

## Memorandum

### National Structure and Process Committee

**To: National NOW Board**

**From: Structure and Process Committee**

**B J Star, Chair**

**Cindy Drabek and Kim Villanueva, members**

**Date: November 8-10, 2019**

#### OVERVIEW

#### **Examining individual State/Chapter Bylaws for their conformance with the 2019 Revised National Bylaws and Resolution**

Our National Bylaws require that all state and chapter bylaws conform to them. Since the revision of the National Bylaws in July 2019, this Committee has been helping states with identifying non-conforming Articles and Sections by suggesting new language. We requested at the July Board meeting that each of you contact all of the states in your District and ask them to forward to this Committee, and to yourselves, a copy of their State Bylaws. We'd also like to know if bylaws don't exist or the state doesn't have a copy.

Our plan was to start working district by district, with the States to update their bylaws. Then the States, with their District Board members, would carry the information down to the chapters. Response has been very disappointing so we're asking the districts/states to please help us with our mandated task. We can't do these updates if we don't have a copy of the current bylaws, which should be on file with chapter services anyway.

Since we've had such a slow response from the states, we have started to draft a Sample set of State Bylaws which will be available on the Members Only section of the National NOW website. We are also in the process of updating the online Sample Chapter Bylaws as they need updating. This project will include updating any sample bylaws in our current Convener Kit.

#### **Resolutions**

At the National Board meeting in January, 2019, the Resolutions Committee referred the "**TRANS INCLUSIVITY**" resolution to Structure and Process for a recommendation. This resolution says in part, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that National should recommend to its chapters to review their bylaws to reflect inclusivity; BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that National should revise the model bylaws to include current LGBTQIA+ issues and language."

The Committee met to discuss how best to implement this language. After a thoughtful and thorough examination of the newly revised 2019 National Bylaws, it was determined that the new language added in ARTICLE IV. SUBUNITS, § 4. Affirmative Action and Intersectionality", already covers "Intersectional Diversity" and because all chapters and states must conform to them, it has already been addressed and therefore we recommend to the Resolution Committee and this Board, that the two paragraphs regarding bylaws are redundant as we are already in conformance with the resolution.

We also reviewed the 2019 Resolution, "**LGBTQIA+ INCLUSION RESOLUTION**" as once again it had similar inclusion paragraphs. For the same reasons as expressed above, we would recommend that the inclusion portion of the resolution has already been addressed in ARTICLE IV. SUBUNITS, § 4. The resolution says in part, "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that at least 15 percent of the issue-focused workshops at NOW conferences will be LGBTQIA+ focused .... BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, conference workshops that are not specifically focused on LGBTQIA+ issues must include an LGBTQIA+ lens." We would recommend that the mandated specific percentages of workshops is not in conformance with ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE of our 2019 Revised Bylaws and that the additional demand that we focus workshops with the "lens" of only one of our issues, is also out of conformance with ARTICLE II. We cannot command our workshop presenters to focus on one issue, to the exclusion of our other issues. Our lens is always feminist, intersectional and inclusive.

### **Working on additional revisions to the National Bylaws where we still need clarifications and clearer language**

Since the last National Conference, when we revised a number of our National Bylaws, the Committee has been meeting and found many more Articles/Sections that require our attention. To that end, we have been drafting clearer and more articulate language. We welcome any bylaw suggestions and input from Board members or anyone listening to this meeting.

### **Processing the National Conference Site Bids**

The National Board Structure and Process Committee has the responsibility to process the bids from chapters and states who applied to host our next 3 national conferences. The NAC sent the Bid announcement to our leadership list. Upon receiving an inquiry, S&P immediately sent them a Checklist of the required information the Board would need for their proposal to be considered. The bids were due to the NAC and our Committee on October 21, 2019. This Committee was tasked with confirming that each of the received proposals fulfilled the requirements listed in the "Checklist."

We are pleased to announce that all three (3) Conference Site Proposals complied with the Checklist and sent on to the National Board for their review. Representatives of both of the states – Illinois NOW and Washington State NOW will present their bids in person. South Carolina, is still not confirmed for an in-person presentation due to a family emergency, so in the alternative, they will present electronically.

The Committee also researched and prepared several charts about legacy conference locations and the mathematics of same. We have created a separate report about fact findings and hope the Board finds them helpful. The charts are based on NOW historical information with close attention paid to conforming with the National Bylaw that controls this Board's choices: Article VIII. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, Section 1. National Conference, A.