

This would be a new section of the current by-laws listed. This draft is being proposed for several reasons. First, to clarify the purpose and process behind working groups. In addition, this amendment is being proposed because of other proposed amendments that may give too much power to a group of individuals and potentially discourage member involvement. Further, this proposal seeks to not restrict different organizing approaches of current members.

DRAFT AMENDMENT REGARDING WORKING GROUPS

ARTICLE X

Section X.I – Purpose

Working groups may be established within the chapter by members to focus on specific organizing issues. Working groups are groups whose structure is determined internally by members of that working group and should make its best efforts to maintain a parity of members from marginalized communities and identities (i.e.: BIPOC, queer, sexual preference, sex workers, immigration status, et al.). Working groups shall be governed by their own by-laws, as adopted by the chapter members who choose to be a part of the working group. Membership in any working group established within the chapter shall be open to every member of the chapter. Working groups may be established to focus on specific local issues that a minority group of members deem relevant to the chapter's goals or purpose.

Section X.II – Process to Propose a Working Group

In order to establish a working group, members must submit a formal, written proposal regarding the proposed working group's purpose and goals, to the entire chapter for a vote. The proposal can be proposed in any form that explains the working group's purpose and goals. The proposal must be accompanied by the names of any members of good standing of the chapter who endorse the establishment of the proposed working group.

A vote by the chapter's general membership shall be taken to either accept or reject the working group. If rejected, the working group may submit a revised proposal to the entire chapter, given that membership is allotted at least 30 days for a comment and review period ahead of the next chapter meeting where a vote will take place on the revised proposal as described below in Section X.III.

Section X.III – Notice of a Vote to Establish a Working Group

If members would like to establish a working group, general membership should be notified at least one general membership meeting in advance in order to allow for time consideration of all general members. The vote shall be taken at the second general membership meeting.

The initial notice of the proposed working group must include a formal, written proposal submitted by the proposed working group during the general membership meeting and a list of the members in good standing of the chapter that endorsed the establishment of the proposed working group, followed by an email followup to all general members.

Section X.IV – Voting to Establish a Working Group

A vote to establish a proposed working group will be held decided at the second general chapter meeting from the initial notice given at the first general chapter meeting. A vote in favor of establishing the proposed working group by a majority, two-thirds, of voting members in good standing during the open voting period shall establish the working group.

Section X.V – Working Group By-Laws and Responsibilities

Following a vote to establish a working group, the working group shall adopt by-laws under which the working group will operate within 60 days. Failure to adopt by-laws within 60 days may result in a vote at the following general chapter meeting to dissolve the working group; ~~unless reasoning is given to extend the amount of time to adopt by-laws.~~

At least one member of the branch will provide report backs to the chapter through general chapter meetings. In addition, working group leadership will be responsible for sharing membership information with the Executive Committee and any proposed Steering Committee, to assist these Committees in serving the needs of the greater chapter membership and their respective projects and priorities.

Section X.VI – Dissolving a Working Group

A working group may vote to dissolve itself at any of its regularly scheduled meetings of its members. [Notice provision as above with notice at least one regularly scheduled meeting of the working group that a vote to dissolve will take place at the next meeting.] A vote to dissolve shall require a majority, two-thirds of the working group's voting members in good standing during the open voting period. ~~present at the meeting.~~

Section X.VII – Rechartering Working Groups

At each chapter convention, members shall vote to recharter all existing working groups for the year. Prior to voting to recharter a working group, each working group shall be given the opportunity to select one or more of its members to address the convention regarding the working group's efforts the previous year and goals for the current year.

The vote to recharter the working groups shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members in good standing during the open voting period at the convention. A working group that fails to receive a majority vote to be rechartered for the year shall be dissolved.

A list of all working groups established within the chapter shall be maintained in an Appendix to these by-laws, and shall be amended throughout the year by the Executive Committee upon the establishment or dissolution of working groups.