

## **Bylaws Proposed Changes**

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Bylaws are the operating rules that guide the internal affairs of an organization. Each year the bylaws committee gives careful and cautious attention to consideration of changes. The general content in bylaws is standard for organizations and revisions are made only when necessary to reflect new goals, changing environment, or new operational needs. Information that changes frequently are included in standing rules or procedures manual.

Proposed bylaws changes are to address membership classifications. The bylaws committee researched membership categories/classifications (requirements as well as rights and privileges) in other Extension national organizations as well as Family and Consumer Sciences organizations. Simplicity and inclusion were recurring themes. With the intent of being a welcoming and inclusive organization, the proposal is to have five membership classifications:

1. Active Member – part A stays the same and part B includes what was previously called associate member (for employees located where there is no state/territory affiliate).
2. Associate Member – new category for Extension employees with less than a bachelor's degree. Membership in a national organization is a step towards encouraging Extension employees to further their education and see Family and Consumer Sciences as a viable career path.
3. Life Member – stays the same.
4. Partner Member – stays the same.
5. Student Member – stays the same.

\*Note: Member-In-Transition – removed, being used infrequently.

\*Note: There are some differences in rights and privileges as well as dues for the five membership classifications.

The other changes throughout the bylaws are related to the membership categories. The only exception is Article III – Dues and Fees, new section 3. This clarifies when an increase in dues becomes effective after a vote at an Annual Session.