

Proposed Amendments of the By-Laws: Membership and Dues

A - Introduction

Set forth below are draft amendments of the League's By-Laws concerning membership and dues. This memorandum is the product of the excellent collaborative work of the CRC working group that addressed these issues in 2020 and in meetings of the CRC in 2021, including CRC meetings attended by Robin Frank (BOC Pres.), Michael Hall (ED), and Elizabeth Kingman (Dir. Of Dev.) and the Town Hall held with the membership on September 21, 2021.

The amendments proposed are to the By-Laws as amended on April 21, 2021. The proposed amendments clarify and update the By-Laws to align with the League's current practices as well as incorporate the provisions that are currently covered in Amendments 20, 21, and 30. Please note:

- 1- The proposed amended By-Law I is organized as follows:
 - a. Eligibility for membership
 - b. Process to be nominated
 - c. Process to be elected
 - d. Members' rights
 - e. Active v inactive, good standing v dropped, and reinstatement
 - f. Life membership
 - g. Honorary membership
- 2- Note: By-Law XVII is deleted as the process for reinstatement is fully covered in this proposed By-Law I.
- 3- In understanding By-Law 1 it is important to read it together with Article III of the League's Constitution.
- 4- Major changes to the existing By-Laws include:
 - a. Organized for clarity, procedures and readability; incorporates amendments in the By Law.
 - b. Clarifies constitutional rights & responsibilities of Members (§§1 & 5)
 - c. 210 hours vs 3 months for eligibility (§2(i))
 - d. Establishes original in-studio intent – online TBD later (§2(i)) [*Note: online currently will count because it was under the current By-Law; that can and should be acknowledged in a Resolution so that there is no concern*]
 - e. Instructor eligibility: clarifies time periods (§2(ii))
 - f. Active Member only if attending meetings or voted once within last 24 months (§6)

- g. Expands not in “good standing” to include unpaid tuition and fees, suspension, or expulsion (§7)
- h. Honorary members would no longer have the right to vote, count or serve but can attend and speak at meetings and must sign the C/BL before doing so (§9)
- i. BoC is not able to waive membership dues (By Law VIII)

Set out below in Section B are draft amended By-Laws I and VIII. For reference, Article III of the Constitution is set forth in Section C and the current By-Laws I, VIII, and XVII and Amendments 20, 21, and 30 are set forth in Section D.

B – Draft Amendments

The following language replaces in entirety the current By-Law I, By-Law VIII, By-Law XVII, and Amendments 20, 21, and 30.

**BY-LAW I
MEMBERSHIP**

The mission and future of the League depends on the active participation of an informed membership. The rights and responsibilities of the League’s Members include electing the Board of Control, making nominations for League membership and the Board of Control, receiving an annual report on the state of the League and its financial condition, and approving major decisions as set forth in the League’s Constitution and By-Laws.

To be eligible for membership, a person must be: (i) a student who has taken at least 210 hours of in-studio, instructor-led classes at the League, or (ii) an instructor who has taught in-studio at the League for one regular session or three summer sessions.

An eligible person shall be nominated for membership via the following process: (i) proposal by a sponsoring Member and two supporting Members, all in good standing, (ii) registration of the eligible person’s name and address in the Member Book together with signatures from the sponsoring and supporting Members, (iii) diligent inquiry by or on behalf of the Board of Control confirming eligibility, and (iv) recommendation of the Board of Control (in accordance with Article III of the League’s Constitution).

The names of nominees together with their respective cities of residence and the names of their sponsoring Members shall be posted on the League’s Bulletin Board for no less than thirty days before

the meeting where the nominees are presented to the membership for a vote. Nominees are elected in accordance with Article III of the League's Constitution. Thereafter, the Secretary shall notify all persons newly elected to the membership so that they may accept membership by agreeing to the League's policies, including the Student Code of Conduct, and complying with the requirements of Article III of the League Constitution. Persons newly elected to membership may not vote at the meeting where they were elected and may not exercise rights of membership until completing their obligations under Article III.

Members who are Active Members and "in good standing" have all the rights and privileges of membership as set forth in the League's Constitution and By-Laws, including the right to vote on matters before the membership, to make nomination proposals, and to be counted as part of a quorum and for purposes of the minimum number of signatories for a petition.

Members are Active Members as long as they have attended or voted at one meeting within the twenty-four months preceding any exercise of their rights of membership. Members who have not attended or voted at one meeting within that twenty-four-month period are automatically deemed Inactive Members. The Board of Control may conduct a query of its Members from time to time by mail or other means to determine each Member's desire to maintain active voting status. Any Member who does not respond affirmatively in writing to any such query within 60 days of the date of the query notice will be deemed to have elected to become, and shall thereupon become, an Inactive Member. Inactive Members in good standing have the same rights and privileges as Active Members except that they don't have the right to vote, make nomination proposals, be counted for purposes of the minimum number of signatories for a petition, or receive ballots and member notices. Inactive Members shall be reinstated as Active Members either: (i) immediately upon showing up in attendance at any Annual, Business, or Special Meeting, at which they shall be entitled to exercise all rights as an Active Member, including to be counted as part of a quorum and to vote, or (ii) 30 days after submitting a written request for reinstatement to the Board of Control.

Members are “in good standing” when they are current on all membership dues, tuition, and fees and haven’t been suspended or expelled from membership by the Board of Control. Members in arrears for more than 90 days are not in good standing and are not entitled to any privileges of membership until all unpaid dues, tuition and fees have been paid. Members in arrears or who have not renewed their membership for more than 15 months shall be dropped from the membership rolls. Persons dropped from League membership rolls due to arrears or non-renewal may be reinstated as Members in good standing upon paying any arrears, applying to the Board of Control, and receiving Board of Control approval for reinstatement. Reinstated Members shall have the rights and privileges equal to those of newly elected Members except that the preceding years of active membership shall be included in the ten-year period required for Life Membership.

Members in good standing who have completed ten full years of membership after the year they were elected, and who have made eleven annual membership dues payments, shall become Life Members. Life Members have all the same rights, privileges, and obligations as Members except that they are exempt from paying membership dues.

The membership may elect Honorary Members at the Annual Meeting by a four-fifths vote upon the unanimous nomination of the Board of Control, provided that the names of the candidates for honorary membership have been posted on the League’s Bulletin Board thirty days in advance of the Annual Meeting. Honorary Members are exempt from payment of membership dues. However, they must sign the League’s Constitution and By-Laws prior to exercising any honorary membership rights. Honorary Members in good standing shall have the right to receive the same benefits as may be offered to Members and shall have the right to attend and be heard at membership meetings, but shall not have the right to vote, to be counted for purposes of a quorum or the minimum number of signatories for a petition, or to serve on the Board of Control.

BY-LAW VIII

DUES, TUITION AND FEES

The Board of Control shall establish annual dues for membership, tuition for classes, and such other fees as it deems appropriate. At its discretion, the Board of Control may relieve any person from the payment of tuition and fees (but not from the payment of membership dues) for a limited time.

AMENDMENT No. 20 — (Repealed _____, 2021)

AMENDMENT No. 21 — (Repealed _____, 2021)

AMENDMENT No. 30 — (Repealed _____, 2021)

C – Constitution Article III

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

The League shall be composed of artists and students who intend to make Art a profession.

Members may be elected at the Annual Meeting of the League and at any other meeting of the League membership, on the recommendation of the Board of Control, by a three-fourths vote; and must qualify by signing the Constitution and paying the annual dues within thirty days.

Honorary Members may be elected as provided in the By-Laws.

(As Amended December 2, 2020)

D – Current By-Laws and Amendments

BY-LAW I

MEMBERS

~~Members shall be elected as follows: The candidate's name and address, with the name of the Member proposing such candidate and of two Members who endorse such candidate, shall be placed in a book kept for that purpose, accessible to all Members, and there remain for one month. The Board of Control shall make diligent inquiry concerning the candidates proposed, and, if deemed eligible, their names shall be submitted to the next Business Meeting of the League. Candidates receiving three fourths of the votes cast shall be declared elected and shall be duly notified by the Secretary, who shall at the same time transmit to them a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws.~~

~~All, except Honorary Members, must qualify, by payment of dues and signing the Constitution within thirty days after their election.~~

~~No persons shall be admitted to membership, except as Honorary Members, unless they shall have worked at least three months in the League in one of the regular classes or one school year in a class once a week.~~

~~Students who have worked for at least three months in any other than a Life Class of the League may, upon unanimous vote of the Board of Control, be considered as candidates for membership.~~

~~Members of good standing for ten years may become Life Members, with exemption from annual dues, and with the same rights and privileges as Active Members.~~

~~Honorary Members, with the same rights and privileges as other Members, may be elected at the Annual Meeting, on unanimous recommendation of the Board of Control, by a four-fifths vote, but the names of all candidates for honorary membership must be posted on the Bulletin Board twenty days before being voted upon.~~

BY-LAW VIII

FEES AND DUES

~~The Board of Control shall establish an annual fee for membership, and such dues in the several classes as it deems requisite.~~

~~The names of Members who do not pay the annual membership fees or class dues within three months from the time the same are due, shall after due notice be placed on a retired list, and such Members shall not be entitled to any privileges of membership until the said fees or class dues be paid; but the names may be replaced on the list of Active Members at any time within one year, upon payment of the fees or dues. All Members whose names shall have been on the retired list for one year, shall be dropped from the League. But no Member shall be relieved from the responsibility of membership until such Member's resignation shall have been formally presented at a regular meeting of the League, or until such Member's name shall have been dropped.~~

~~The membership fee of Members who leave the United States for the purpose of study shall be remitted during such absence, and they shall be considered as non-resident Members.~~

~~Members whose class dues are thirty days in arrears may be required to give the Treasurer security for their payment.~~

~~The Board of Control may, at its discretion, relieve any student from the payment of class dues for a limited time.~~

BY-LAW XVII

REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERS

~~Former Members dropped for non-payment of dues may be reinstated as follows:~~

~~Such former Members shall make application to the Board of Control in writing. They shall be duly notified by the Secretary of the action taken by the Board of Control upon such application.~~

Former Members whose applications are approved by the Board of Control shall qualify by paying dues for the current year within thirty days and upon such payment shall have the rights and privileges equal only to those of newly elected and qualified Members except that the preceding years of active membership shall be included in the ten-year period required for Life Membership.

(As Amended December 2, 2020)

AMENDMENT No. 20

Newly elected Members shall not have the right to vote at the meeting at which they are elected to membership.

(Adopted November 16, 1932)

AMENDMENT No. 21

Instructors who have taught at the League for one summer or winter season may become Members of the League, subject to the same conditions as student Members, except that it shall not be necessary for instructors to have studied at the League.

(Adopted April 19, 1933)

AMENDMENT No. 30

1. The League shall have two categories of Members:

- (a) "Active Members," who shall have the right to vote on all matters for which a Member of the League is entitled to vote under these By laws; and
- (b) "Inactive Members," who shall be Members of the League for all other purposes but who shall not have the right to vote on any other matter for which a Member of the League is entitled to vote under these By laws.

2. The Board of Control may conduct a query of its Members from time to time by mail or other means to determine each Member's desire to maintain active voting status. Any Member who does not respond affirmatively in writing to any such query within 60 days of the date of the query notice will be deemed to have elected to become, and shall thereupon become, an Inactive Member. In addition, any Active Member who has not voted in two successive League Member meetings (beginning with the next such Meeting after the date of adoption of this Amendment No. 30) will be automatically deemed to have elected to become an Inactive Member, effective as of the day after the date of the second of such Meetings.

3. Inactive Members may reinstate their status as Active Members either: (a) by voting at any meeting of Members; or (b) by submitting a written request for reinstatement to the Board of

~~Control at least 30 days before a meeting of Members in which such Member desires to vote. In either such event, such person shall thereupon become and be an Active Member, subject to paragraph 2 above.~~

~~(Adopted April 25, 2001)~~

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