

Bylaws Deadline Is Past, BUT Submit Them Anyway

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The deadline for submitting your club bylaws is past. You must, however, send them anyway if you want to be able to send delegates to the Conventions next fall. My committee and I will do our best to get you approved by the May 1 deadline. But I cannot promise that it will happen now that you have missed the deadline.

To help me get you approved, review your bylaws carefully so that you don't have any problems. Check to see if you have all the elements required by comparing them to the Sample Bylaws in the *2008-2009 TFRW Leadership Handbook*.

In addition, look for conflicts. For example, if one Article says that your PAC Treasurer is elected, then another Article cannot say that she is appointed. One thing I have found is that a number of clubs say that the PAC Treasurer is elected but that she may be an Associate Member. TFRW and NFRW say that an Associate member cannot hold office. That is a conflict in your bylaws that must be cleared up.

Another common example is the appointment of Committee Chairmen. One section will say that the President appoints all Committee Chairmen. Then another section will say that the Nominating Committee shall elect its chairman from its own members. In this case, you must exempt the Nominating Committee from those the President can appoint.

Have more than one club member read your bylaws so that typos can be caught. Look at the numbering system. Make sure a number in the sequence isn't left out.

The articles I have had in the "President's Newsletter" every month since January also have suggestions and helpful hints about bringing your bylaws into compliance. They are all on the web site, www.tfrw.org.

The most important thing about Bylaws is the details.

For those of you who sent your bylaws in and received a letter from me with additional items to correct, you have until **January 15, 2009**, to return them to be assured that you will be approved by May 1. Don't delay. Do it now.

I have had several calls from clubs saying that their bylaws were approved 2, 4, 5 years ago and asking if they still have to submit their bylaws. I have advised them to go back and read my article in the January 2008 "President's Newsletter" where I explain that two changes were made at the TFRW and NFRW Conventions last fall that require **all local clubs to make changes to their bylaws**. If you have that question or have procrastinated thinking you were "okay," You, too, need to read that article.

Once your bylaws are approved, I am asking you to submit an electronic copy for the TFRW archives. I am putting them on a disk to be stored at Headquarters.

REMEMBER:

- 1. You must submit your entire bylaws, not just a page or two with the changes. It applies to your second submission also.**
- 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.**

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