**FAHN BYLAWS / CONSTITUTION CHANGE REQUESTS FOR 2021**

**All FAHN bylaw and constitution change requests have been submitted by FAHN members in good standing and have been submitted more than 30 days before the conference. As per the current bylaws, voting on each of these proposed changes will take place during the current year, 2021 FAHN Conference, being held in Orlando. Members must be present to vote. The change requests are as follows:**

**Bylaws Change Request #1:**

SECTION 1
PRESIDENT

1. The President of the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the organization.

2. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators and to enforce rules and regulations regarding its administration. The President shall vote only in the case of a tie vote. He/she shall serve for a term of one year and can succeed him or herself in office, however, he/she cannot serve for more than **~~two~~ four** consecutive terms. The President shall, as occasions demand, call meetings of the Executive Board.

SECTION 2
VICE PRESIDENT

1. The Vice President shall hold office for one year and can succeed him or herself in office, however, he/she cannot serve for more than **~~two~~ four** consecutive terms. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to preside at all meetings in the absence of the President, and to assist the President in the enforcement of the rules and regulations regarding the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators.

2. In the event of resignation, suspension or termination of the President, the Vice President shall ascend to the office of President and serve until the next scheduled general election of officers of the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators.

3. In the event of the resignation, suspension, or termination of both the President and the Vice President, the Treasurer shall ascend to the office of President, and serve until the next scheduled general election of the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators.

Request made by FAHN member / Region 10 Director, Sgt. Maggie Dietrich:

The by-law change requested is for the consecutive terms a President and Vice President can stay in office. Request change be made from “he/she cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms” to “he/she cannot serve for more than four consecutive terms.” The current term for each of these positions is too brief. These changes are being requested to allow the individual ample time to learn and execute his/her duties for the betterment of the Association.

**Bylaws Change Request #2:**

SECTION 17
ELECTIONS

1. Candidates for President-Elect and Vice President-Elect shall meet or exceed the minimum qualifications listed below.

a.    Be an active member of the Association in good standing.
b.    Candidates for President shall have served at least one year in an elected Executive Board position.

2.   Elections process/procedures:

 a.    Elections will be held during the general membership business meeting of the FAHN’s annual conference. **In the event that exigent or extenuating circumstances occur (to include, but are not limited to a natural or manmade disaster), which prevent the annual conference and/or business meeting from taking place, the current President, in concurrence with the simple majority of the voting board members may decide to keep the current board members in their positions until the next annual conference/business meeting can be held.**
b.    Only members in good standing and present at the time of elections are permitted to cast a ballot.  There will be no absentee ballots.
c.    A member may vote for the Executive Board positions and ONLY for the Regional Director position in their respective region. Ballots which are not properly completed (i.e. someone votes for more than one person in any category) shall make the entire ballot null and void.  Failure to vote for at least one candidate in any category will not invalidate a ballot.
d.    Members seeking a position on the Executive Board must be present at the time that elections are conducted, unless extenuating circumstances preclude it. Such circumstances must be approved by a majority of the current Executive Board in order to be excused from this provision.  In the event that a candidate for an Executive Board position is not present and/or the absence is not excused by the Executive Board, then the candidate will be disqualified.

e.    Candidates for Regional Director Positions do not have to be present during the election process.

f.    Once ballots are cast, the ballots will be tabulated by a committee, to include all past Presidents present at the annual conference or any designee, excluding those who are running for office.  Ballots which are not properly completed shall be considered null and void.  Ballot election results will remain confidential until released at the time designated by the current President.
g.    Once the ballots are tabulated, they will be secured with the Association Secretary, until the time they are validated.
h.    The ballots will be retained for a period of six months from the closing date following the conference.
i.    Any protest or challenge of the election results must be submitted to the Secretary in writing, by the aggrieved party, no later than thirty (30) days after the closing of the annual conference.

1)    Contested results will be resolved by the Executive Board at the first quarterly meeting after the grievance is filed.
2)    The aggrieved party may elect to be present at the meeting and during the validation process.
3)    Once the Executive Board arrives at a decision, the President will notify the aggrieved party in writing, within thirty (30) calendar days.

j.    In the event of a tie vote:

1)    In the case of a Regional Director’s position, the Executive Board will appoint a candidate.
2)    In the case of an Executive Board position, the Past Presidents, in attendance, will appoint the candidate.

Request made by FAHN member / Past-President, (Ret) Major Brent Coughlin:

This bylaw change request is regarding the process of elections and voting in the event of an exigent or extenuating circumstance that prevents the annual conference/ annual business meeting from taking place in person. This request is being proposed to add the following statement to current bylaw Section 17, item 2a under Elections. “In the event that exigent or extenuating circumstances (to include, but are not limited to a natural or manmade disaster) occur, which prevent the annual conference and/or business meeting from taking place, the current President, in concurrence with the simple majority of the voting board members may decide to keep the current board members in their positions until the next annual conference/business meeting can be held.”

**FAHN Constitution Change Request:**

ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS

5. No member agency may be represented on the Executive Board by more than **~~one~~ two** elected member**s** and one appointed member, excluding Past Presidents. A FAHN member who has separated from all criminal justice agencies does not represent any agency. A FAHN member who has separated from an agency and who has subsequently become employed with another agency, is considered a representative of that law enforcement, corrections or criminal justice agency. For purposes of this section, a person shall be considered "employed" by an agency if they perform paid or unpaid sworn or civilian services on a routine or recurring basis for the agency.

Request made by FAHN member / Region 4 Director, Lt. David Tuck:

This constitution article change request is regarding the Officers who serve on the Executive Board and is being made as to not restrict qualified members who wish to serve on the Executive Board simply because of the agency for which they work. Due to the total size of the voting Board, allowing two members from the same agency to serve on the FAHN Board will still preserve the Executive Board’s integrity and impartiality as allowing two will not create a majority on any issue.