

When discussing the subject of a nonprofit's bylaws, you are sure to get an interesting response. For many nonprofits, their bylaws are just some forgotten document, full of legalese, gathering dust in a file cabinet somewhere. No one on the current board of directors knows who prepared them, nor what any of the provisions mean. They certainly are not referring back to them for any reason. For a nonprofit that actively uses its bylaws, the bylaws can be an interesting glimpse into the organization's governing psyche. GAHPERD conducts business according to our current bylaws. We do our best to revisit them every 3-5 years to make sure that they are still relevant and up-to-date, according to what is going on in our profession.

A nonprofit's bylaws are considered a legal document that dictates how the organization must be governed. Failure by a board to follow the stipulations outlined in the bylaws can have devastating consequences to the organization...and potentially even to the board members themselves. Since bylaws are such a big deal, it stands to reason that what they contain and how they are used should be taken extremely seriously. This is the reason that we ask for input from our membership. Changes are suggested by current members of the GAHPERD Executive Board, but our association belongs to the members. As the board, we work for you. Please read through the bylaws and the proposed changes so that you can make an educated decision on the changes. As always, we seek and value your input.

The main reason we are requesting a change to the bylaws this year are to update the convention job duties of the president-elect and past president. You will see these recommended changes marked up in the pdf version of the bylaws. You will see in the motion form the rationale for the changes and the approval of the motion by the Executive Board. The final step in this process is feedback and approval from the membership of GAHPERD.

Our current bylaws state that any changes to the current set of bylaws must be made available at least 30 days prior to the vote/approval of "suggested changes." We understand that all teachers are extremely busy, especially at the beginning of the school year so we are attempting to allow our members plenty of time to review the changes, provide input and suggestions prior to the actual vote. Voting will occur electronically between April 24th and 26th, 2023. You will receive an email with voting instructions on April 24th.

As stated in the bylaws:

- The vote is to be taken electronically between April 24th and 26th, 2023.
- 2/3's of the votes cast (for approval) are required to amend the current bylaws.