

Report of the OHC By-Laws Committee

The OHC By-Laws Committee has received several suggestions for changes to the By-Laws and to the Standing Rules. Proposed revisions were reviewed and approved at the Executive Cabinet meeting on January 17, 2010. The most significant changes are to specify which portions of the by-laws apply to county chapters. Approval of the By-Laws changes will require a two-thirds vote of the members voting at the General Membership meeting on March 7, 2010. Approval of the Standing Rules changes will require a majority vote of the members voting at that meeting. Here are the proposed revisions:

1. AMEND By-Laws Section 4.3

4.3 The membership year commences on January 1 and ends on December 31. Members are considered active if they have complied with Section 4.1 of these By-Laws prior to October 1 of the calendar year and are not under suspension or expulsion. Active members are entitled to all benefits of membership including the right to vote. A membership paid after October 1 entitles the member to the benefits of membership except for the right to vote in the current year.

EXPLANATION: to clarify that the membership year is a calendar year

2. AMEND By-Laws Sections 4.5 and 4.5.1

4.5 Individual Membership

4.5.1 Individual membership is open to any person age eighteen (18) or older. An active individual member shall be entitled one (1) vote and may hold office if eligible under Article V.

EXPLANATION: to substitute "individual" for "single" to clarify that membership status is unrelated to marital status

3. AMEND By-Laws Section 4.9.1

4.9.1 Any person over the age of eighteen (18) who has rendered important service toward meeting the goals of OHC, has been a member in good standing for a minimum of five (5) years and has held the position of state officer, committee chairperson or committee member for at least two (2) years, may be awarded a Lifetime Membership on the recommendation of the Merit Awards Committee, if approved by a majority of those members voting at a General Membership

meeting. Lifetime members shall be entitled to one (1) vote and may hold office if eligible under Article V. A Lifetime member is exempt from paying dues to the state or to his or her home county chapter.

EXPLANATION: to clarify that Lifetime Members' dues are waived and the member is to be treated as a member of his or her home chapter.

4. AMEND title to By-Laws Section 5.0

5.0 Article V: State Officers, Executive Cabinet, Directors

EXPLANATION: to clarify that this provision is inapplicable to chapters

5. AMEND By-Laws Sections 6.6.1 and 6.7.1

6.6.1 Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern all assemblies of OHC to the extent not inconsistent with the Charter, the By-Laws, the Standing Rules and any special rule of order which the OHC may adopt.

6.6.7 OHC shall maintain order during its meetings. It is the duty of the presiding officer to compel the assembly to observe order.

Explanation: to remove references to county chapters, which are now addressed in Article X

6. AMEND By-Laws Section 10.1.4

10.1.4 Each county chapter shall accept and comply with these By-Laws with the exception of Article V State Officers; Executive Cabinet, Directors; Article VI Meetings; Article VII Elections; Article VIII Finances; and Article IX Committees, and may adopt additional rules of governance not inconsistent with the By-Laws and Standing Rules of OHC.

Explanation: to clarify that certain portions of the By-Laws do not apply to county chapters

7. NEW By-Laws Sections 10.1.11 - 10.1.16, 10.3 - 10.3.3, 10.4 - 10.4.1

10.1.11 Officers

10.1.12 The officers of each county chapter shall be President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. A county

chapter may elect additional officers.

- 10.1.13 Each officer shall have and perform the duties customary to his or her office including the following: The President shall preside at all meetings of the county chapter and be responsible for maintaining order. The Vice President shall preside in the president's absence. The Treasurer shall provide to the members a written report of the finances of the chapter, listing all assets and expenditures, not less than quarterly. The Recording Secretary shall prepare and maintain written minutes of all meetings of the county chapter. A county chapter may designate additional duties for its officers.
- 10.11.4 Each officer shall be an active member of the county chapter in which he or she holds office, preferably for two (2) or more years as of the commencement of the term of office.
- 10.1.15 Officers shall be elected to serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successor is duly elected or appointed. The term of office shall begin January 1.
- 10.1.16 Officers shall conduct themselves professionally at all meeting and while in the performance of their duties.
- 10.3 Meetings
- 10.3.1 Each county chapter shall hold meetings of the membership at such place, time and date as the county chapter president may determine.
- 10.3.2 A quorum shall consist of the voting members present plus at least two (2) of the officers listed in Section 10.2.12.
- 10.3.3 Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern all assemblies of the county chapters.
- 10.4 Committees
- 10.4.1 A county chapter may form one or more committees to further the business of the chapter. The county chapter president shall appoint all committee chairs and state the mission of each committee.

EXPLANATION: to more precisely state by-laws applicable to county chapters

8. AMEND title to By-Laws Section 11.0

11.0 ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

EXPLANATION: correct typographical error

9. AMEND Standing Rules Section 3.7.2

3.7.2 Serve as an interface and advisor among the county chapters in their region and between the county chapters in their region and the state OHC.

EXPLANATION: to better state the role of regional representatives

10. AMEND Standing Rules Section 4.1.3

4.1.3 Prior to initiating a grievance, the aggrieved party should request that his or her county chapter president or other chapter officer contact the Regional Representative. An attempt should be made to resolve the problem in this initial contact. If unsuccessful, the Regional Representative and the Grievance Committee Chair, By-Laws Committee Chair or a Director, as selected by the state OHC President, should meet with the parties, separately if necessary, to seek a resolution acceptable to all parties. The Regional Representative and the selected state representative should make recommendations and assist in establishing an action plan for resolution. If this process is not successful, the grievance may proceed. The Grievance Committee may also attempt to mediate the grievance. Voluntary participation by all interested parties is encouraged.

EXPLANATION: to amplify desire for informal resolution of grievances

Submitted by,

Tom Green, By-Laws Committee Chair
January 18, 2010