

Proposal A: Constitution Revision (Dustin, Henderson, Scott)

Dear Colleagues,

We are asking for your support in reconstituting the Academy of Leisure Sciences (ALS). We want to open up the membership to include what used to be the Society of Park and Recreation Educators (SPRE) as well as any other scholars and educators committed to the intellectual advancement of our field. Our proposed modifications to the ALS Constitution will allow all members and Fellows to be eligible to hold all offices, and our proposal calls for separating the Secretary and Treasurer functions into two distinct offices in anticipation of a larger membership.

Why Do We Think This Proposal Is Necessary?

As you may know, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recently converted its branches into networks. What used to be SPRE is now the Education Network. Since its inception, the Education Network has attracted substantially fewer members than SPRE. Educators report a sense of feeling "adrift" without a common face-to-face organization within which to associate and carry out their traditional functions (e.g. the bi-annual Teaching Institute, the National Department Chairs Meeting, and the Future Scholars Program). It is also the case that since NRPA has narrowed its mission to focus on municipal public parks and recreation, a large percentage of scholars and educators have felt disenfranchised. They have moved on to other organizations and associations that better represent their specialized interests. Left unchecked, there is a real possibility that the educational community will fragment increasingly and perhaps even gravitate away from NRPA entirely. That would be disastrous for NRPA and scholars and educators who share an interest in leisure and the delivery of park and recreation amenities.

We believe it is both appropriate and necessary for the ALS to step in at this point and exercise leadership and vision on behalf of the entire leisure studies community. We understand that the ALS, historically, has been an honorary scholastic society and that election to the ALS is one of the highlights of a distinguished career. But we also believe the ALS can and should do more than this, especially at this critical point in time. Who, if not us, is better suited to bring together a highly eclectic group of scholars and educators bonded by a common interest in better understanding the role of leisure in our lives? Who, if not us, is better suited to mentor younger and newer generations of academicians? Who, if not us, will lead?

What Would Be Different about the ALS if this Proposal Is Passed?

Our proposal would establish two categories of association with the ALS. In addition to elected Fellows, we would welcome as members all other scholars and educators who are committed to the intellectual advancement of our field, who pay annual dues, and who wish to participate in the ALS's activities and programs. This would likely raise the membership in the ALS from the 70 or so Founding and elected Fellows to several hundred scholars and educators. The ALS's governing body would also expand to consist of Fellows and members, although only Fellows would be allowed to vote on changes or amendments to the ALS Constitution and by-laws. Members, as well as Fellows, would be eligible to serve as officers in the ALS. The office of Secretary-Treasurer would be separated into two distinct offices in anticipation of greater responsibilities attendant to greater numbers of members. We would expect the establishment of several standing committees to routinely oversee the bi-annual Teaching Institute, the National Department Chairs Meeting, the Future Scholars Program, and other functions as needed. These standing committees would be composed of Fellows and members. (We anticipate having to create new operational guidelines for the administration of these various standing committees.) Finally, the ALS would be characterized by an even greater atmosphere of mentorship as a richer mix of seasoned and newer academicians congregate at various professional meetings and conferences.

What Would Remain the Same about the ALS if this Proposal Is Passed?

Procedures for electing Fellows to the ALS would remain the same as would the prestige associated with being an elected Fellow. (Only Fellows will be eligible to elect new Fellows). The Future Scholars Program would continue to be a centerpiece of the ALS, and new revenues from an expanded dues base could be dedicated to the earliest possible endowment of the Future Scholars Program.

What Might the Future of the ALS Be Like if this Proposal Is Passed?

Currently, the ALS is composed of approximately 70 individuals. We gather annually at the NPRA Congress for lunch, a business meeting, the welcoming of newly elected Officers and Fellows, and the introduction of the Future Scholars. Average attendance is between 15 and 20 members. Meanwhile, the lion's share of our colleagues is set adrift without a common sense of identity or unifying purpose. What used to be 500 to 700 members of SPRE is now reduced to fewer than 190 members of the Education Network (about half of these members are practitioners and NRPA staff members). But if we combine what used to be SPRE together with what is currently the ALS, and add

into the mix all those other individuals who have felt disenfranchised from the parent organization (those scholars and educators interested in leisure behavior, sport, tourism, natural resource management, not-for-profit organizations, event management, therapeutic recreation, etc.), we have the makings of a reinvigorated, revitalized, and intellectually diverse academic community. We have a critical mass. What that might evolve into, of course, is largely up to the next generations of scholars and educators. But we believe it is the current ALS membership's responsibility to help set the stage.

Our proposal is not rooted in nostalgia. We are not trying to recreate the past. On the contrary, we are trying to invent the future. We need to do for ourselves what NRPA has not done for us. Having said that, we believe our proposal will benefit NRPA by creating an independent companion organization focused exclusively on the needs of scholars and educators. We recommend continuing to hold the annual ALS luncheon and business meeting in conjunction with NRPA congresses, and we recommend working with NRPA to foster mutually beneficial goals and objectives. But we also understand that the ALS reflects a much broader constituency than that currently served by NRPA, and that the ALS is independent of NRPA.

We are not proposing these changes to the Academy of Leisure Sciences for ourselves. We are in the twilight of our own careers. But we feel a strong sense of obligation to those who are coming after us. We want future scholars and educators dedicated to leisure studies to feel good about their prospects as well. We want them to feel a sense of community, camaraderie, and professional identity, and we want the Academy of Leisure Sciences to be their home as well as ours.

We thank you for your consideration, we value your input, and we respectfully ask for your support.

SEE BELOW FOR REVISIONS TO CONSTITUTION BEING PROPOSED.

CONSTITUTION
of the
ACADEMY OF LEISURE SCIENCES

REVISIONS ARE DESIGNATED

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Academy of Leisure Sciences is to recognize, support, and establish a network and forum for scholars and educators-scholars committed to the intellectual advancement of the field. The Academy carries out this purpose through meetings and activities devoted to furthering the study of leisure and its implications for individual and collective well being.

Article I - Fellows and Members

The Academy is composed of Fellows and members ~~Fellows; Fellows: are those~~ elected ~~and inducted~~ into the Academy because of their continuing and outstanding contributions to the study of leisure. Members choose to join the Academy and participate in the activities of the Academy. ~~Fellows and members~~ constitute the governing body of the Academy ~~and participate fully and equally in the activities of the Academy.~~

Article II - Election of Fellows

Section 1. Nominations of candidates for ~~F~~ fellowship shall be made by ~~Active~~ Fellows through the Nominations and Elections Committee (composed of Fellows), as hereinafter provided and voted upon by all Fellows of the Academy. The Nominations and Elections Committee co-chairs are selected by the President, Past President, and President-Elect.

Section 2. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall investigate the qualifications of all candidates nominated for Fellowship, have prepared a biographical sketch of each nominee, submit a ballot and biographical sketch of each nominee to all Fellows, and report the results of the balloting to the ~~President~~ President.

Section 3. Two-thirds majority of all ballots cast for each individual candidate shall elect a Fellow.

Section 4. The President shall notify successful candidates of their election to the Academy. After their acceptances have been received, a Certificate of Fellowship and the biographical data will be prepared for the recognition of the candidate and induction at the Annual Meeting. Those elected as Fellows must be present to be inducted unless excused by the President.

Section 5. Any candidate for election as a Fellow of the Academy of Leisure Sciences who receives less than two—thirds of all ballots cast in two successive elections shall not be eligible for consideration in the two subsequent elections.

Article III - Removal of Fellows

Section 1. A Fellow who fails to respond to the call for dues for three consecutive years shall receive a direct written request from the Treasurer to resign. If there is no response after the third such notice within a period of six months, the Fellow shall be dropped automatically from the Academy.

Article IV - Officers: Election and Duties

Section 1. The Officers of the Academy shall consist of the Past-President, President, President—Elect, Secretary, ~~y~~—Treasurer, and Historian. All members and Fellows are eligible to serve as Officers of the Academy.

The President—Elect, Secretary, ~~and~~ -Treasurer, ~~and Historian~~ shall be elected by ~~written-mail~~ ballot prior to the annual meeting. The Historian shall be appointed by the President.

Section 2. The Officers constitute the Executive Committee of the Academy and, in the interim between business meetings, act on the Academy's behalf. Should the officers determine that it is necessary to postpone or forego the Annual Meeting in any calendar year, as prescribed in Article V, the Officers shall continue with their duties until their successors are duly elected.

Section 3. ~~All votes by Active Fellows for All votes for Officers and Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee~~ shall be cast by ~~written-mail~~ ballot. A majority shall signify election provided a quorum of ballots is returned. If no candidate receives a

majority, a second ballot shall be held between the candidates receiving the highest number of votes. Ballots must be returned to ~~the designated member of~~ the Nominations and Elections Committee by the deadline established by the committee, but not less than two (2) weeks before the Annual Meeting, in order to be counted.

Section 4. The President-Elect and other in-coming Officers and Committee Members shall assume their duties at the close of the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. The President shall call and preside at all meetings of the Academy; appoint all Committees except the Nominations and Elections Committee; notify successful candidates of their election as Fellows, Officers, or Committee members; preside at the induction of elected Fellows; represent the Academy in professional affairs with other organizations or groups; authorize the payment of bills properly incumbent upon the Academy; perform such other functions, in concert with the Executive Committee, as may be legally delegated by the ~~Academy membership~~ Active Fellows or assumed to further the avowed interest of the Academy.

Section 6. The President-Elect shall act for the President if absent, and perform such other duties as may be properly delegated by the President. The Past-President shall serve on the Nominations and Elections Committee.

Section 7. The Secretary ~~—Treasurer~~ shall transcribe the minutes of Academy meetings; notify the ~~Fellows and members~~ Fellows of all meetings at least thirty (30) days in advance; maintain an accurate roll of all ~~Fellows and members~~ Active Fellows; ~~and~~ correspond with Fellows, ~~members, and~~ and others in the promotion of Academy affairs.;

Section 8. ~~The Treasurer~~ -collects dues and fees; maintains the financial accounts in accordance with approved budgetary practice; ~~and~~ and pays accounts properly charged against the Academy as authorized with this office. The books of the Treasurer shall be declared closed on October 30, making the fiscal year November 1 through October 30.

Section 98. The Historian shall maintain an accurate and current chronological record of important Academy documents, events and biographies of the Fellows; organize and regularly update Academy Archives; prepare Certificates of Fellowship for newly elected ~~F~~fellows; assist the President in formally inducting new members; coordinate revisions to the Constitution; propose and present memorials.

Section 109. The President-Elect, ~~and~~ Secretary, ~~and~~ Treasurer shall be elected annually. The term for Historian shall be one year, but may be reappointed ~~three years~~.

Section 119. Nominees for office must agree to serve, if elected, and must attend the Annual Meetings during their term of office.

Section 124. In case of incapacitation of any elected officer, the President will appoint another Fellow or member to complete the term of office of that person. In case of the incapacity of the President while in office, the President-Elect shall assume that office.

Article V - Meetings and Business

Section 1. The Academy shall hold an Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will consist of a business session in addition to discussions, addresses, and reports directed toward understanding leisure.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee or upon written petition to the President signed by twenty (20) ~~Active~~ Fellows and/or members.

Section 3. All meetings of the Academy, both annual and special, shall be called by the President. The Secretary ~~Treasurer~~ shall notify the Fellows and members not less than thirty (30) days in advance of each duly called meeting.

Section 4. Academy affairs are transacted at the Annual Meeting by a quorum (a minimum of 20 Fellows and/or members constitutes a quorum ~~one-third Fellows shall constitute a quorum~~). Between meetings, Academy affairs are transacted by the Executive Committee or by writtenmail ballot. Except where specifically indicated otherwise, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the business activities of the Academy.

Article VI - Committees

Section 1. The Academy recognizes three (3) types of Committees - the Executive Committee, Standing Committees and President's Committees.

Section 2. A Standing Committee represents a group of Fellows and members duly elected or appointed to conduct a continuous or reasonably permanent function of the Academy.

Section 3. A President's Committee represents a group of Fellows and members duly appointed to perform a temporary service to the Academy.

~~Section 4. The Academy has three (3) Standing Committees: (a) Nominations and Elections, (b) Emerging Scholars, (c) Programs.~~

~~Section 5. The Nominations and Elections Committee is elected annually by the membership. The Emerging Scholars and Program Committees shall be appointed by the President, have a rotating membership, and conduct their affairs in keeping with the Committee's charge and mandate. The President's Committees shall be appointed by the President, and they shall cease to exist with her or his term of office.~~

~~Section 6. The President's Committees shall be appointed by the President, and they shall cease to exist with his/her termination of office.~~

Article VII - Fees

~~Section 1. All Fellows and members pay yearly dues except for Fellows and members who are retired from their paid employment ~~who are not required to pay dues.~~~~

~~Section 2. The annual dues for Fellows and members and any other fee or assessment shall be established by the Fellows and members at the Annual Business Meeting. Dues, fees or assessments shall be payable within thirty (30) days after notification by the ~~Secretary~~-Treasurer.~~

~~Section 3. A registration fee may be charged to Fellows and members attending the annual meeting to offset expenses. Section 3. A registration fee may be charged Fellows attending the Annual Meeting to offset expenses incurred for the meeting.~~

Article VIII - Constitution

~~Section 13. These Articles may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Fellows present at the Annual Meeting, provided the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing by the Secretary ~~Treasurer~~ to all Fellows at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting, and further provided that a quorum of Fellow votes on the amendment. ~~Non-attending Fellows may register their votes by mail.~~~~

Suggested Criteria to be Used in the Selection of Candidates Fellows for Membership induction into the Academy of Leisure Sciences

The following criteria should be considered when candidates are proposed for [membership induction](#) into the Academy of Leisure Sciences [as Fellows](#):

1. The individual should be directly engaged in the profession of leisure sciences.
2. The individual should have demonstrated competence in professional activities over a considerable period of time (10-15 years). Included in this would be such factors as: (a) quality as well as quantity of contributions to the literature in the field, (b) recognition of leadership and extensive participation in professional associations and organizations, and (c) acknowledged outstanding performance as a teacher, leader, administrator, practitioner, or researcher in the field of leisure.
3. The individual should indicate a willingness to further the goals of the Academy of Leisure Sciences and participate actively in its affairs.
4. The individual must not have been considered for election in two consecutive of the previous three years (See Article II, Section 5).

Revised ~~October, 2002~~ [September, 2011](#)