

Proposed changes to GFWC Montana Bylaws April 2024

ARTICLE II – OBJECT AND PURPOSE

Addition of Discrimination language.

PURPOSE – This Corporation is a public benefit, charitable corporation established to promote and support the charitable works of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs in the State of Montana, and any other related activities. The GFWC MT is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. GFWC MT welcomes members from all backgrounds and shall not discriminate against any person based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, age, or sexual orientation.

Rationale: The GFWC MT Bylaws does not have a discrimination clause. This language is taken from the GFWC Bylaws, Section 18.5 Discrimination.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP – Section 3.4 Termination of Membership

Addition of number 6.

Section 3.4 Termination of Membership. Any club desiring to withdraw from GFWC MT must:

1. Receive a 2/3 affirmative vote from that club’s members to terminate membership.
2. Announce and publish to club members, GFWC MT President and GFWC MT Membership Chairman that vote will take place at a designated club meeting. This must occur 30 days prior to the meeting.
3. Vote by ballot with each member signing her ballot. A vote by mail shall be allowed for those members physically unable to attend the meeting at which the vote will take place.
4. Shall submit a written resignation to the GFWC MT President accompanied by the minutes of the meeting at which the vote to withdraw took place showing that a vote of 2/3 of the members was taken and include the numbers listed in the minutes both for and against. If 5 or members choose to remain a federated club, and they are willing to be the basic responsible officers of the club, they shall retain all the rights and privileges to the name and property of the club including funds.
5. Upon acceptance of resignation, all rights, and privileges of membership cease.
6. Clubs failing to pay dues for one full year, July 1 to June 30, will be declared inactive in GFWC MT.

Rationale: To clarify termination of membership. Clubs have dropped membership without following the GFWC MT Bylaws for withdrawal from membership, have not responded to requests for information, or paid membership dues in excess of one year.

ARTICLE IV DUES AND FINANCE

Change in expenditure amount from \$300 to \$500.

Section 4.5 Expenditures. Bids shall be secured on all purchases in excess of ~~three~~ **five** hundred dollars (~~\$300~~) **(\$500)** and said bids shall be approved by the President, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee and the Chairman to whom the work is germane. All contracts during a President’s administration regarding meetings and conventions during her term may be signed by the President upon approval of the Budget and Finance Chairman. All contracts prior to a president’s administration regarding meetings and conventions during her term may be signed by the President-elect upon approval of the Budget and Finance Chairman.

Rationale: Due to the rising costs associated with items that need to be prepared for an administration, such as the contact booklet, getting multiple bids requires a great deal of time which would be better spent in getting everything prepared and to those who need it in a reasonable time frame. The difference in bids is often not that much. Given the size of our state, the closest place may be the most reasonable cost.

ARTICLE VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Addition of section D.

Section 6.5 Meetings. The Board of Directors shall:

- A. Meet in the fall of each year with six-week notification.
- B. Hold other meetings at the call of the President or upon written request of three members of the Executive Committee.
- C. Pay the required registration fee.
- D. In the event an in-person meeting is unable to be held due to unforeseen circumstances, the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, may call for the meeting to be held virtually through an on-line platform.

Rationale: As we learned during the recent pandemic, in-person meetings are not always practical or attainable. Having this addition to the Bylaws allows for the capability to hold a Board of Directors meeting virtually.

ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Addition of virtual meeting language

Section 7.3 Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet prior to the Board of Directors meetings and Convention. Other meetings shall be held at the call of the President, or upon written request of any three members of the Executive Committee and may be conducted virtually through an on-line platform in the event an in-person meeting is not able to be held.

Rationale: As we learned during the recent pandemic, in-person meetings are not always practical or attainable. Having this addition to the Bylaws allows for the capability to hold a Board of Directors meeting virtually.

EDITORIAL CHANGE: In several places the term “**First**” Vice-President is still in the Bylaws. This term was removed from the Bylaws in a prior revision, but these instances are still in place. They will be removed from the GFWC of Montana Bylaws for clarification.