

## **Bylaws Project Update**

The Secretary (Clara Dellenbach) and Nominating Director (Odette Vandaveer) along with support from the Board of Directors have been working on updating JLOEB's Bylaws over the last few months, **here is what we have accomplished so far:**

1. Developed project plan which includes providing the Board and membership regular updates.
2. Conducted research via AJLI resources, California Nonprofit Law, and other other Leagues.
3. Reviewed current Bylaws line by line to understand and clarify what needs to change, as well as reviewed the work already completed on this project.
4. Identified a template tool provided by AJLI to help all Leagues who are streamlining/updating Bylaws. This tool has helped identify three types of changes needed:

**Type 1:** Adding in additional sections from the template that aren't currently present in our Bylaws.

**Type 2:** Removing Membership policies that don't belong in Bylaws, and moving to new Membership Policies document.

**Type 3:** Making changes that align with the League's current manner of operating so we can benefit from a more nimble and flexible governance structure

### **What's Next?**

Draft of new bylaws will be presented to the Board and Membership to review within the next two weeks.

1. Educational Q&A for interested members, **Wednesday, March 18th 6:30PM.**  
Venue TBD.
2. Final version of Bylaws presented to members on or before **March 31st** (14 days prior to voting meeting per our ops policies).
3. Membership to vote on new Bylaws at **April 14 GM.**

## **POTENTIAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

### **Why are we updating our Bylaws?**

- JLOEB's Bylaws were originally written for a larger League with less need for flexibility.
- Our bylaws are entangled with policies and procedures that do not belong in bylaws.
- It is important that our Bylaws support JLOEB to provide efficient and effective governance and management.
- By reviewing and revising our bylaws, we will create an environment in which we can ensure more effective and efficient governance and management for JLOEB.

### **Why should we streamline our bylaws? Won't that mean there is less direction to control the Board?**

- Bylaws are intended to define the governance structure of a Junior League, not to spell out how management operates. (These go in operation policies).
- The bylaws, which are controlled by the membership, provide for the election of a Board of Directors, which is then delegated the responsibility to govern and manage the League.
- If the Bylaws are overly complicated or contain language about how the League is to be managed, it unnecessarily restricts the Board and makes it much less likely that the League can be successful and respond to changing conditions.

### **Why are some things in our Bylaws being moved to policies?**

- Policies further define and refine how a League is governed and managed.
- Two groups of policies are recommended: Membership Policies & Operational Policies.
  - Membership Policies are approved by the Membership
  - Operational Policies are approved by the Board.

This update can also be found at: <https://www.jloeb.org/bylaws-update-2020-2021/>