

# ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## Constitution Committee 2023 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

### **Rationale for Constitution Committee's Amendment Recommendations:**

With the ever-changing world, the Association is in need of change to best serve the IRTA membership. The need to make the Association more efficient and attractive to new members is important. Therefore, the Constitution Committee proposes the following Constitutional Amendments.

### **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP – DUES**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: *Remove Article III, Section 4., it will be corrected and added to the IRTA Standing Rules at the Spring IRTA Board of Directors meeting.*

~~Section 4. Any proposal to increase the Annual, Dues Deduct, and Life Active membership dues and the Associate membership dues must be reviewed by the Membership Committee before it can be presented to the delegate assembly at the convention. The results of the Membership Committee review shall be presented to the delegate assembly with the proposed increase.~~

### RATIONALE

- The Constitution of an organization contains the fundamental operating principles that govern its operation. The Standing Rules establish specific rules by which the group is to function.

### **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: *Article VI, Section 1., A.; Prior to the biennial convention, active members shall have the ability to:*

*(1.) Elect Officers.*

### RATIONALE

- Allowing ALL active state members the ability to vote for Officers, provides inclusiveness for both in-state and out-of-state members. All members would have the ability to vote electronically or by paper ballot.

Details of the election process would be added to the Standing Rules.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: *Article VI, Section 1., A.; Prior to the biennial convention, active members shall have the ability to:*

*(2.) Elect Area Representatives in their respective Areas.*

### RATIONALE

- Allowing ALL active state members in their respective Area the ability to vote for Area Representatives provides inclusiveness for both in-state and out-of-state members. All members in their respective Areas would have the ability to vote electronically or by paper ballot.

Details of the elections process would be added to the Standing Rules.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: *Article VI, Section 1., A.; Prior to the biennial convention, active members shall have the ability to:*

*(3.) Amend the Constitution*

## RATIONALE

- Allowing ALL active state members the ability to vote for proposed constitutional amendments, provides all in-state and out-of-state members the ability to determine how their Association is organized and operated. All members would have the ability to vote electronically or by paper ballot.
- Information both pro and con would be provided to the membership to be used in each member's decision making. This information would be provided to the members in a like manner that the Secretary of State provides Illinois residents on proposed Illinois State Constitutional Amendments.

*(If these proposed amendments pass, Article VI Meetings Section 1., B, C & D would be removed.)*

## **ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: *Article VII, Section 1., The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers and Area Representatives. ~~Immediate Past President, Regional Directors, and Chairs of standing committees~~*

*Remove Section 4. Executive Committee.*

*Remove Executive Committee from Article VII title.*

## RATIONALE

- The current 33-member Board of Directors structure was reviewed by an outside consultant and was seen as largely titular with most consequential issues being decided at the Executive Committee level. Therefore, we propose a Board of Directors consisting of Officers and Area Representatives. Area Representatives would still provide area representation on the Board of Directors.

If this amendment should pass, the following amendment is proposed:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: *Article VII, Section 3., A.; The Board of Directors shall have a minimum of four (4) meetings annually.*

## RATIONALE

- The proposed amendment to have the Board of Directors meet a minimum of four (4) times per year instead of two (2), is to be more informed on a regular basis. Meeting only twice a year was not enough to keep up on what is happening in Springfield.

## **Article VIII – Divisions**

**If the proposed amendment to remove Regional Directors from the Board of Directors should pass, Regions will be removed from the Constitution.**

## **ARTICLE IX – COMMITTEES**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: *Article IX, Section 1. Standing committees shall be: Finance, Legislative, Member Benefits, Membership, Leadership Development.*

## RATIONALE

- Changing the Nominations committee to the Leadership Development committee is more descriptive of the committee's purpose.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: *Article IX, Section 3. A. The Finance Committee and the Leadership Development Committee shall consist of a chair and one (1) voting member from each area. The Legislative, Member Benefits, and Membership Committees shall consist of a chair, the corresponding local unit chair, and any active member that wishes to serve.*

## RATIONALE

- By having a unit representative(s) on the Legislative, Member Benefits, and Membership committees, each unit will have representation on the committee. Communication to the unit will be immediate.

- Using Zoom meeting technology, we can broaden involvement in the Legislative, Member benefits, and Membership committees by including local unit chairpersons and other active members with an interest in the committee's work. This would promote more membership involvement, which is one of the overriding needs that have been identified by members of the Constitution Committee.

**Editorial edits would be necessary if the proposed Constitutional changes are passed**