

Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

Spring 2017 Proposed Bylaw Amendments

In anticipation of the general business meeting on April 30, 2017 and in accordance with Article XIII of MIRID Bylaws...

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS Section 1. Amendments to the by-laws must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting with notification of proposed changes given thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

... the MIRID Executive Board has seven proposed amendments. Amendments are listed below with proposed edits highlighted in yellow.

Amendments 1 – 5 were brought forward by the following motion:

MOTION 17-002: President Naomi Gotlib moves to propose the following Bylaw amendments to the membership at the Spring 2017 Business Meeting:

Amendment 1

ADD: Article XVI. Non-Discrimination Policy

The Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf will not discriminate in the matters of membership or service to the organization on the basis of age, race, national origin, gender, hearing status, disability, religious affiliation, or sexual orientation.

Amendment 2

ADD: Article XVII. Parliamentary Authority

MIRID shall be governed by MIRID Bylaws, followed by Board approved Polices and Procedures Manual (PPM) and any adopted standing rules (in that order). Any unresolved procedures shall default to the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Amendment 3

AMEND: Article VI. Duties of Executive Board and Board of Directors,

Section 1. President

H. shall represent MIRID, or appoint a MIRID representative, during other organizational meetings of/for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing as necessary

Section 2. Vice-president

B. shall be responsible for working with the workshop committee professional development committee; and

Amendment 4

AMEND: Article IX. Committees

Section 1. Standing committees shall be chaired by a member in good standing appointed by the president upon approval of the executive board. The standing committees of MIRID may include, but are not limited, to the following: Auditing, Budget, By-laws, Fund Raising, Nominating, Publications, and Workshop Professional Development.

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Amendment 5

AMEND: Article II. Purpose, **Mission** and Vision

Section 1. The PRINCIPLE PURPOSE of the organization shall be to initiate, sponsor, promote and execute policies and activities that will further the profession of interpretation and American Sign Language (ASL) and English, and the transliteration of English. **The MISSION of the organization shall be to promote the profession of sign language interpreters, ensure effective collaboration with Michigan Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities and promote an inclusive environment within MIRID**

Section 2. The **GOALS VISION** shall be to advance the professional standard(s) of interpreters/translitterators, and promote the professional skills, interests and welfare of its members:

- A. to increase the public awareness of interpreting and deafness in general; and
- B. to provide opportunities for training through workshops, meetings, lectures, etc.; and
- C. to promote state and national interpreter **evaluations credentialization** in Michigan; and
- D. to act as liaison between Michigan interpreters and the RID; and
- E. to advocate interpreters' interests and other related interests in the Legislature of the State of Michigan; and
- F. to support organizations of and for **deaf persons interpreters, Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing people** insofar as such activities are not in conflict with the purposes of MIRID; and
- G. to disseminate all pertinent information to the membership; and
- H. to promote an environment conducive to mutual growth and support in membership; and
- I. to carry on any activity in connection therewith not forbidden by the laws of the State of Michigan.

Amendment 6

MOTION 17-026: Secretary Mitch Holaly moves to amend "Article VII. Nominations and Elections" of the MIRID Bylaws to read:

"Article VII. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. A member is eligible to run for office if s/he is currently in good standing **with MIRID and RID** and has maintained her/his good standing status consecutively for a period of at least two (2) years. **The member must agree to maintain RID membership for the duration of their tenure on the board.**

Section 2. Nominations for officers may be made by:

- A. any current member and submitted to the nominating committee and/or
- B. the nominating committee
- ~~C. any current member from the floor~~

Section 3. **The election of president, secretary, one member-at-large, and Deaf member-at-large shall take place prior to June 30 of every odd year.**

Section 4. **The election of vice-president, treasurer, one member-at-large and publications manager shall take place prior to June 30 of every even year.**

Section 5. Election to any office shall be by a majority vote.

Section 6. Voting shall be by ballot **(paper or electronic)**. "

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This amendment is to take effect after the 2017 elections and result in the next election of vice-president, treasurer, one member-at-large and publications manager to take place between January 1st and June 30th, 2018 and the next election of president, secretary, one member-at-large, and Deaf member-at-large to take place between January 1st and June 30th, 2019. This amendment will temporarily suspend Article V, Section 6 of the MIRID Bylaws to enable modified term lengths until the elections of the officers comes into compliance with the new cycles.

Rationale:

This will modernize the voting protocol with the incorporation of electronic ballots. With the untangling of the elections from the physical general business meeting and the use of electronic voting, members will have increased access to participate in elections. In addition, the amendment staggers the election cycles of the President/Secretary and the Vice President/Treasurer. This will produce greater continuity between Boards.

Amendment 7

MOTION 17-027: Secretary Mitch Holaly moves to amend Article V, Section 7, C of the MIRID Bylaws to read:

Article V, Section 7, C. Vacancies in elected office(s) shall be temporarily filled by appointment of a member by the president, with the approval of the executive board. Following the successful presidential appointment of a board position, a special election for that position shall be held within six months. The election shall have a nominating period of at least fifteen calendar days. The appointee is eligible to run for the position. The next regular election for the position shall follow the cycles defined in Article VII.

Rationale:

In the case of a vacancy, the Board needs flexibility to temporarily appoint a member to ensure continued Board efficiency. This latitude is already granted in the current bylaws. In conjunction with electronic voting (if passed by the membership), the provision a special election (separate from a physical meeting) will allow the membership to elect a permanent Board member.

The MIRID Bylaws may be found in full at www.MIRID.org under the “Documents” tab. Only Dual members (current members of both MIRID and RID) hold voting privileges per:

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP Section 4. Each member who holds dual status membership in both MIRID and RID is entitled to one (1) vote.

Please contact MIRID at president@mirid.org with any questions regarding these proposed amendments.