

Proposed amendments to the USS Nitro (AE-23/AE-2) Association Constitution and Bylaws

Revised 16 Feb 2019

For consideration of the attendees at the annual reunion in Boston, Massachusetts, 20 June 2019.

Bold print = **changed or added wording**

strikethrough = ~~deleted text~~

Current language;

INDEX	Page
ARTICLE I NAME, OBJECT and Purpose	1
Section 1. Name	1
Section 2. Object and Purpose	1
ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP	1
ARTICLE III MEETINGS / SESSIONS	1
Section 1. Membership meetings	1,2
Section 2. Special Meetings	2
Section 3. Standing Rules Only (SRO)	2
ARTICLE IV OFFICERS	2
ARTICLE V NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS	3
Section 1. Eligibility	3
Section 2. Nominations	3
Section 3. Elections	3
ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS	3
Section 1. President	3,4
Section 2. Vice-President	4
Section 3. Secretary	4
Section 4. Treasurer	4
Section 5. Sergeant-at-Arms	4
Section 6. Trustees	4
Section 7. Additional Duties	5
ARTICLE VII FINES, DUES & ASSESSMENTS	5
ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEE	5
Section 1. Special Committees	5
Section 2. Duties of Committees	5
ARTICLE IX CHARGES	5,6
ARTICLE X APPEALS	6
ARTICLE XI FUNDS	7
ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS	7
ARTICLE XIII ORDER OF BUSINESS	7
ARTICLE XIV RATIFICATION	8
ADDENDUM A STANDING RULES ONLY (SRO)	9
ADDENDUM B CHARTER MEMBERS	10,11

NOTES:

1. **Bold Face Type** in the text indicates revised or new language. Bold Face Type in headings does not necessarily indicate change.

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Change the Index to read:

Proposed language;

INDEX	Page
ARTICLE I NAME, OBJECT and Purpose	1
Section 1. Name	1
Section 2. Object and Purpose	1
ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP	1
ARTICLE III MEETINGS / SESSIONS	1
Section 1. Membership meetings	1,2
Section 2. Special Meetings	2
Section 3. Standing Rules Only (SRO)	2
ARTICLE IV OFFICERS	2
ARTICLE V NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS	3
Section 1. Eligibility	3
Section 2. Nominations	3
Section 3. Elections	3
ARTICLE VI DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS	3
Section 1. President	3,4
Section 2. 1st Vice-President	4
Section 3. 2nd Vice-President	
Section 4. Secretary	4
Section 5. Treasurer	4
Section 6. Sergeant-at-Arms	4
Section 7. Trustees	4
ARTICLE VII FINES, DUES & ASSESSMENTS	5
ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEE	5
Section 1. Special Committees	5
Section 2. Duties of Committees	5
ARTICLE IX CHARGES	5,6
ARTICLE X APPEALS	6
ARTICLE XI FUNDS	7
ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS	7
ARTICLE XIII ORDER OF BUSINESS	7
ARTICLE XIV RATIFICATION	8
ADDENDUM A CHARTER MEMBERS	10,11

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Change Article I, section 1 to read:

Current language;

This Association shall be known as the USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association and hereafter be referred to as the "ASSOCIATION". This document shall be know as the Constitution and Bylaws of the USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association, including all alterations and amendments thereto, or herein after enacted.

Proposed language;

This Association shall be known as the USS Nitro (~~AE-2/AE-23~~) Association and hereafter be referred to as the "ASSOCIATION". This document shall be know**n** as the Constitution and Bylaws of the USS Nitro (~~AE-2/AE-23~~) Association, including all alterations and amendments thereto; or herein after enacted.

Reason:

I've found this to be cumbersome when writing the association name. We already said this was for ALL ships named NITRO. Plus over the years most of us that do any writing for the association have all shorten the name to USS Nitro Association.

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Add Article I, section 3 to read:

Current language; [no current language]

Proposed language; [adding new section]

Section 3. Motto

The motto of this Association will be *Continuing Service to the Fleet.*

Reason;

This motto is currently in the SRO's. I believe it should be amended into the bylaws.

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Change Article II to read:

Current language;

(a). Membership in this association will consist of former crewmembers who served aboard the named ships while they were in the United States Naval Service and who were separated under honorable conditions, their spouses and others accepted by majority vote of members in assembly.

(b). New members will be accepted into the Association by payment of their yearly Association dues and the following:

(1). Complete and sign Membership Application on their first year of membership.

Proposed language;

(a). Membership in this association will consist of former crewmembers who served aboard the named ships while they were in the United States Naval Service and who were separated under honorable conditions, their spouses **and children, and other honorably discharged veterans who have an interest in the ammunition ships of the U.S. Navy.**

(b). ~~New~~ Members will be accepted into the Association by payment of their yearly Association dues and the completion of the membership dues /renewal form.

Reason;

Since we never have had a vote on who we accept as members during our reunions, it was time to propose what we actually do. Capitalize first "m". The only way to be a member is to pay the dues. New or old!

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Change Article III, section 1, paragraph (b) to read:

Current language;

- (b). Business meetings shall be held during the reunion assembled, to facillitate the operation of this association. The time(s) and date(s) to be published.

Proposed language;

- (b). Business meetings shall be held during the reunion assembled, to facillitate the operation of this Association. The time(s) and date(s) to be published **in the most expedient way desired.**

Change Article III, section 2 & 3 to read:

Current language;

Section 2. Special meetings

- (a). Special meetings shall be called by the President upon the written request of three (3) members in good standing. Notification by mail, stating the object of the call shall be given the members by the Secretary-Treasurer.
- (b). No business shall be transacted at a special meeting other than for which it was called.
- (c). Quorum, rules and absences are identical as in Art. III.1 of these Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3. Standing Rules Only (SRO)

(a). SRO's are Association rules, motions and etc., that are of a continuing nature, but not amended into the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association. The SRO's may be changed at any Special or Membership meeting by a majority vote of members present, as long as they are not in conflict with this Constitution and Bylaws. They will be listed and be known as Addendum A, Standing Rules Only.

(b). The Secretary will keep an up-to-date list of Addendum A SRO's. The list shall contain the rules listed in numerical sequence (rules may be combined, ie: subscriptions, travel expense, etc.) the date of approval of each rule, the date a rule was abrogated.

Proposed language;

Delete Section 2 and Sections 3.

Reason;

Since we meet in reunion once a year as a body we really don't need standing rules or special meeting.

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Change Article IV, section (a) and (b) to read:

Current language;

- (a). The officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Master-at-Arms, and a Board of Trustees composed of three members. Collectively, all officers will be known as the Executive Board of the Association.
- (b). All officers shall hold office for a term of two (2) years, or until their successors are elected and installed.

Proposed language;

- (a). The officers of the Association shall be President, **1st** Vice-President, **2nd Vice-President**, Secretary, Treasurer, Master-at-Arms, and a Board of Trustees composed of three members. ~~Collectively, all officers will be known as the Executive Committee.~~
- (b). All officers shall hold office for a term of two (2) years, or until their successors are elected and installed. **The term of office will start July 1st in an odd number election year to June 30th in the next odd number year.**

Reason;

Split Vice-President into 1st and 2nd. Adding the start and end dates of term of office for elected officers.

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Change Article V, section 2 to read:

Current language;

Nominations of officers and any other Association position(s) which has executive or policy making authority or responsibility, will be held at the first business meeting of the Reunion. Candidates for office must be present at the meeting to accept nomination for office. Or if absent, in writing to the Association election committee no later than the close of business on the day of nominations.

Proposed language;

Nominations of officers and any other Association position(s) which has executive or policy making authority or responsibility, will be held at the ~~first~~ business meeting of the Reunion. **Candidates for office must give some kind of indication, before or after, that they accept nomination.** ~~Or if absent, in writing to the Association election committee no later than the close of business on the day of nominations.~~

Reason;

Since we have had only one (1) business meeting, there can't be a second. This was put in the bylaws when I thought we were going to have two (2) business meetings during the reunion(s). Candidates can give any kind of acceptance.

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Change Article V, section 3, paragraph (a) to read:

Current language;

(a). Election will be conducted by secret ballot. The ballots will be made available at the start of the second business session of the reunion to each member present. Ballots must be returned to the Association Election Committee one hour before adjournment of the second business session. The installation of the officers shall take place just prior to adjournment.

Proposed language;

(a). Election will be conducted by secret ballot. The ballots will be made available, at the ~~start~~ **end of the nominations,** ~~second business session of the reunion~~ to each member present. Ballots must be returned to the ~~Association~~ Election Committee ~~one hour~~ **no later than fifteen minutes** before adjournment of the ~~second~~ business session. The installation of officers shall take place at the Association dinner.

Reason;

Deleting the second business meeting. Changing when ballots are available. Changing the time to return ballots. Changing installing from before adjournment to association dinner.

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Change Article VI, to read:

Current language;

Article VI Duties of Officers

Section 1. **PRESIDENT.** The President shall preside at meetings of this Association and enforce all laws thereof. S/he shall fill all vacancies occasioned by death or otherwise, with persons duly qualified, until an election shall be held. S/he shall sign all documents and papers that require their signature to properly authenticate them. Shall have power to fill vacancies occurring in any appointive committee or elective office during recess. Correspondence with members, when practical, shall be conducted through the Secretary. S/he shall submit at the business meeting of this Association a written report of their official acts during their term of office. And s/he shall with the Treasurer, sign and file the annual financial reports required by public law. S/he shall be in charge of all records and equipment assigned to them and at the end of their term of office or upon an earlier termination thereof, turn over all records and equipment assigned, to their successor.

Section 2. **VICE-PRESIDENT.** The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President, and in case of death, resignation, disqualification, refusal or neglect of the President to discharge the duties of their office, the Vice-President shall then perform all the duties incumbent upon the President until an election can be held. S/he shall be in charge of all records and equipment assigned to them. At the end of their term of office or upon an earlier termination thereof, turn over all records and equipment to their successor.

Section 3. **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of this Association. S/he shall read or cause to be read all communications, reports, etc., and attest all orders drawn on the Treasurer. S/he shall conduct the correspondence of this Association. S/he shall keep a correct record of the name, date of membership, and address of each member of this Association. He/she shall make annual reports to the Executive Board and to every member of this Association at the annual reunion, giving the receipts and disbursements of this Association in detail as shown by the books of its' office. S/he shall perform such other duties as the laws, rules, and usage's of this Association may require, and shall deliver to their successor in office or to this Association all property of this Association in their possession at the expiration of their term of office, or upon an earlier termination thereof.

Section 4. **TREASURER.** The Treasurer shall deposit all moneys received by them in a financial institution as provided for in Article XI, section 1 of this Constitution and Bylaws. Such deposits shall be in the name of the USS Nitro Association and interest thereon shall be credited to the General Fund of this Association. Transfer of funds from one financial institution to another and payment of such drafts and orders as may be drawn on them shall be made in such manner as prescribed by the Executive Board and/or as prescribed in Article XI, section 1. S/he shall keep a true and correct account of all moneys received and paid out belonging to his Association, and shall at the end of their term, or when called upon by the Executive Board, account for and deliver to this Association, or their successor in office all money, books, papers, securities and other property of said Association that may have come into its' hands that have not been previously and lawfully disposed of.

Section 5. **MASTER-AT-ARMS.** The Master-at-Arms shall preserve order in the meetings under the instruction of the President. It shall be their duty to see that only members are present at the meetings unless directed by the President or a vote of the Association.

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Section 6. TRUSTEES. The Trustees shall examine and report to the Association the condition of the books of the Secretary and Treasurer at each annual reunion. Compare the vouchers and records and see that they correspond with the collections and disbursements. They shall have the custody of all Association property, and shall perform such other duties as the Association Bylaws may require of them. The Board of Trustees shall be known as the Trustees of the USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association.

Section 7. ADDITIONAL DUTIES. In addition to the duties assigned to each officer, s/he shall perform such other duties as the Association may from time to time direct.

Proposed language;

Article VI Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

Section 1. PRESIDENT.

(a). The President shall preside at meetings of this Association and enforce all laws thereof. S/he shall fill all vacancies occasioned by death or otherwise, with persons duly qualified, until an election shall be held. S/he shall sign all documents and papers that require their signature to properly authenticate them. Shall have power to fill vacancies occurring in any appointive committee or elective office during recess. Correspondence with members, when practical, shall be conducted through the Secretary. S/he shall submit at the business meeting of this Association a written report of their official acts during their term of office. And s/he shall with the Treasurer, sign and file the annual financial reports required by public law. S/he shall be in charge of all records and equipment assigned to them and at the end of their term of office or upon an earlier termination thereof, turn over all records and equipment assigned, to their successor.

(b). The President will also have direct responsibility for hotel research, phone calls/emails and scheduling visits to hotels, reporting findings of visits to other Board members so a decision can be made, informing hotels of decision and entering into and signing contracts for down payments/final payments, guestrooms; hospitality, meeting and banquet facilities and the Association dinner.

Section 2. 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT.

(a). The 1st Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President, and in case of death, resignation, disqualification, refusal or neglect of the President to discharge the duties of their office, the 1st Vice-President shall then perform all the duties incumbent upon the President until an election can be held. S/he shall be in charge of all records and equipment assigned to them. At the end of their term of office or upon an earlier termination thereof, turn over all records and equipment to their successor.

(b). The 1st Vice-President will also have a direct responsibility for activities research, phone calls/emails to determine the suitability of activity for group, reporting findings of conversations with contacts at various activities to other Board members so a decision can be made, scheduling the visits (including military bases or ships). VP - Activities may require assistance from a local Association member(s), if available to assist. Any contracts, down payments must be reviewed and signed by either the President or the Treasurer.

Section 3. 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT.

(a). The 2nd Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the 1st Vice President, and in case of death, resignation, disqualification, refusal or neglect of the 1st Vice President to discharge the duties of their office. The

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2nd Vice-President shall then perform all the duties incumbent upon the 1st Vice-President until an election can be held. S/he shall be in charge of all records and equipment assigned to them. At the end of their term of office or upon and earlier termination thereof, turn over all records and equipment assigned, to their successor. The President may appoint an interim 2nd Vice-President to fill the remaining term of the current office holder or until an election can be held.

(b). The 2nd Vice President will have direct responsibility for transportation research, phone calls/emails to a minimum of three local bus companies (depending on reunion city) to locate and secure transportation (motor coaches) suitable for our group (may require a company with wheel chair lift capability) based on number of anticipated reunion attendees. In conjunction with the 1st Vice President - Activities, determine times to leave, travel to and make stops and return to hotel for each of the tour days. Report findings of conversations with contacts at various bus companies to other Board members so a decision can be made. Schedule the bus(es). Any contracts, down payments must be reviewed and signed by either the President or the Treasurer.

Section 4. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of this Association. S/he shall read or cause to be read all communications, reports, etc., and attest all orders drawn on the Treasurer. S/he shall conduct the correspondence of this Association. S/he shall keep a correct record of the name, date of membership, and address of each member of this Association. He/she shall make **a report to the annual reunion business meeting. Within 30 calendar days after a reunion, s/he will prepare a written record of the business meeting and send the same to the President.** S/he shall perform such other duties as the laws, rules, and usage's of this Association may require, and shall deliver to their successor in office or to this Association all property of this Association in their possession at the expiration of their term of office, or upon an earlier termination thereof.

Section 5. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall deposit all moneys received by them in a financial institution as provided for in Article XI, section 1 of this Constitution and Bylaws. Such deposits shall be in the name of the USS Nitro Association and interest thereon shall be credited to the General Fund of this Association. Transfer of funds from one financial institution to another and payment of such drafts and orders as may be drawn on them shall be made in such manner as prescribed in Article XI, section 1. S/he shall keep a true and correct account of all moneys received and paid out belonging to his Association, and shall **give the receipts and disbursements of this Association in detail as shown by the books of its' office** at the annual reunion business meeting. And shall at the end of their term deliver to their successor in office all money, books, papers, securities and other property of said Association that may have come into its' hands that have not been previously and lawfully disposed of.

Section 6. MASTER-AT-ARMS. The Master-at-Arms shall preserve order in the meetings under the instruction of the President. It shall be their duty to see that only members are present at the meetings unless directed by the President or a vote of the Association.

Section 7. TRUSTEES. The Trustees shall examine and report to the Association the condition of the books of the Secretary and Treasurer at each annual reunion. Compare the vouchers and records and see that they correspond with the collections and disbursements. They shall have the custody of all Association property, and shall perform such other duties as the Association Bylaws may require of them. The Board of Trustees shall be known as the Trustees of the USS Nitro (~~AE-2/AE-23~~) Association.

Reason: Adding an additional vice-president. Renumbering sections.

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Change Article VIII to read:

Current language;

Section 1. Special Committees

The President shall appoint special committees as needed.

Section 2. Duties of Committees

Each committee shall appoint one member to be the Chairman. The name of the person selected will be given to the Secretary. A report of any committee established, will be given at the Reunion. This report will be in legible hand or typewritten.

- (a). The Executive Board shall constitute a Committee on Supplies, and shall contract for all necessary supplies in accordance with such rules as may be adopted by this Association.

Proposed language;

Section 1. Duties of Committees

(a). Each committee shall appoint one member to be the Chairman. The name of the person selected will be given to the Secretary. A report of any committee established, will be given at the Reunion. ~~This report will be in legible hand or typewritten.~~

(b). The Executive **Committee shall be composed of all officers of the association. The President will be the Chair. The committee will be responsible for directing the association during the recess period between reunions.**

Section 2. Special Committees

The President shall appoint special committees as needed.

Reason:

Reversing sections. Deleting requirement of reports being typewritten or legible hand. Changing Executive Board to Executive Committee.

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Change Article IX, section (a) & (b) to read:

Current language;

(a). Any member of the Association who shall violate the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association may have charges preferred against them, and if charges are proved shall be fined, reprimanded, suspended or expelled as the laws may direct or the Association determine. Any officer of the Association who shall fail or neglect to discharge the duties of their office, or who may be guilty of gross misconduct, may be removed from office. These determinations shall be made by the members present and voting at the third business day meeting of the annual reunion after which said charges were read to the Association members at a preceding days business session.

(b). Charges must be made in writing, specifying the offense, failure, neglect, or misconduct so as to fully apprise the member or officer of the nature thereof, and shall be signed by the member bringing the charges, a copy of said charges, under seal to the Association, shall be served upon him/her. Said charges shall be read by the Secretary at the next business meeting in session after service on the member or officer.

Proposed language;

(a). Any member of the Association who shall violate the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association may have charges preferred against them, and if charges are proved shall be fined, reprimanded, suspended or expelled as the laws may direct or the Association determine. Any officer of the Association who shall fail or neglect to discharge the duties of their office, or who may be guilty of gross misconduct, may be removed from office. These determinations shall be made by the members present and voting at the ~~third business day~~ meeting of the annual reunion after which said charges were read to the Association members at a ~~preceding days~~ **the beginning of the** business session.

(b). Charges must be made in writing, specifying the offense, failure, neglect, or misconduct so as to fully apprise the member or officer of the nature thereof, and shall be signed by the member bringing the charges, a copy of said charges, under seal to the Association, shall be served upon him/her. Said charges shall be read by the Secretary at the ~~next~~ business meeting in session after service on the member or officer.

Reason;

Deleting reference to next or second or preceding business meetings.

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Change Article XI, section (b) to read:

Current language;

(b). All funds shall be devoted to such uses as the Association may determine. Provided further, that the Executive Board by majority vote, may spend funds of the Association as long as it is in the best interest of the Association. All expenditures will be subject to audit by the Board of Trustees of the USS Nitro Association.

Proposed language;

(b). All funds shall be devoted to such uses as the Association may determine. Provided further, that the Executive **Committee, during recess,** ~~by majority vote~~ may spend funds of the Association as long as it is in the best interest of the Association. All expenditures will be subject to audit by the Board of Trustees of the USS Nitro Association.

Reason:

It would be a little cumbersome to get a majority vote of the Executive Committee when we needed stamps or mailing a package or supplies, etc. Don't know what I was thinking when I wrote this way back when.

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Change Article XIII to read:

Current language;

1. Roll call of Officers
2. Roll call of Members
3. Reading Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Report of Committees
5. Report of Officers
6. Report of Executive Board
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business, Presentation of Resolutions, Petitions, ect.
9. Nomination and Election of Officers
10. Installations of Officers
11. Adjournment

Proposed language;

1. Roll call of Officers
2. Roll call of Members
3. Reading Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Report of Committees
5. Report of Officers
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business, Presentation of Resolutions, Petitions, ect.
8. Nomination and Election of Officers
9. Installations of Officers
10. Adjournment

Reason: Deleting number 6, renumbering the line of the article.

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Change Article XIV to read:

Current language;

This document was adopted by the Association membership at the third annual "Philadelphia" reunion held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey on June 21, 1999.

Amendments enacted by the Association membership at the fourth annual "Chicago" reunion held in Deerfield, Illinois on June 22, 2000.

Amendments enacted by the Association membership at the fifth annual "Charleston" reunion held in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina on June 22, 2001.

Amendments enacted by the Association membership at the sixth annual "San Diego" reunion held in San Diego, California on June 20, 2002.

Visited our website at

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nalc820/ussnitro.htm>

Proposed language;

This document was adopted by the Association membership at the ~~third~~ annual "Philadelphia" reunion held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey on June 21, 1999.

Amendments enacted by the Association membership at the ~~fourth~~ annual "Chicago" reunion held in Deerfield, Illinois on June 22, 2000.

Amendments enacted by the Association membership at the ~~fifth~~ annual "Charleston" reunion held in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina on June 22, 2001.

Amendments enacted by the Association membership at the ~~sixth~~ annual "San Diego" reunion held in San Diego, California on June 20, 2002.

Amendments enacted by the Association membership at the annual "Boston" reunion held in Boston, Massachusetts on June 20, 2019.

Visit our website at

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nalc820/ussnitro.htm> <http://www.ussnitro.org/>

Reason:

Deleting the "number" for each reunion. We have a disagreement on when the reunions started.

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And last, a little housekeeping:

Correct misspelled words throughout the bylaws.

Art II, section a - seperated should be separated

Art III, section 1.b - facillitate should be facilitate

Art V, section 3.a - adjourment should be adjournment

Art VIII, heading - Committee should be Committees

Art VIII, section 1 heading – Committies should be Committees

Art VIII, section 2 - commmitees should be committee

Art XII, number 8 - ect should be etc

Changing numbering sequences

Article II

change (a). to Section 1.

change (b). to Section 2.

Article VII

change (a). to Section 1.

change 1.) to (a.)

change 2.) to (b.)

change (b). to Section 2.

Article IX

change (a). to Section 1.

change (b). to Section 2.

change (c). to Section 3.

change (d). to Section 4.

change (e). to Section 5.

Article X

change (a). to Section 1.

change (b). to Section 2.

Article XI

change (a). to Section 1.

change (b). to Section 2.

Change all Roman numerals to Arabic numbers throughout the bylaws.