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## Proposed Changes to Southeastern Library Association Constitution

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**Southeastern Library Association  
Constitution  
Proposed Changes**

***Proposed Change 1.*** Recommended by Constitution and Handbook Committee.

Article I. Name. The name of this organization shall be the Southeastern Library Association.

Insert ", hereinafter referred to as SELA or the Association" at the end of the sentence.

Article I. Name. The name of this organization shall be the Southeastern Library Association, **hereinafter referred to as SELA or the Association.**

Rationale: Both phrases are used in the Constitution and Bylaws. This makes it clear that Southeastern Library Association, SELA and the Association all refer to the same entity.

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***Proposed Change 2.*** Recommended by Constitution and Handbook Committee.

Article II. Objectives. The objectives of this Association shall be to promote library and information services in the southeastern region of the United States through cooperation, research, and the encouragement of staff development.

Insert "and foster" between **promote** and **library**.

Article II. Objectives. The objectives of this Association shall be to **promote and foster library** and information services in the southeastern region of the United States through cooperation, research, and the encouragement of staff development.

Rationale: This further defines the purpose and objectives of the Association.

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***Proposed Change 3.*** Recommended by Constitution and Handbook Committee.

Article III. Membership. Membership may include any person, library or other organization as defined in the Bylaws, interested in the promotion of library and information services in the southeastern United States.

If Proposed Change 2 passes, insert "and fostering" between **promotion** and **of**.

Article III. Membership. Membership may include any person, library or other organization as defined in the Bylaws, interested in the **promotion and fostering of** library and information services in the southeastern United States.

Rationale: This change would provide consistency with Article II, if Article II is changed.

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**Proposed Change 4.** Recommended by the President and approved by the Constitution and Handbook Committee.

Article IV. Administration and Organization. Section 1. Organization: a. The organization of the Southeastern Library Association shall consist of an Executive Board, Executive Committee, Standing and Ad Hoc Committees, and Sections and Round Tables as may be required. Nominations, elections, appointments and terms of office shall be in accordance with the Bylaws.

Delete "an Executive Board." Replace with "a Board." If this change is approved, the change will apply throughout the Constitution and Bylaws.

Article IV. Administration and Organization. Section 1. Organization: a. The organization of the Southeastern Library Association shall consist of **a Board**, Executive Committee, Standing and Ad Hoc Committees, and Sections and Round Tables as may be required. Nominations, elections, appointments and terms of office shall be in accordance with the Bylaws.

Rationale: Having an Executive Board and an Executive Committee often causes confusion. We only have one board so designating it as Executive Board is unnecessary.

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**Proposed Change 5.** Recommended by the Executive Board and approved by the Constitution and Handbook Committee.

Article V. Meetings. There shall be a biennial conference of the Association at which a business meeting shall be held. Personal members in attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum at any business meeting. Additional business meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.

Change "a biennial" to "an annual."

Article V. Meetings. There shall be an **annual** conference of the Association at which a business meeting shall be held. Personal members in attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum at any business meeting. Additional business meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.

Rationale: This will increase our visibility in the southeastern library community. We will be able to partner with more states and demonstrate our purposes and objectives to more librarians and library supporters.

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**Proposed Change 6.** Recommended by the Constitution and Handbook Committee.

Article VI. Bylaws. Bylaws of the Association may be adopted, amended, or repealed at any regular meeting of the Executive Board by a majority vote of the members present provided that a notice of the proposed changes has been given to the members of the Board at least thirty (30) days before the meeting. The bylaws may be amended by a mail ballot, with a majority of the votes cast required for passage.

Delete the second sentence. Replace with: "Votes to adopt, amend, or repeal bylaws may also be held by email ballot or by paper mail ballot following a 30-day notice. If an email vote is held, votes should be sent to the Secretary within seven calendar days. If a paper mail vote is held, votes should be sent to the Secretary within fourteen calendar days. In both cases, a majority of the votes cast is required for passage."

Article VI. Bylaws. Bylaws of the Association may be adopted, amended, or repealed at any regular meeting of the Executive Board by a majority vote of the members present provided that a notice of the proposed changes has been given to the members of the Board at least thirty (30) days before the meeting. **Votes to adopt, amend, or repeal bylaws may also be held by email ballot or by paper mail ballot following a 30-day notice. If an email vote is held, votes should be sent to the Secretary within seven calendar days. If a paper mail vote is held, votes should be sent to the Secretary within fourteen calendar days. In both cases, a majority of the votes cast is required for passage.**

Rationale: This allows for electronic voting and sets time limits for completion of the voting.

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**Proposed Change 7.** Recommended by the Constitution and Handbook Committee.

Article VII. Amendments to the Constitution. This Constitution may be amended by a simple majority of those votes recorded, notice of the proposed changes having been given to the membership at least thirty (30) days before. The Constitution may be amended by a mail ballot, with a majority of the votes cast required for passage.

Delete "a mail ballot." Insert "an electronic ballot or a paper mail ballot."

Article VII. Amendments to the Constitution. This Constitution may be amended by a simple majority of those votes recorded, notice of the proposed changes having been given to the membership at least thirty (30) days before. The Constitution may be amended by **an electronic ballot or a paper mail ballot**, with a majority of the votes cast required for passage.

Rationale: This allows for electronic voting when the Association's Board decides to move in that direction.

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**Proposed Changes 8.** Recommended by the President and the Constitution and Handbook Committee.

Article VIII. Charter. The Association is chartered as a non-profit corporation by the Secretary of the State of Georgia, and the charter is on file in his office. The President shall take any necessary legal that any amendment to the charter is recorded in the office of the Secretary of State.

Change name of Article from "Charter" to "Articles of Incorporation." Change "chartered" to "incorporated." Change "non-profit" to "not-for-profit." Change "charter is" to "articles of incorporation are" in both sentences. Change "his office" to the Secretary of State's office." In the second sentence, insert "steps to insure" between **legal** and **that**.

Article VIII. **Articles of Incorporation.** The Association is **incorporated** as a **not-for-profit** corporation by the Secretary of the State of Georgia, and the **articles of incorporation** are on file in **the secretary of state's** office. The President shall take any necessary **legal steps to insure that** any amendment to the **articles of incorporation** are recorded in the office of the Secretary of State.

Rationale: Articles of Incorporation, incorporated, and not-for-profit reflect current terminology used by Secretary of State of Georgia. While the Secretary of State is currently male, that has not always been the case. Therefore the pronoun "his" needs to be replaced with a gender neutral term. The words "steps to insure" were in earlier versions of the Constitution but appear to have gotten lost in the last version.

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