

About Those Bylaws

Jo Konen TFRW VP-Bylaws

16719 Mandeville, Spring, TX 77379; 281-370-1177, jokonenbylaw@sbcglobal.net

I trust that you are working hard getting your bylaws changes made in time to mail them to me before **October 31, 2008!** Most of you have been procrastinating. But crunch time is here.

I received a question about what will happen if a club doesn't get their bylaws in by the deadline. The answer is you may not get them approved before the May 1, 2009, deadline. That is the deadline that NFRW sets for a club to be in good standing with its state federation in order to be eligible to send delegates to the NFRW Convention in September.

The problem is that my committee and I have to read your bylaws, check to make sure all the required elements are present and that prohibited elements are not included. So far, no club has had perfect bylaws. That means they must be sent back for further revision. Most of the time you will not have to go back to your members because you have left out (or put in) an element that TFRW requires or does not allow. Since the Federation requires the change, your club has no choice, so no need to vote. Be sure to read the requirement to your membership so they will know what has been added or deleted.

If it is an element requiring a decision by your membership (such as the month of your election), you will have to go through the process of notification and voting. That takes some time. Then you must send them back for me to review again. The process is time-consuming and May 1 is only six months away from October 31.

If you get your first submission for review in to me by October 31, they will get reviewed and back to you in time for you to make changes and return them before May. If you miss the deadline, I do not promise to get them back to you. Don't lose your eligibility.

Again, I implore you to compare your bylaws with the Sample Bylaws in *the 2008-09 TFRW Leadership Handbook*. If you do that carefully, you will pick up on the elements missing from your bylaws.

In the May "President's Newsletter" I had a check list of items that have been brought to my attention as I have read various clubs' bylaws. I encourage you to re-read that list. You can find it on the TFRW web site: tfrw.org.

Even though I had this next item in the July "President's Newsletter," many of you have still not included it in your bylaws. The TFRW Bylaws, Article IV, Section 10, requires you to make a statement about dissolution of the club. Here again is suggested wording:

This club may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote at any meeting of the local club, provided that notice of the dissolution has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting and has been sent by mail to all members of the local club. In the event of dissolution, the Board of Directors shall, after payment of all liabilities of the local club, distribute any remaining asset to the State Federation. None of the assets shall be distributed to any member or officer of the organization and the right to use the name shall revert to the State Federation.

REMEMBER:

- 1. You must submit your entire bylaws, not just a page or two with the changes.**
- 2. They must have been approved by your membership and dated as such.**
- 3. You must submit a hard copy, not an electronic one, to me at the above address.**
- 4. Do not send to Headquarters.**

Feel free to contact me with any questions. My email address and phone number are above.

Deadline for receiving your bylaws is October 31, 2008

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