



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

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Proposed Amendments to AEG's Constitution/Bylaws

An important ballot is arriving in voting members' mailboxes this week. Please be sure to cast your vote, if you are a voting member of AEG.

Through the external 'Needs Assessment' that AEG underwent, it was identified that AEG's current governance structure is likely limiting association growth and precluding our 'at-large' members from participating in local functions. It was also identified that by reducing the size of our Board of Directors (BOD) our BOD could operate with more efficiency and effectiveness. AEG took these recommendations very seriously by creating a focus committee for this purpose and presenting those findings for discussion with the BOD. After much deliberation, the BOD is recommending the following changes to our Governance structure. The proposed amendments required to fulfill these changes are provided also below.

(1) AEG currently has a thirty (30) member BOD, five of which are Executive Council members and the remaining section elected Directors. It was deemed that a thirty (30) member BOD is unnecessarily large for a 3,000 member association. To streamline BOD efficiency, the BOD is requesting the number of Directors be reduced. The BOD will officially set the number of Directors and their affiliated election region boundaries, if the constitution's recommended amendments are supported by the membership. For reference, at the midyear BOD meeting, the BOD supported the idea of reducing to a fifteen (15) member BOD, inclusive of the five (5) Executive Council members.

(2) Currently, a locally elected section chairperson must also serve as a Director on the national BOD. The duties of these two roles are very different and equally time consuming. To alleviate this, the BOD wishes to separate these roles into two independently elected positions, allowing more focused attention to each of these critical roles. This change would not preclude the possibility of someone being elected for both positions simultaneously.

In order to accomplish the changes in Governance of AEG, the BOD is requesting from the membership changes to our constitution. Under the proposed model, election of Directors will occur within regions (serving exclusively as election boundaries) that will collectively encompass, at a minimum, the entire United States. A Director will be elected from each region to maintain geographic diversity on the BOD. The proposed corresponding changes to the constitution are shown below:

EXISTING: Article 3 - Management

3.1 Board of Directors: The Board of Directors of the Association shall be responsible for the management of the Association and shall be composed of the four Association Officers, immediate Past President, ~~and the Chairperson of each Section or designate.~~

PROPOSED CHANGE:

3.1 The Board of Directors of the Association shall be responsible for the management of the Association and shall be composed of the four Association Officers, immediate Past President, **and an elected representative or appointed designate from 10 to 12 constituency-based regions.**

EXISTING: Article 6 – Amendments

6.1 Amendments: This Constitution may be amended by the voting membership, provided that the proposed amendment is written and has been presented to the ~~Sections~~ of the Association for discussion and review...

PROPOSED CHANGE:

6.1 Amendments: This Constitution may be amended by the voting membership, provided that the proposed amendment is written and has been presented to the **voting members** of the Association for discussion and review...

By voting in favor of the constitutional amendments for regional representation, you also agree to retroactively rescind Bylaws' article 13.5 (b) & (c), thus allowing the constitutional amendment and reduction in BOD size to be captured simultaneously by this single membership vote. Should this vote pass, the BOD shall be authorized to amend both the appropriate bylaws' articles for regional representation and Article 13.5 (b) & (c) by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors without an additional vote by the membership.

View the entire constitution on the AEG website by visiting www.aegweb.org/constitution.