

## Summary of Proposed MACHA Bylaw Revisions – October 2011

The MACHA Bylaws Committee and the Board of Directors has spent the better part of the last two years reviewing and revising the association's bylaws. They are presented her for your review prior to calling for an electronic vote of acceptance by the membership. Your input is valued. Please send comments specific to the bylaws directly to Kerri Calvert (kecalve@ilstu.edu), MACHA President. You may also contact Riane Greenwalt (rgreenw@siue.edu), Bylaw Chair or Steve Lux (slux@niu.edu), Secretary/Treasurer to ask questions or get any needed clarification.

Many of the proposed revisions are minor and involve language consistency. Some are so that our bylaws are in line with current ACHA bylaws – we are not allowed to have any bylaws that are in conflict with ACHA bylaws. There are, however, several significant changes in structure and practice that we believe will allow the Board to be more effective in serving the membership now and into the future. For exact changes between the current bylaws and the proposed bylaws, please compare the two documents that are on the web page. Here are the major recommendations, the “Cliff Notes” version, if you will.

1) Articles 6 & 7 - We are proposing to add two new appointed board positions. These are Program Chair Elect, a position that will allow interested members to work for a year with the current Program Chair before taking on the task of organizing our fall affiliate meeting. We are also proposing a Communications Chair to facilitate better communication with the membership, promote membership, and conduct needs assessments of the membership for annual meeting and other purposes. An additional minor change is that we are proposing a name change for the 4 current Members-at-large. In fact, they are not from the at large membership, but are elected representatives from their respective states. We are therefore proposing to call them State Representatives. Nothing else will change about these positions. They are designed as a great, first, affiliate experience for members wanting to become more involved.

2) Articles 9 & 11 - The other major change involves allowing the Board to operate effectively in the event of unforeseen circumstances (e.g., if a fall affiliate meeting were not held for any reason). These bylaw changes will allow us to still conduct business (hold an election, pass a budget, etc.) via other means (primarily electronic).

We are asking the membership to review and comment on these rather quickly so that we can vote on them in a timely fashion. Once people have had about a week to review, the Board will make any last modifications based on your feedback and then they will be put out for a final vote via the internet. As most of you know, we are not having a fall affiliate meeting this year as we are busy preparing to co-host the ACHA Annual Meeting in Chicago in May 2012. Once, this process is complete we will be then asking for you to vote for the new Board and approve the 2012 budget – all before the end of the year.

One last thing. By the time you read this, you will have received a notice regarding member interest in becoming involved in MACHA. Please consider serving. It is a fun learning experience, great professional development, and personally rewarding. While we cannot pay you for your time, some of the positions can assist you with some of your ACHA expenses (see Article 8). Thanks for reading. We look forward to seeing you in the great city of Chicago in May!

Steve Lux, MS  
MACHA Secretary/Treasurer  
ACHA 2012 Annual Meeting Program Chair