

**NWSEO Constitutional Amendment Explanation – draft 8/18/2016**  
**Prepared by Chris Jacobson – NWSEO Constitution Committee Chair**

Article I (NAME AND CONSTITUTION)

Section 1 – delete reference to National headquarters

Section 2 – no changes

Article II (DEFINITIONS) – no changes

Article III (OBJECTIVES) – no changes

Article IV (MEMBERSHIP) – no changes

Article V (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION)

Section 1 – no changes

Section 2 – change requirement to hold annual Convention to 2017, 2018, and all odd-numbered years beginning in 2019 (this covers all years when Regional/National elections would be conducted under one person one vote, and the 2017 Convention where the Constitutional amendments would receive a final vote). Conventions would not be required in even-numbered years beginning in 2020.

Section 3 – subsections (b) and (c) deleted, updated language covering these subjects moved to new Article VIII, subsections (d) and (e) re-lettered to (b) and (c)

Section 4 – Regional Council references deleted

Article VI (REGIONAL ORGANIZATION) – deleted entirely, Regional Conferences no longer needed at the Convention since election of Regional Chair and Vice Chair will be done by direct ballot, remainder of language is obsolete and does not reflect how Regions currently operate

Article VII (BRANCH ORGANIZATION) – renumbered to Article VI

Section 1 – no changes

Section 2 – deleted entirely, replaced by modified Section 1 from previous Article VIII, language specifying when elections letter must be mailed and nominations deadline deleted, replaced by language stating that elections procedures will be adopted by National Council or contained in Bylaws, references to Regional

Conferences and National headquarters deleted, email notification to delegate/alternate delegate specified as acceptable, language from Bylaw Article IX moved here to specify that newly elected Branch officers will take office at the conclusion of the meeting at which ballots were counted (or upon notification to the Regional Chair if the newly elected Branch officer was the only nominee for that position), no term limits for Branch officers specified

Section 3 – moved from previous Article VIII, references to Regional conferences removed, email notification of delegate/alternate delegate to Credentials Committee specified as acceptable

Section 4 – deleted entirely, superseded by direct ballot voting

Article VIII (NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL OFFICE) – renumbered to Article VII

New language entirely replaces previous Article VIII

Section 1 – Establishes terms of office and years in which elections will occur for National and Regional officers. Establishes “direct election secret ballot” as the voting method for National and Regional officers beginning in 2018. Specifies two-year term for Regional officers elected in 2016, and special one-year term for Regional officers elected in 2018. Establishes four-year election cycle for National offices and two-year election cycle for Regional officers beginning in 2019. Specifies that rules and procedures for these elections, such as nomination deadlines and ballot procedures, shall be adopted by the National Council or stated in the Bylaws.

*The following election timeline is not part of the draft Constitutional amendments, but is provided for your information:*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Elections</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>Regional (delegate system, two-year term)</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>None (final vote on Constitutional amendments will occur)</i>
<i>2018</i>	<i>Regional (direct ballot, special one-year term)</i>
<i>2019</i>	<i>National (direct ballot, four-year term)</i> <i>Regional (direct ballot, two-year term)</i>
<i>2020</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>2021</i>	<i>Regional (direct ballot, two-year term)</i>
<i>2022</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>2023</i>	<i>National (direct ballot, four-year term)</i> <i>Regional (direct ballot, two-year term)</i>

Section 2 – Establishes criteria for a nomination to be deemed valid and printed on the ballot. Establishes preferential voting to resolve situations where individuals run for multiple offices. Allows an individual to simultaneously hold a Regional Chair and the National Secretary-Treasurer position, prohibits an individual from simultaneously serving as a Regional officer and National President or Vice-President. Allows an individual to run simultaneously for Regional and National offices.

Section 3 – Establishes procedures for the National Council and/or National President to appoint an eligible member to a vacancy resulting from lack of valid nominations for an office. Specifies that the newly elected Council/President would make any such appointments.

Section 4 – Establishes dates for the counting of ballots and assumption of office for those elected.

Section 5 – Specifies that no term limits will apply to Regional or National officers.

Article IX (NATIONAL OFFICERS) – renumbered to Article VIII

Section 1 – removes reference to Legislative & Public Affairs Committee

Section 2 – no changes

Section 3 – removes provision of membership cards and LMR reports from Secretary-Treasurer's duties

Article X (REGIONAL OFFICERS) – renumbered to Article IX

Section 1 – removes references to Regional Council/Conference, and removes duplicate language (already stated in Article V) that Regional Chairs are members of the National Council

Section 2 – no changes

Article XI (SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS) – renumbered to Article X

Section 1 – no changes

Section 2 – remove references to Regional Conference/Council

Section 3 – no changes

Article XII (IMPEACHMENT OF OFFICERS) – renumbered to Article XI, no other changes

Article XIII (MISCONDUCT) – renumbered to Article XII

Section 1 – added language to specify that the procedures of this Article may not be used to remove an elected NWSEO officer from his/her position

Section 2 – removed reference to National Office

Article XIV (GRIEVANCE AND APPEALS) – renumbered to Article XIII

Section 1 – no changes

Section 2 – no changes

Section 3 – no changes

Section 4 – no changes

Section 5 – no changes

Section 6 – added language to specify that a complaint regarding the conduct of an election (filed as a member grievance) must be filed with the National President within 7 days of the announcement of result for the election complained of

Article XV (TRUSTEESHIPS) – renumbered to Article XIV

Section 1 – no changes

Section 2 – no changes

Section 3 – no changes

Section 4 – no changes

Section 5 – no changes

Section 6 – no changes

Section 7 – deleted entirely. This removes language prohibiting branches in trusteeship from sending delegates to any Convention at which Regional or National officers were elected. No longer necessary with direct ballot elections.

Article XVI (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS) – renumbered to Article XV

Section 1 – no changes

Section 2 – no changes

Section 3 – no changes

Section 4 – added language to specify that Constitutional interpretations by the Constitution Committee are subject to review by the National Convention. Specifies that a 2/3 majority vote will be required to overrule a decision of the Constitution Committee.

Article XVII (BYLAWS) – renumbered to Article XVI, no other changes

Article XVIII (RATIFICATION) – renumbered to Article XVII, no other changes

Article XIX (PRIOR CONSTITUTIONS) – renumbered to Article XVIII, no other changes

## **NWSEO Bylaw Amendment Explanation – draft 8/18/2016**

**Prepared by Chris Jacobson – NWSEO Constitution Committee Chair**

### Article I (Dues)

Section 1 – no changes

Section 2 – no changes

Section 3 – removed entirely. Deletes language that referred to direct dues payments to the National Office.

Section 4 – renumbered to Section 3, no other changes

Section 5 – renumbered to Section 4, no other changes

### Article II (Recruiting) – no changes

Article III (Membership) – deleted entirely, removes language that allowed active members who retired or transferred to an organization outside of the NWSEO bargaining unit to appeal to the National Council to continue as active members

### Article IV (National Council) – renumbered to Article III

Section 1 – removes language that allowed Council members to send designees to meetings

Section 2 – no changes

Section 3 – no changes

Section 4 – no changes

Section 5 – removes procedural language detailing how electronic balloting of the Council is to be conducted regarding issues deemed appropriate by the President

### Article V (Standing Committees) – renumbered to Article IV

Section 1 – removes language that prohibited any candidate or nominee for office from serving on the Credentials Committee and replaces with language that allows such service, with recusal required from any matter involving the office(s) that the person is running for. Removes references to Negotiating Committee and

Legislation & Public Affairs Committee. Sub-section (f) re-lettered to (c), sub-section (g) re-lettered to (d).

Section 2 – no changes

Article VI (Impeachment) – renumbered to Article V

Section 1 – remove reference to National Office

Section 2 – remove reference to National Office

Section 3 – no changes

Section 4 – no changes

Section 5 – remove references to National Office and to Director of Membership Services

Section 6 – no changes

Section 7 – no changes

Section 8 – remove reference to National Office

Section 9 – no changes

Section 10 – no changes

Article VII (Voting) – renumbered to Article VI

Section 1 – added reference to super-majority vote required for override of interpretation by Constitution Committee

Section 2 – no changes

Section 3 – new section to specify conditions where offices will not appear on the direct ballot, and to specify that ballots will not be mailed out to Regions with no contested offices at stake (money saving measure for NWSEO)

Section 4 – new section to state the definition of a contested office, this is needed for Section 3

Article VIII (Fiscal Issues) – renumbered to Article VII, no other changes

Article IX (Terms of Office) – removed entirely. Language regarding terms of office for National/Regional officers incorporated into Constitution Article VIII. Language regarding terms of office for Branch officers incorporated into Constitution Article VII.

Article X (Misconduct) – renumbered to Article VIII

Section 1 – no changes

Section 2 – no changes

Section 3 – no changes

Section 4 – no changes

Section 5 – reference to National Office removed

Article XI (Constitutional Referendum) – renumbered to Article IX

Section 1 – no changes

Section 2 – no changes

Section 3 – no changes

Section 4 – no changes

Section 5 – removed reference to National Office

Section 6 – removed reference to National Office

Section 7 – removed references to National Office and Director of Membership Services

Section 8 – no changes

Section 9 – removed reference to National Office

Article XII (Conduct of Meetings) – renumbered to Article X, no other changes