

NEW DEADLINE FOR FILING PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IS APRIL 1, 2011

Constitution Committee Report

August 1, 2010 marked the opening of the Constitutional Amendment process which will end at the Fifteenth National Convention in Reno, Nevada. Constitutional amendments may be submitted electronically using the online form available on the VVA web site (instructions below) or may be mailed to the national office (address on form).

Any VVA member, chapter or state council may submit a proposal for a constitutional amendment. The support of a chapter or state council is not necessary but may increase the chance an amendment will be accepted by the delegates at the convention. In cases where an individual member/chapter/state council sponsored amendment duplicates, resembles, and/or addresses the same section of the Constitution as an amendment submitted by a national committee, the individual member/chapter/state council amendment will not be reported out, and delegates will have the opportunity to debate and to amend the committee-sponsored amendment on the floor of the convention.

The **new** deadline for submission of proposed Constitutional Amendments is **April 1, 2011** (at least 120 days prior to the start of the convention per VVA Constitution). No proposals will be accepted after midnight on **April 1, 2011**. The National Constitution Committee will meet in open session during the April 2011 National Board of Director's Meeting in Silver Spring, MD to review the proposed amendments and prepare its report to the membership. Members are invited to attend this meeting and state their support for a proposed amendment if they so choose. The committee's report will be made available via e-mail and on the VVA web site no later than June 17, 2011.

The Committee will hold an open hearing at the Convention before the amendments are presented to the delegates for action. We encourage everyone to attend this hearing and make their opinions known.

Instructions for electronically submitting proposed amendments to the VVA Constitution:

Step 1: Go to <http://www.vva.org> and click on the “Forms” tab, then click on “Constitutional Amendment Form” under “Amendment and Resolution Forms”.

Step 2: Fill out the form.

Step 3: Click on “submit” when you have completed the form and you will immediately receive a receipt of your submission.

Mailed forms must be postmarked no later than 12 o’clock midnight on April 1, 2011.

Whichever method is used, be sure to include your membership number on the form. This is the only way we can ensure only VVA members submit proposed Amendments.

The Committee has received several inquiries concerning a 2009 amendment (Bold) made to Article I, Section 7 – Committees, A. 4. of the Constitution which now states:

4. The Resolutions Committee shall report the resolutions to be addressed by the delegates assembled from among those submitted by the Chapters, State Councils, standing committees, membership, or other sources. Provided, however, that any such resolution shall be filed with the Resolution Committee at least one-hundred-twenty (120) days prior to the commencement of the National Convention, at which resolutions are to be addressed. The Resolution Committee shall review proposed resolutions received, and shall, not less than sixty (60) days prior to the commencement of the National Convention, forward to the Chapters and State Councils copies of all proposed resolutions submitted to the Committee pursuant to this section along with the Committee’s recommended action with regard to each proposed resolution. ***A committee may revise, amend or retire an existing resolution relative to that committee based upon developments regarding that resolution made during the committee hearings at the convention.*** Resolutions not reported by the Resolutions Committee may be brought to the floor for debate and action upon the motion of any delegate and concurrence by a majority of the delegates.

The major question has been “In what circumstances would this apply?” Hopefully the Committee can clarify this. Prior to reading resolutions at the national convention each committee holds a public hearing where proposed resolutions and other committee issues or information are discussed by the delegates to the convention. Attendees at these hearings

could bring information to a committee regarding a resolution which would prompt a change to or retirement of the resolution. In the past, a committee would not have been able to respond to this information by bringing the resolution in question to the convention floor until the next convention 2 years away because they would not have met the 120 day deadline for submission of proposed revisions or retirement of current resolutions. The 2009 amendment allows a committee to respond to events or information reported to them which could affect an existing (current) resolution so they can then bring the issue immediately to the convention floor to be addressed by the delegates. The amendment applies to any existing resolution whether or not the existing resolution was submitted to the Resolutions Committee 120 days prior to the convention for action. In other words, even if an existing resolution is not being amended, retired, or revised but merely continued, it will be eligible to be considered for amendment, retirement or revision by the delegates if the committee is made aware of new developments at the committee hearing during the Convention.

Committee Members: Leslie DeLong, Chair; Grant Coates, Tom George, Ken Holybee, Bob Johnston, Tom Insley, Bill Messer, and Craig Tonjes; Special Advisors: Barry Hagge, Bruce Whitaker and Mary Miller; Staff Liaison: Tracie Houston.