Convention is the highest governing body of the organization, and in most organizations the highest governing body is charged with electing the highest-level governing board. However, the BOG holds more authority than the Executive Board, which therefore undermines authority of the convention and circumvents the authority of the board that is intended to lead the operations of the organization.