

Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society

Proposed Amendments to By-Laws: May 2025

MAPS MEMBERS: Please vote YES or NO on this group of proposed amendments, all related to the dissolution of the Publications and Website Committees and the creation of a Communications Committee to manage all of their tasks.

Rationale for a new MAPS Communications Committee:

When MAPS was founded, it made sense to have a Publications Committee that specialized in the creation and distribution of our quarterly newsletter - *The Constellation*. For many years, the newsletter was formatted, printed, and then mailed out to members (with stamps and everything!). A little bit further along, the dawn of the internet saw a new MAPS Website Committee to manage the ways in which we digitally communicated with members - as opposed to the print versions handled by the Publications Committee. Today, in a wireless and paperless age, digital communications are the norm. Our newsletter is now published as a PDF file that can be downloaded and viewed on computers and mobile devices - and ultimately printed, but only if a member wished to do so themselves. As we prepare to unveil a new MAPS website that will streamline all of the ways that we connect (newsletter, membership renewals, conference planning, discussion forums, social media, etc.), it makes sense to merge the Publications Committee and the Website Committee into the Communications Committee - a team that will help to manage all of the public communications of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society.

Article III. Section 7. The Secretary shall:

- **Be a standing member of the Communications Committee.**

Rationale: The Secretary will be involved in the work of the proposed new Communications Committee.

Article IV. Section 1. Standing committees of the Society shall be: Awards, **Communications**, Constitution Review, Education, Elections, Historian/Archivist, Membership, Memorial, **and** Program., ~~Publications, and Website~~ Committee chairs shall be appointed by the President.

Rationale: Communications Committee will replace the Publications and Website Committees.

Article IV. Section 9. The ~~Communications Publications~~ Committee shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the President, ~~the Secretary~~, and at least one other member appointed by the Chairperson. This Committee shall coordinate the ~~public communications publications~~ of the Society, solicit articles for publication and provide a regional contributing editor for the IPS journal - the PLANETARIAN.

Rationale: Replacing the Publications Committee with a newly designated Communications Committee. Adding the Secretary to this committee as specified in Article III, Section 7. With so many different methods of communication, this language was changed to be inclusive of anything publicly available, but not the internal business of the society.

Article IV. Section 10. The Chairperson of the ~~Communications Publications~~ Committee shall be the editor of the CONSTELLATION.

Rationale: Replacing the Publications Committee with a newly designated Communications Committee.

Article V. Section 3. The Elections Committee will compile the slate and the biographies and submit it to the ~~Communications Publications~~ Chairperson to be published in the Winter Solstice edition of the CONSTELLATION, and/or electronically transmitted to the membership.

Rationale: Replacing the Publications Committee with a newly designated Communications Committee.

MAPS MEMBERS: Please vote YES or NO on this group of proposed amendments, all related to the operations of the Elections Committee and the role of the MAPS Treasurer on this committee.

Article III. Section 9A. The Treasurer must obtain approval of the President for any expenditure of more than \$500.00.

Section 9B. The Treasurer shall be a standing member of the Elections Committee, but shall be a non-voting, ex officio member of the committee.

Rationale: Add "A" to allow for Section B. Section B is added because the Treasurer has access to the election system, and therefore must be involved in the Elections Committee. However, they are a non-voting member to maintain the independence of the committee.

Article IV. Section 5. The Elections Committee consists of a Chairperson appointed by the President and at least two other members appointed by the Chairperson. Voting members of the Elections Committee shall not be currently serving as officers or board members of the Society. Additionally, the Treasurer shall be an ex officio non-voting member of the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee shall select a system for voting prior to November 30th and facilitate the election as outlined in Article V.

Rationale: Re-emphasizes the fact that the Treasurer has access to the election system but will be a non-voting member of the Elections Committee.

Article V. Section 2. All nominations must be submitted in writing or electronically with the "second" submitted in writing or electronically by November 1st. Candidates must be members of the organization in compliance with the organization's rules and regulations including current paid membership status.

Rationale: Requested stipulation stating that candidates must be paid up and in "good standing".