

Loudoun Outdoors



PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

Please note that there is an insert in your 2006 membership card mailing which provides proposed bylaw changes to be voted on during the January 9, 2005 general membership meeting. All members are requested to attend.

The following is a list of changes to the LCC-IWLA bylaws that have been proposed by the Bylaws Committee. The changes are listed by Article and Section. Those items that have a line through them will be removed from the section. Those items in bold italic typeface will be added to the section. The proposed bylaws with changes are available for review in the member's area of the chapter web site at www.loudouniwl.org. As a reminder, to access the member's area, the username is "iwl" and the password is the current gate number.

Proposed Changes to the Chapter Bylaws

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ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Sec 1b: The membership year shall begin on January first (1st) and end midnight on the December thirty first (31st). Membership fees for new member shall be based on the date of approved membership and not on the date of application. Any person becoming a member between January first (1st) and ~~October thirty first (31st)~~ **June thirtieth (30th)** shall be charged the full annual membership fee. **Any person approved for membership between July first (1st) and September thirtieth (30th) will be charged one half of the appropriate annual membership fees which will provide membership for the balance of the current year.** Any person approved for membership between ~~November~~ **October** first (1st) and December thirty first (31st) will be charged the rate of annual membership fees for the upcoming year **which will provide membership for both the remainder of the current year and for the upcoming year.** This will entitle the proposed member ~~to~~ membership in local, State and National Organizations. The initiation fee shall be equal to one full year of membership dues (*as specified in section 3a below*) **regardless of the date on which the membership is approved.**

CLASSIFICATIONS

Sec 2: The following classifications of Chapter Members are hereby established: Individual Chapter Members, Chapter Senior Citizen Members, Chapter Life Members, Family Members, Senior Chapter Family Members, Student Members, and Youth Members.

(d) Family Memberships – Two (2) adults, spouse ~~married~~ or domestic partners, living at the same address, over eighteen (18) years of age and under sixty five (65) years of age.

(e) Senior Chapter Family Membership – **At least one of the Both parties is** are over sixty five (65) years of age.

Sec 2h: Each ~~Individual Chapter Membership~~ individual membership listed in this Article (**Individual Chapter Membership, Senior Citizen Membership, or Chapter Life Membership**) shall include one adult the age of eighteen (18) years of age or ~~older over who~~ and shall be entitled to vote, hold office or act as a delegate to state division and national conventions. Each Individual Membership shall be counted as one member on the national membership rolls.

Sec 2i: Each ~~Family Membership~~ family membership listed in this Article (***Family Membership or Senior Chapter Family Membership***) shall include one or two adults the age of eighteen (18) years of age or over ~~and under sixty five (65) years of age~~. Family Members over eighteen (18) years of age shall be entitled to vote, hold office or act as a delegate to state division and national conventions. Each Family Membership shall be counted as two members on the national membership rolls.

DUES AND INITIATION FEES

Sec 3: The annual Chapter membership dues shall be discussed at the July Board of Directors Meeting and if ***any changes have been proposed to the dues structure, the changes will be*** presented at the first subsequent General Membership Meeting for discussion and approval. A vote of the majority present is required for approval. Total annual membership dues, which include Chapter, State and National dues, shall increase automatically to reflect any increase in State or National dues rounded up to the nearest dollar amount yearly and ***this increase*** does not require a membership vote.

Sec 3h: Membership dues for renewing members shall be due and payable on November first (1st). If payment is not received by December thirty first (31st) membership shall be terminated, and a former member whose membership has been terminated must re-apply as a new member and is subject to new initiation fees. Unusual circumstances may be appealed to the ***Second Vice-President*** Board of Directors at a regular Board Meeting and based upon such appeal the above provision may be waived by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII– OFFICERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Sec 9: The immediate Past President shall automatically become a member of the Board of Directors as ~~Chairperson of the Board of Directors~~. The immediate Past President shall not have a vote on the Board of Directors. ~~Should the immediate Past President not accept the Board of Directors Chairperson position, the non-voting Chairperson position shall be filled at the general election per Article VII, Section 2.~~

ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec 1: The Oversight of the Chapter shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of the Officers of the Chapter and six (6) additional members of the Chapter, plus the immediate Past President ***if that person chooses to serve, otherwise that post will remain vacant***. The six (6) additional members of the Board of Directors shall be known as Directors.

Sec 2: The six (6) additional Directors, excluding the immediate past President, shall be elected by a majority of the members present and voting at the August General Membership Meeting of each year, and such Directors so elected shall begin their term of office the following ~~October~~ ***September*** first (1st) and shall hold the office(s) for two (2) years.

ARTICLE XIII – FINANCES AND ACCOUNTING

Sec 1d: ***Within a budgeted fiscal year, budget approval by the membership shall allow the expenditure by the Board of Directors of general Chapter funds not in excess of five two hundred dollars (\$200.00 \$500.00) per recipient, and shall allow the expenditure off budgeted funds up to budget line item limits set in the previously approved budget without further membership approval. Otherwise the Board of Directors may not exceed the budget limits of a previously approved budget line item or issue a recurring expense of \$500.00 to a single recipient, without approval by a majority of the Chapter membership present at a meeting of the general membership where a quorum is declared.***

Sec 3: In addition to the authority granted under Section ~~4e~~ ***1d*** above, one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) not previously approved in the annual budget submission may be approved by the Board of Directors without majority approval of the membership at a general meeting. This shall be referred to and constitute an “Emergency Fund” and cannot be used more than once for the same purpose without membership approval.

Sec 4: Funds may *only* be withdrawn *and disbursed* by the Treasurer. *If the office of Treasurer is vacant, the President may appoint another officer to temporarily perform the duties of Treasurer until a replacement can be elected to fill the vacant post.* and must be countersigned by the ~~Second Vice-President or Third Vice-President~~, who are to be bonded as set forth in these Bylaws.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As of the writing of this column, all renewals that have been received have been processed, but we have a number of current members who have yet to renew their chapter membership.

A reminder, if your membership renewal is not received by December 31, your membership will lapse and you will lose access to the facilities. On January 9, 2006 the combinations for the gate, chapter house, and rifle/pistol range will be changed. The new combinations will be on the back of your 2006 membership card which will be mailed around the middle of this month for those who have already renewed. Again, to prevent losing access, your renewal needs to be submitted now.

When renewals are received, they are reviewed to ensure that the proper amount was included , and that either the workday fee was included or the workday information on the renewal form is verifiable. They are also reviewed to confirm that the orientation requirement has been met for members who joined after February 9, 2004. The membership can be renewed only after all of these conditions are met. If any conditions are not met, the renewal package is returned to the member or the member is contacted to resolve the problem.

After the review is complete, the renewal information is forwarded to National, and it is currently taking slightly over one week to receive the new membership cards. After the renewal cards are received back from National, they need to have the appropriate orientation sticker, signatures and codes applied, and then they can be mailed out to the members. All of this takes time so it is best not to delay submitting your renewal paperwork.

Every attempt will be made to get the 2006 cards to renewing members prior to the January 9 general membership meeting. If possible, temporary cards will be mailed. However, processing membership, like the other positions in the chapter, is not a full time job. It needs to fit around work and family constraints.

Last year there was a delay in changing the gate code because delays were encountered in receiving the new membership cards from National. That has not been the case this year and the renewals have been processed in a very timely manner. Thus, members should not count on another delay this year.

You should allow for up to one month after receipt of your complete renewal package for receipt of your new membership card.. As noted above, we will attempt to mail temporary membership cards for those renewals received by the end of the year.

2006 Membership Cards

The mailing of 2006 membership cards has begun. If your complete renewal application was received between November 17 and December 03, your 2006 membership card was placed in the mail on December 20, 2005. If your complete renewal application was received between December 04 and December 10, your renewal information was sent to National IWLA on December 13, 2005. Please note that it does take time and effort to process the cards received from National IWLA and to get them into the mail.

HUNTING NUMBERS INCREASE IN 2004

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently released the 2004 Hunting License Report, showing an increase in the number of hunting licenses sold, reversing a downward trend that has lasted for more than a decade. This reports also shows a gross national revenues of almost \$704,000,000 for license, tags, permits and stamps.

Why is this important to a conservation group such as ours ? Hunting license and equipment revenues are the primary funding source for wildlife conservation and management programs. Because of this, these revenue increases are very welcome news.

Virginia had almost \$20.3 million in gross receipts with 317,484 paid license holders. Virginia anglers purchased 773,101 fishing licenses this same year.

OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS SPEAK UP

A mining provision in a House budget reconciliation bill that would have allowed companies to make outright purchases of public land has been removed. Opposition against the provision mounted steadily, and news accounts have cited the outcry of the nation's hunters and anglers as being an important factor in the removal of this provision.

The provision would have changed the 1872 Mining Law to allow companies to make an outright purchase of public land rather than simply making a claim that gives them access to minerals below the surface of the land. The sold land could then be developed for other uses beyond mining operations. Not only would valuable, publicly held pieces of fish and wildlife habitat be lost – sportsmen would lose access to many public pristine lands.

This provision in some other form will likely be reintroduced in Congress somewhere down the line. For now, this victory presents a good reminder of the important, specific kinds of policy and legislative changes outdoors enthusiasts can make happen when they speak up together.

SPORTSMEN - AN ECONOMIC FORCE

The Congressional Sportsman's Foundation has posted some very good information on the economic impact of outdoor enthusiasts. Highlights of the CSF report :

- If sportsmen were a corporation, they would rank #11 on the Fortune 500 list.
- Sportsmen support more jobs than Wal-Mart™ - the country's largest employer.
- A hunter's best friend is his dog and they show it--they spend \$605 million on their hunting dogs.
- Sportsmen contribute \$54 every second, \$3240 every minute, \$194,400 every hour for conservation.
- Anglers alone support more jobs than GM, Ford and Exxon-Mobil.

For the full report, visit <http://www.sportsmenslink.org/programs/impact.asp>, It is very enlightening, and provides some pretty astonishing information.

Loudoun Outdoors is a periodical of the Loudoun County Chapter Izaak Walton League of America and is available for subscription at <feed://www.loudouniwl.org/lcc.rss> . Comments can be sent to loudounoutdoors@loudouniwl.org. For further info visit us on the web at www.loudouniwl.org , or call 703-777-9684.