



TO: WACO Members
From: Jeff Gadman, WACO President and Thurston County Treasurer
RE: Proposed Bylaw Amendment
Date: September 12, 2023

Per WACO Policy, any member may bring a proposed amendment to WACO bylaws directly to the membership for a vote. This proposed amendment must be provided to members no less than ten days prior to WACO membership consideration at the Annual Meeting followed by electronic voting by membership. The bylaw request must be in writing and include a short explanation of the requested change, including:

1. What the change is intended to do;
2. Why the change is being requested;
3. How this will improve WACO; and
4. Proposed language for the amendment.

Below is the proposed bylaw change I am submitting for membership consideration and voting at the WACO Annual business meeting on Wednesday, September 27th.

1. What the change is intended to do

Article X of WACO Bylaws states –

Meetings of the Association Membership Section 10.1. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held each year at a time and location to be determined by the Association membership.

We are proposing that the bylaws be amended to allow the decision on Annual Conference location be made by the WACO Board of Trustees, which meets four times per year, rather than by a vote of the full WACO membership in conjunction with the association annual meeting.

2. Why the change is being requested

In the past, WACO members and affiliate associations brought forward proposals to host the WACO annual meeting to the full membership. These were often great demonstrations of pride in the beauty and assets of counties vying to host the conference. Today, both the criteria for conference locale and timing for securing the best options have changed significantly. To keep costs to WACO members low, accommodate growing attendance numbers, and provide desired site requirements, venues in recent years have been identified via the research of WACO staff working with venue brokers, and entering into contracts years in advance. Relatively few counties have venues that can accommodate our increased attendance numbers. In addition, the window of opportunity for locking in a conference venue is often short. Waiting until the annual conference each year limits options.

3. How this will improve WACO

This will help ensure excellent conference venues at competitive rates.

4. Proposed language for the amendment

Meetings of the Association Membership Section 10.1. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held each year at a time and location to be determined by the WACO Board of Trustees ~~Association membership~~.