

Explanation of GAA Bylaws Revisions

Major changes to the current bylaws:

1. A MAJOR CHANGE is the elimination of the automatic succession of the vice-president to the presidency, a practice that has proven problematic in the past. In its place is the requirement for yearly elections of all board of directors members, all of whom may succeed themselves. A limit of three consecutive terms is imposed. The intent of these changes is to encourage longer term service to the association by officers of demonstrated commitment and competency while retaining flexibility and avoiding stagnation.
2. A second MAJOR CHANGE is the increase of delegate positions on the board, from three to a minimum of four and a maximum of six. The intent is to increase the number and the diversity of the voices making board decisions, to encourage the membership to participate in the functioning and growth of the association, and to create greater avenues for board participation. The delegate position is recognized as the primary training position for future executive committee members.

Other significant changes:

1. The first paragraph in the current bylaws (“To create a Georgia association...”) was eliminated as both a potential “mission statement” that needs further discussion and as unnecessary for inclusion in the bylaws.
2. Specific categories (“Individual,” “Corporate,” etc.) of membership are eliminated in favor of a more general statement, allowing greater flexibility in membership categories as the association grows and changes.
3. The term “Executive Board” is replaced by “Board of Directors”.
4. An “Executive Committee” consisting of the elected president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and immediate past president is created. This change is prompted by the occasional need for more rapid response on relatively minor administrative decisions.
5. Board voting privileges for past presidents of the association are limited to the immediate past president. All past presidents continue to be invited to sit on the board as non-voting members.
6. A qualification clause for board members is established.
7. The current Secretary/Treasurer position is split into two offices, reverting to earlier practice.

8. A clause is added to allow for the efficient removal of any non-performing board member.
9. Specific duties are assigned to board of director positions.
10. The executive director will continue to serve on the board of directors, but will not be accorded voting privileges. This change is in accord with standard practice.
11. A recall provision for board of directors members is established.
12. Greater specificity for chairmanship and duties of standing committees is incorporated.
13. An ethics clause is established.
14. A Conflict of Interest Appendix is established.