

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The following changes were approved for consideration by the Club at the November 14, 2023 meeting for a vote at the January 9, 2024 meeting. You may vote to approve or reject these changes in person at the meeting, or by submitting your vote before 6:45 PM, January 9, 2024 using the following form. You may submit your vote electronically by copying and emailing your ballot to TCARC@W9MQB.com; by printing, signing, and mailing it to P. O. Box 321, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-0321; or by submitting your vote to any Club officer.

BALLOT

I, (*print name*) _____, certify that I am an active member of the Tri-County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and hereby submit my vote on the proposed Constitutional changes:

SELECT ONE:

OR _____ I vote AYE to approve all of the proposed changes listed below.

OR _____ I vote NAY to reject all of the proposed changes listed below.

OR _____ I wish to vote for each of the proposed changes individually, as shown underneath each item listed below.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Call Sign: _____

The following motions were made, seconded, and approved by majority vote for consideration at the January 9, 2024 meeting:

1) CHANGE Article II, Section 2 ("OFFICER ELECTIONS") from

...elected by popular vote from the membership of the club utilizing a secret ballot. The term of office shall be for a period of one (1) year. All elections...

to

...elected by popular vote from the membership of the club utilizing a paper ballot, except where a candidate is running unopposed, when a voice vote may be utilized. If only one candidate runs for each of the offices, a single voice vote may be taken to elect the full slate of officers, The term of office shall be one (1) year in length. All elections...

Rationale: We don't need secret ballots when only one person is running.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

2) CHANGE Article II, Section 3 ("OFFICER VACANCIES") from

All vacancies occurring between elections for any club office must be filled by a special ballot. This balloting shall be held at the first...

to

All vacancies occurring between elections for any club office may be filled by a special election, at the discretion of the Executive Board. This special election shall be held at the first...

Rationale: This allows a Club officer spot to remain vacant until the next election, if the vacancy happened in January, with elections coming in February,

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

3) CHANGE Article III, Section 1 ("OFFICER'S DUTIES--President") from

...adopted by this club, shall co-sign with the Treasurer all drafts on the treasury exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and shall Perform all customary duties pertaining...

to

...adopted by this club, and shall perform all customary duties pertaining...

Rationale: Checks that require two signatures are no longer significant, in the era of debit cards and mobile phone deposits.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

4) CHANGE Article III, Section 2 ("OFFICER'S DUTIES--Vice-President") removing

In the absence or unavailability of the President, he/she shall co-sign drafts on the treasury.

and adding

The Vice-President shall be in charge of securing meeting rooms as required, but this duty may be delegated to another member.

Rationale: See #3 regarding checks. Putting space reservations on the VP balances the Treasurer's load.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

5) CHANGE Article III, Section 4 ("OFFICER'S DUTIES--Treasurer") from

shall pay all bills as properly authorized by a majority vote of the membership or as directed by vote of the Executive Board and shall present an itemized report at each meeting of all the cash receipts and cash disbursements for the period since the last report.

to

shall pay all bills as properly authorized by a majority vote of the membership or as directed by the Executive Board, and shall present an itemized report at each meeting of all the cash receipts and cash disbursements for the period since the last report.

Rationale: The change in wording allows the Board to approve it without an official meeting, i.e. via phone calls or email.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

6) CHANGE Article IV, Section 1 ("MEETINGS") from

At any meeting four (4) members (excluding the elected officers present) are required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

to

At any meeting, four (4) members are required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Rationale: This changes the minimum number of people required for Club business from 8 to 4.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

7) CHANGE Article V, Section 2 ("FAMILY MEMBERSHIP") from

Any reference to a member in this Constitution and By-Laws shall apply to a family member.

to

Any reference to a member in this Constitution and By-Laws shall also apply to a family member.

Rationale: Corrects the wording so both full members and family members are treated equally.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

8) ADD Article V, Section 3 ("LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP") reading

Section 3. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP. Any member who meets the eligibility requirements, application, and election to membership as set forth in Section 1 of this Article for membership, and who wishes to become a lifetime member, shall upon submission of a non-refundable payment of ten (10) times the current dues and assessments for a calendar year have all the rights and privileges of a full member as long as that person is alive and remains eligible for membership as set forth in Section 1.

Rationale: Allows for skipping the annual renewal, in exchange for money.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

9) CHANGE Article VII, Section 2 ("CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS") from

This Constitution or its By-laws may be amended, added to, or changed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the club membership provided that all members have been notified by mail of the intent to make such changes. All proposals must be submitted to the Secretary in writing as well as read to the general membership at any meeting. No amendment proposals may be voted on until the next regularly scheduled meeting held after the meeting at which the reading took place. Balloting by mail will be allowed provided a member's vote is received by the Secretary prior to the meeting at which the vote is taken.

to

This Constitution or its By-laws may be amended, added to, or changed by the following process. All proposals must be submitted to the Secretary in writing, to be read to the general membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting, and all members must be notified by mail of the intent to make such changes. At the next meeting held after the meeting at which the reading took place, the proposed changes must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the ballots either submitted by the club members present or submitted by mail and received by the Secretary prior to the meeting at which the vote is taken.

Rationale: Simplifies the wording. "Mail" also ties to #18 below

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

10) CHANGE Article IX, Section 1 ("MEMBERSHIP") from

It shall be the duty of the Vice President to maintain a supply of standard application forms and to make such forms available to interested persons.

to

It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to maintain a supply of standard application forms and to make such forms available to interested persons, either in paper form or available online, or to allow online renewal through the Club website or similar tools.

Rationale: Allows for the online renewal option and PDF download of the "paper" membership form.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

11) REMOVE Article IX, Section 1 ("MEMBERSHIP") from

To remain a voting member and be eligible for membership the following year, a member must attend no less than one-fourth (1/4) of the regularly scheduled meetings during the calendar year and participate in other club activities unless specifically excused by Executive Board action.

Rationale: Do we want to exclude people who had to work on Field Day?

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

12) ADD Article IX, Section 1 ("MEMBERSHIP") from

Members may attend meetings either in person or by any means approved by the Executive Board including, but not limited to, online web meetings or over-the-air nets.

Rationale: Allows "Zoom attendance" and potentially allows for over-the-air attendance at some point, if we work out the details.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

13) CHANGE Article IX, Section 2 ("MEETINGS") from

All members must be notified by mail at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the start of any special meeting.

to

All members must be notified at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the start of any special meeting.
Rationale: Allows use of email or text message notification, rather than just snail mail. See #18 below.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

14) CHANGE Article IX, Section 2 ("MEETINGS") from

Regular meetings shall be held not less than once per month at such time and place as ordered by the President. Such meetings shall be known as "regularly scheduled meetings."

to

Regular meetings shall be held at such a time and place as ordered by the Executive Board. Such meetings shall be known as "regularly scheduled meetings" and the planned schedule for these meetings will be announced at the first meeting of the year or at the first meeting after being changed, if changed during the year.

Rationale: We haven't met every month during Summer for years.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

15) CHANGE Article IX, Section 5 ("STANDING COMMITTEES") from

The club at its annual voting meeting shall elect a five (5) member Repeater Committee. Committee members shall be elected for a two (2) year term (two members one year and three on alternate years). The Repeater Committee shall organize by electing a Chairperson and appointing members to the duties of Technical (maintenance, enhancement, etc.), Legal (FCC rules, compliance, site, insurance, etc.), Financial (determining costs, etc.) and Chief Control operator (assure availability and qualifications of control operators).

At the first meeting following April 1, the President shall appoint Chairpersons to the following committees: Hamfest, Field Day, Christmas, Picnic, Nominating, Scholarship and any others deemed necessary by the Executive Board. committee chairpersons shall choose additional members from the club membership with each committee being composed of not less than two (2) members plus the chairperson.

to

At the first meeting following April 1, the President may appoint Chairpersons to the following committees: Repeater, ARES/RACES, Hamfest, Field Day, Christmas, Elections, and any others deemed necessary by the Executive Board, with responsibility for any committees not appointed falling to the Executive Board. Committee chairpersons may choose additional members from the club membership, subject to approval by the Executive Board.

Rationale: 5 people on the Repeater committee is a bit of overkill, and we haven't appointed many of the other committees for years.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

16) CHANGE Article IX, Section 8 ("AUDIT COMMITTEE ") from

The Treasurer is to give a complete financial report which has been audited by the Auditing Committee composed of two (2) Executive Board members and one (1) voting member who have been appointed by the membership at the January meeting. The audited report is to be presented at the first meeting after April 1. The report is to be submitted in writing and signed by the committee members and the Treasurer.

to

The Treasurer is to give a complete financial report which has been audited by the Auditing Committee composed of three (3) members, with at least one who is not a current officer, who have been appointed by the membership at the January meeting. The report is to be submitted in writing and signed by the committee members and the Treasurer and presented at the first regularly scheduled meeting after its completion.

Rationale: Allow for greater club involvement in the process, and allow presentation of the report earlier than April.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

17) REMOVE Article IX, Section 9 ("SCHOLARSHIP")

Provided the club has adequate funds to do so, the club shall annually award at least one (1) scholarship in an amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). Scholarship applicants must meet the following criteria: Preference will be given a resident of the three-county area served by the club, be a student at an accredited institution of higher education, be in at least the second year of study in electronics or related fields, and submit with his/her application a copy of the previous semester's transcript of grades.

Rationale: We haven't done this for years, even though we have had a balance sufficient to do so. Should we?

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

18) ADD Article IX, Section 9 ("MAIL")

Section 9. MAIL. Any reference to "mail" or any requirements for notices required by this Constitution or its By-Laws may be met using any of the following: (1) delivery using the United States Postal Service; (2) delivery using a third-party shipping firm, such as United Parcel Service;(3) delivery via email; (6) delivery via text message; (5) publication via publicly accessible website or newspaper; or (6) delivery using any ARRL allowed electronic messaging technologies or modes.

Rationale: Welcome to the 21st Century. With stamps at \$0.66 each, email is a far better use of Club resources where we can use it, with physical mail as the backup plan.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change

19) CHANGE the effective date from

Dated at Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, this 14th day of April, 1985.

to

Dated at Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, this 9th day of January, 2024.

_____ I vote AYE to approve this change _____ I vote NAY to reject this change