SEPTLA Business Meeting Agenda, Fall 2025

October 9 – New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Review of Bylaws Changes

Section 1.0 Membership

- 1.2.4 This change provides flexibility by leaving the definition of "activities" open, to include all activities — not only interest groups but also committees, task forces, plenary meetings, leadership roles, etc.
- 1.3.1 By removing "present at an announced meeting", this change provides flexibility to conduct such votes digitally and asynchronously if needed.
- 1.3.2 This change adds the concept of "inactive" members, as an intermediate status that doesn't require completely removing a member. Excluding inactive members from voting will lower the threshold for a quorum, thereby making it easier for SEPTLA to convene enough active members to conduct business.
- 1.3.3 This change clarifies why and how membership can be withdrawn. It adds specification of how such a vote is conducted, using the same language as the amendment proposed above for paragraph 1.3.1 pertaining to how members are added.

Sections 4.0 Election of Officers, 6.0 Duties of Officers and 10.0 Committees

- The rationale for the amendments in these sections was to remove the administrative overhead. The SEPTLA website and email mailing list, which are the de facto channels of communication with the SEPTLA membership, now take the place of the newsletter, and the accompanying position of Newsletter Editor. The Communications Committee is dissolved as the Executive Committee will continue to announce upcoming plenary meetings and post other information on the SEPTLA website and email distribution list as has been the practice for some time now.
- Some of the specific changes to section 6.0 Duties of Officers also serve to pare down the officers' duties in order to reduce administrative overhead and lower the barrier to members' serving in leadership roles. The change in 6.2.2 simplifies previously awkward phrasing, while the change in 6.4.5 replaces the outdated acronym ATLA with Atla and adds "annual" for clarity.
- The Website Manager no longer serves a standing role on the Executive Committee.

- 10.1.4 “The President may invite other persons from the SEPTLA membership to attend Executive Committee meetings in an advisory capacity; such persons shall have voice but no vote.” This change allows bringing in additional perspectives and expertise when appropriate and could also be utilized to help compensate, if desired, for the removal of Newsletter Editor and Website Manager from Executive Committee.
- 10.2.1 This change removes this requirement for planning “a Biennial Full Day Workshop” from the charge of the Continuing Education Committee, although that committee would still be able to offer full-day programs, if desired.

Section 2.0 Finances

- 2.1 This change removes the exact dollar amount for annual dues, thereby eliminating the need to amend the bylaws if dues change in the future. The due date remains unchanged.

Section 4.0 Election of Officers

- 4.4 “A simple majority of persons present from Member institutions will be sufficient for election.” is identical to paragraph 5.3.2 in the SEPTLA Constitution.

Section 5.0 Terms of Office

- 5.5 clarifies when the term begins for a person appointed to a position by the Executive Committee.
- 5.6 provides flexibility by replacing "Fall meeting" with "meeting" and adding clarifying language. This change will be particularly helpful when a vacancy needs to be filled.
- 5.7.3 clarifies previously awkward language.

Section 8.0 Interest Groups

- 8.2 This change removes the need to amend the bylaws, if new interest groups are created or existing ones are dissolved or renamed.
- 8.3 This change fixes a typo and removes the requirement for interest groups to have a secretary, which in practice they don't have and don't need.

Section 12.0 Amendments

- This change provides flexibility by removing outdated language that implies the use of physical mail. The phrase "by email or other digital means" is taken verbatim from the SEPTLA Constitution, Article 7 - Amendments.

Reports

President (Virginia)

Past President (Victoria)

Secretary (James)

Treasurer (Shaelagh)

Continuing Education Committee (Victoria)

Archivist (James)

Vacancies

Continuing Education Committee

- Members (2)

New Business

Atla supported listserv - Will SEPTLA be able to continue with our list? If not, will it be archived? If not, what can we do?

Institutional Updates

Interest Group(s)

Include question on survey about topics for Cataloging and Metadata Interest Group

Next Meeting -

Old Pine Church, Presbyterian Historical Society

Cemetery near St. Sophia's, museum being built, 50th Anniversary Celebration

Gettysburg Seminary

Bethlehem has become a World Heritage Site