

PROPOSED BRANCH BY-LAW CHANGES

SUBMITTED BY: CENTRAL COUNCIL - Convention DirectorsqCommittee

1

Current By-Law: CHAPTER XVI - The Annual Convention

Article 1 - The Annual Convention, shall be held each year to coincide with Labor Day in the place selected by the delegates at a prior Convention. The Central Council will furnish all available pertinent information concerning the proposed Convention place or places to the delegates before voting takes place. The duration of the Convention shall be for three (3) days. The Central Council may, for good cause, extend the Convention to four (4) days.

Proposed Change:

Article 1 - The Annual Convention shall be held each year to coincide with Labor Day. ~~in the place selected by the delegates at a prior Convention. The Central Council will furnish all available pertinent information concerning the proposed Convention place or places to the delegates before voting takes place.~~ The duration of the Convention shall be for three (3) days. The Central Council may, for good cause, extend the Convention to four (4) days.

Rationale:

It is sometimes unrealistic for the Convention DirectorsqCommittee to wait until the next Convention to have delegates select a future Convention site. The I.C.F. may risk losing a contract if not signed within a specified time period. Many hotel proposals expire after 30 days.

2

Current By-Law: CHAPTER XVI - The Annual Convention

Article 3 - D. - The Branches shall nominate and elect their delegates and their alternates among those present at a meeting during the month of May. The Branch President by right of office shall be the first delegate. Only members in good standing, who attended seventy-five (75%) of their Branch meetings per year, will be eligible for nomination as delegates to the Annual Convention. Attendance shall be determined by having members sign a register each time they attend meetings. The year of eligibility of delegates to the Convention shall be considered from May 1st of the preceding year to April 30th of the current year. No one may be a candidate or delegate unless he or she has been a member of the I.C.F. for one (1) year. (Exception: Newly formed Branches.) Written notification of excused absence to the Branch President and accepted by the Branch will allow any eligible member to run for Convention Delegate. When the number of nominees exceeds the number of delegates to be elected, as specified in the By-Laws, an election by secret ballot shall take place.

Proposed Change:

Article 3 - D. - The Branches shall nominate and elect their delegates and their alternates among those present at a **Branch** meeting during the **months of April or**

May, **as indicated on the Branch's calendar**. The Branch President by right of office shall be the first delegate. Only members in good standing, who attended seventy-five **percent** (75%) of their Branch meetings per year, will be eligible for nomination as delegates to the Annual Convention. Attendance shall be determined by having members sign a register each time they attend meetings. The year of eligibility of delegates to the Convention shall be considered from ~~May 1st of the preceding year to April 30th of the current year~~ **the previous twelve (12) months**. No one may be a candidate or delegate unless he or she has been a member of the I.C.F. for one (1) year. (Exception: Newly formed Branches **and in cases where no eligible Branch member accepts a Delegate or Alternate nomination**.) When the number of nominees exceeds the number of delegates **or alternates** to be elected, as specified in the By-Laws, an election by secret ballot shall take place. Written notification of excused absence to the Branch President and accepted by the Branch will allow ~~any~~ **eligible a nominated** member to run for Convention Delegate.

Rationale:

Many Branches nominate their delegates and alternates during their April or May meeting. The above language approves this practice and further explains that the election needs to be announced on the Branch calendar and must take place at a Branch meeting (as opposed to an Officersqmeeting).

To aid in the Branches efforts to obtain delegates and alternates, it is suggested to allow newer members to be eligible to represent the Branch, if members with at least one year seniority do not accept a nomination.

3

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Article 8 - Any member of the I.C.F. is at liberty to attend the Annual Convention at the member's own expense, with no right to speak or vote.

Proposed Change:

Article 8 - Any member of the I.C.F. is at liberty to attend the Annual Convention at the member's own expense, with no right to speak or vote **during the General Session**.

Rationale:

This addition clarifies that members may participate and speak during non-official sessions, such as the workshops.