

NWA BYLAW EVOLUTION

What's happening?

When the NWA was founded in 1975, bylaws were written to guide the structure of a brand new organization of nearly 650 passionate members of the weather community. Since that time, we have more than quadrupled our numbers of members dedicated to excellence in operational meteorology. We have grown in so many other ways due to the dedicated officers, councilors, volunteers, and staff. But our by-laws and other governing documents have seen few updates since those early years; it's time they match the professionalism of our devoted teams.

Key Reasons for Updating the Bylaws

- These new bylaws will help the NWA reduce risk, maximize resources, and allow for effective and efficient organizational management, benefiting all members.
- More professional & more detailed bylaws will ensure expectations & rules are more clearly laid out for all to see, increasing transparency & accountability to members
- Provides an option for Local Chapters to attain non-profit status at no/very low cost.

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Read the next page to understand the key proposed changes
2. Visit nwas.org/new-bylaws-to-vote-on to review the full documents:



Proposed By-Laws

Proposed Cert. of Incorporation
By-Laws

Current

3. Join the Webinar on October 4 to learn more. Register at: <https://nwas.memberclicks.net/BylawsVote>
4. VOTE on the proposed bylaws by October 25

What's The Difference?

The new bylaws are 22 pages long as opposed to the old 5-page version. Most of that added length is simply because we needed to formalize a lot of things we are already doing & ensure we meet all our legal responsibilities.

The key changes that you will notice as a member are outlined below. The bracketed numbers indicated the section where you can find this part of the bylaws for further reading.

What's Changing?

Why?

| - Membership - | |
|---|---|
| Membership Terms will match the calendar year. [2.5] | Makes it easier to remember when to renew your dues, ensures only dues-paying members vote in elections. |
| Institutes a Membership Code of Ethics [2.3] | Ensures members conduct themselves/represent the association with high standards. Adds credibility to the NWA as a whole and safeguards the NWA from any member misrepresenting our mission & values. |
| - Council - | |
| The 'Council' will be called a 'Board of Directors' [4] | Matches standard non-profit structure (clarity & consistency when working with outside organizations) |
| Election Changes – Membership votes for Board Members & President (Board selects VP, Secretary & Treasurer from their ranks) [2.3 & 6.7] | More consistent with standard non-profit elections EXCEPT many only vote for Board . The current Council believes strongly in the voice of the membership being heard in the selection of Presidents. |
| Board Structure – Institutes Term Limits [4.6, 9.3], Creates Governance Committee to oversee nominations [8.1], Clarifies VP role [6.7] | Ensures clarity of roles, responsibilities, and processes to all members. Ensures fresh viewpoints are consistently brought into leadership positions in the organization, while maintaining institutional knowledge via the creation of a non-voting Advisory Committee to support the Board . |
| - Business Process - | |
| Incorporates NWA in Oklahoma (vs Washington, D.C.) [1.5] | Ties the incorporation to our professional staff and established office location. |
| - Local Chapters - | |
| Local Chapter Tax Policy [10.6] | An IRS Group Exemption would give Chapters an option to be a 501(c)(6) non-profit at no/very low cost. It would cost thousands of dollars for chapters to do this on their own. |