

Proposed AYA Constitution Amendment

by Don Cochran, President

A proposal to amend the AYA Constitution has been submitted by member Michael Boyd. The amendment is intended to remove the date restriction for the annual membership meeting held each year during the convention. Currently, this annual membership meeting is to be held between June 15 and August 15 in accordance with Article VIII of the Constitution. Since the membership meeting occurs during the convention, the AYA Board of Directors will only approve a convention proposal that falls within that same date range.

The founders of the AYA have provided a method for making changes to our Constitution. This process is defined in Article IX which is titled "Amendments". This is a three step process.

First, the proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer will retain the original and forward a copy to the President.

Second, the President will forward copies to the Board of Directors and the Board will consider the proposed amendment. This has been done and the following motion was made by Great Lakes Directors Roscoe Rosche and Luann Sieve:

"Accept the proposed amendment to Article VIII of the AYA Constitution as submitted by Michael Boyd. Specifically, this amendment intends to strike the following text from the first sentence of the first paragraph of the article: "between the dates of June 15th and August 15th". The motion was seconded by South Central Director Charlie Adams. The Board has voted on this motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Third, the President will submit the proposed amendment to the Editor for publication in the Star. This will be followed by a vote of the membership. The amendment will be approved with a 60% majority of voting members.

A YES vote will remove the date restriction.

A NO vote will keep the date restriction.

There are several different ways for you to vote: Send an e-mail to the Secretary/Treasurer at sec@aya.org, vote from the AYA web site, telephone/fax/mail your voting preference to the Secretary/Treasurer or use the AYA membership renewal form mailed to members who are due for renewal. The cut off date for voting is January 31, 2010. All votes must be received by the Secretary/Treasurer by that date to be counted.

In summary, this amendment will allow convention proposals to be made without the current date restriction. The Board will still be required to approve any convention proposal. Please read the article below then take a few moments to vote and make your preference known.

When Would You Like Your Convention?

by Michael Boyd

Over my past several years as an AYA member I've heard folks comment that they would like it if the annual convention could be held during other times of the year for a variety of reasons. I did a little research and found that our AYA constitution specifies the convention dates must be between the dates of June 15 and August 15. I also found that we have a defined process for amending our constitution so, after verifying that there was a fair amount of interest, I wrote an amendment and initiated the process.

The goal of the amendment is to remove the date restriction from the constitution. The result would change Article VIII of the AYA constitution to read:

Meetings: The membership shall meet once a year, on a date and place approved by a 60% vote of the Board. The date and site selection will be published in the Newsletter. The annual convention is held to hear reports from the officers, Regional Directors and committees, for installation of new officers, and for other program content deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. The annual convention shall also constitute the social gathering of the American Yankee Association, at which time all aircraft will be judged and awards presented in predetermined categories by aircraft type.

The first part of the process is now complete: The AYA board had a very thoughtful debate on the subject and has voted in favor of bringing the amendment to a vote of the general membership. The Board has also received a request to expedite the voting on this amendment via a special election, so details on your opportunity to vote to accept or reject this amendment can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Star.

While the goal of the amendment is to remove restrictions on convention proposals, it could potentially have both positive and negative impacts on the organization. To help you with your decision, here are some pros and cons that were identified by the board during the debate.

Pros:

Allows linking conventions with other events that may be of interest to attendees.

May open up the possibility for new convention sites.

Off summer dates may attract more/varied members attending conventions.

Off season hotel/event rates may lower the cost to attend conventions.

May allow choice of locations with more comfortable weather conditions.

May encourage more potential convention chairs to make proposals.

Cons:

Greater risk of prolonged adverse weather for members flying from distant locations.

May prevent some, such as teachers or families with children, from attending.

May result in conventions too close together or too far apart.

Will require more scrutiny of convention proposals by the Board.

May require more advance work by the VP with convention proposals.

May prevent some key convention participants from attending.

To go to the voting page please select VOTE NOW