X. GENERAL REGULATIONS

J. Initiative Process

A. Scope.

1. The initiative process is outlined in the by-laws to provide a method for the general membership to effect changes in the rules and/or operating procedures of the Association that aren't in violation of the by-laws.

2. Any proposed rule and/or operating procedure change that changes, subverts or creates an alternate method to powers and operating procedures determined by the by-laws is a violation.

3. It is every member's right to start an initiative process as stated in the by-laws. However, it should be noted that any member can bring a proposal directly to the Board of Directors during any of its weekly meetings. Considering the amount of time and work involved in the initiative process, it is suggested members attempt this route first, and only if the response is unfavorable should consider the initiative process.

B. Submission of a petition.

1. An issue is a proposed rule and/or operating procedure change. The petition should clearly outline the overall basis, scope and intent of the initiative, followed by ideas/details/specifics developing the stated cause, including the actual/proposed verbiage to be used on the ballot. The specifics should include addressing issues of process, feasibility, authority, enforcement/implementation and accountability/oversight, as applicable to the issue at hand.

2. Before a member petitions the membership for signatures, they must fulfill the criteria specified in B.1 and following which submit their issue to the front office in full written detail, and include a signed list of all members who have helped write the written issue (these members will be called the petitioners). At which point, the office will have 48 hours to make a copy with the attached signature form available to the petitioners.

3. Persons who have offered opinions or ideas to drafts do not count as petitioners, but those that have contributed to the verbiage of the submitted issue do.

4. Once signatures of at least 20% of the membership is obtained, the petitioner must submit their petition to the president of the association at an official meeting of the Board of Directors.

5. The Board of Directors must determine within one week if the proposed issue violates the by-laws or not. If it is determined to violate the by-laws then the petition is declared invalid. The president must then write a letter to the petitioners explaining why it believes the initiative violates the by-laws. The minutes of the meeting must also explain the reasoning behind the Board's decision. If it is determined to not violate the by-laws, then it must be referred to Memcom to be put up for general voting by the members of the Association within seven days.

6. The petitioners may appeal the Board's decision to Memcom, but only if there are four or more members of Memcom that are neither petitioners nor signees of the petition. Memcom members that are petitioners or signees must recuse themselves from voting on judgement of the petition's validity. If this condition cannot be met, then the Board's decision is final.

C. Requirements of the petition and signatures.

1. The exact wording of the signature form shall be set by Memcom and must consist of an acknowledgement of the signee that they have read the proposal, that they were not coerced into signing it and they are doing so in the sincere belief that it is in the best interest of the association.

2. Only a petitioner may request a signature from the membership.

3. Using signature forms other than the ones provided by the office or modifying the forms provided will cause the petition to be invalid.

4. A petition and signature form is only valid for two weeks after being picked up from the office by the petitioners.

5. There shall be no restrictions on the validity of signatures of the petition beyond confirmation that the signee did indeed sign it, and that the signee is a member in good standing of the association.

6. The proposed measure should be publicly posted in the HHH bulletin Board announcing the measure and pertinent details including as specified in B. 1. The posting should also include the opposing viewpoints to enable the membership to be abreast of both arguments (i.e. for and against).

D. Meeting of the Association.

1. The president must call a meeting of the association upon receipt of a petition, as described in Article VII.b.8 of the By-laws. It is within the president's powers to make attendance to this meeting mandatory for all members.

2. In the event that the petition was found in violation of the by-laws, a meeting is not required.

3. There must be at least 48 hours' notice for any such meeting to be publicly posted in the HHH lobby.

4. The sole purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed issue. This is not a regular meeting and as such members may not introduce new measures as outlined in preamble A.3. The only new measure that may be discussed is the proposed issue. No vote during this meeting is binding.

5. Memcom shall chair this meeting, making sure to be as neutral as reasonably possible. They must allow members from the Board of Directors and the Petitioners to both make a general statement and field questions. Opposing sides (if different from the Board), must also be given an opportunity for statements and Q&A thereby providing for a full discussion on the pros and cons of a measure.

E. Polling.

1. The polling of the issue is under the direction of Memcom, who shall conduct a secret ballot. Memcom will assign polling officers, primarily from Memcom, but may choose members outside of Memcom if needed to ensure the polling is neutral and secret. They will assign one polling officer to act as lead polling officer.

2. No Petitioner or Signee of the petition can be a polling officer.

3. No member of the Board of Directors can be a polling officer.

4. Polling officers are forbidden to attempt to sway the vote one way or another and in so doing, will be grounds for the negation of the election/referendum.

5. Polling will take place over two consecutive weekdays and will be held from 7-9:30am during breakfast and from 5-7pm during dinner. Polling is prohibited during finals week, the Break week of a quarter and the Summer sessions.

6. Ballots will be distributed at the poll. The polling officers will record the name of each voter as they vote.

7. Absentee ballots will be made available at the office.

8. No campaigning or electioneering shall take place in or near the polling area. Intentional and severe violations of this shall be considered as gross uncooperative behavior.

9. Memcom will give both the Board of Directors and the Petitioners the opportunity to supply a written statement of 200 words or less which will be made clearly visible at the polling area without one being more obviously visible than the other. Both statements must have the same font size and style.

10. Members must be in good standing in order to vote. Members who are not are in violation of Article V.c of the by-laws and as such are considered to have their membership temporarily suspended.

F. Creation and Validity of the Ballots

1. Memcom will give both the Board of Directors and the Petitioners the opportunity to supply a written statement of 50 words or less to be printed side by side on the ballot.

2. Only the Ballots created by Memcom are valid.

G. Counting the Ballots.

1. After the polls close, ballots will be counted immediately by at least three polling officers.

2. The counting must take place in the front office or A-wing lounge.

3. Any member may view the counting process (from outside the front office window or outside the A-Wing Lounge windows), but it is forbidden to be near the ballots or distract the polling officers. Polling officers may issue warnings to members who unintentionally do so. Repeated infractions and/or ignoring warnings issued by the polling officer is gross uncooperative behavior.

4. If a viewing member believes they see the polling officers changing or miscounting the ballots, they are to remain silent but record their observations. They must then refer these observations to Memcom who will judge whether or not such infractions occurred. If Memcom rules such infractions happened, the poll is null and void. Again, any petitioner or signee of the petition on Memcom must recuse themselves from such judgements.

5. To be declared passed, the issue shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Association.

6. Once the results have been tallied, the result must be signed off by the lead polling officer who will then inform Memcom. Memcom will then announce the result of the ballot only after they have confirmed the ballot was conducted to the standards set forth in these rules.