

Summary of Recommended Changes to 2024 GSMOL Bylaws for Membership Approval

The passing of more than 14 years since the last comprehensive Bylaws review and re-write prompted the GSMOL Board to recommend an analysis of the document in its entirety. The goal was to update the Bylaws to reflect current nonprofit legal requirements and policies, align with existing GSMOL practices and remove language that was better suited to policy and procedure documents.

Below is a summary of the proposed changes. The full text of the proposed updates can be read at <https://www.gsmol.org/proposed-bylaws-for-2026-ballot/>

Article I Principal Office

- Eliminated the requirement for GSMOL to maintain physical office space.

Article 11 Membership

- Reduced membership categories to Regular, Associate and Affiliated.
- Eliminated the requirement that members had to come to the office to view financial reports and meeting minutes.
- Removed reference to Certificates of Membership
- Eliminated the option to transfer a GSMOL Membership of a seller to the purchaser of the home
- Removed references to suspension of membership. Members who fail, in a material and serious degree, to observe the GSMOL Member Code of Conduct will be expelled.
- Allowed all eligible voting members to vote for the VP of Resident Owned Properties
- Eliminated all references to the requirements for meetings to be held in a physical place.
- Eliminated the requirement that elections must take place at a special meeting.
- Allowed an option for electronic voting

Article III Board of Directors

- Restricted members of the same household from simultaneously serving together
- Allowed for electronic voting by directors under limited circumstances and to have the same effect as a vote during a meeting of the Board.
- Modified the duties of the Vice Presidents to reflect more current practices

- **Article IV Committees**

- Eliminated references to specific committees

- **Article V Chapters**

- Reduced the number of reporting responsibilities of chapters to the Corporation
- Modified requirements of financial reporting and audit requirements to better reflect current practices
- Added a limit for the length of time the Organization must hold funds for an inactivated chapter and removed the requirement for interest to be paid if funds were returned.

- **Article VI Regions and Zones**

- Removed references to Zone VP required duties.

- **Article VII Budget and Finance**

- Added a specific time for the Board to approval the annual budget.
- Clarified that an audit can include a financial review of records by an independent accountant.

- **Article X Amendments to Bylaws**

- Allowed for summaries of amendment text, and not full text, for purposed amendments offered for membership voting
- **Article VIII Indemnification and Insurance, Article IX Parliamentary Authority, and Article XI Effective Date of Bylaws** – no substantial changes