

***Proposals submitted for possible Inclusion on the By-Mail Ballot for the 2018 ABM:***

No. 1    **1. Brief Title:** Amend the Bylaws to change the requirements for Board of Trustees service

**2. Type:** Bylaws

**3. Submitter** Board of Trustees

**4. Brief Description of Proposal:**

"Delete current provision 4.1.2 and substitute the following:

4.1.2 Qualifications. Any couple which is a member of a Member Group for a minimum of 3 years shall be qualified to be elected to the Board of Trustees. It is recommended that any such couple have worked the Twelve Steps of R.C.A. through the 5th Step and be actively working with sponsors or co-sponsors."

**5. Submitter's Rationale:**

Since RCA was established in 1991, it made sense to have the minimal 12 month requirement. Now, 26 years later, it is reasonable to establish a more meaningful level of qualification for election to the Board of Trustees. The three year requirement enables a couple to keep their initial focus on couple recovery while coming to an understanding of the principles, Traditions, Concepts of Service, policies, and tools of RCA.

It is helpful to look at similar provisions in AA, Al-Anon, and NA. In brief, AA general service trustees need seven years of continuous sobriety, Al-Anon requires 10 years of continuous membership, and NA requires 10 years of clean time.

Step work and sponsorship are in the recommended category since these are suggestions not requirements of RCA.

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No. 2    **1. Brief Title:** Additional qualifications for Board of Trustee Officers

**2. Type:** By Laws

**3. Submitter**    Board of Trustees

**4. Brief Description of Proposal:**

The Bylaws do not contain any necessary qualifications for service as an officer on the Board of Trustees. Bylaws section 4.3 would be supplemented as follows: The minimum qualification to serve as the Chair is at least one year of prior service as a member of the Board of Trustees. The minimum qualification to serve as Treasurer is familiarity with finance matters and bookkeeping.

Recommendation that a person have one year of relevant experience to serve as the chair of an RCA committee. "

**5. Submitter's Rationale:**

As RCA matures, it seems prudent to specify the minimum qualifications for service in two key Board of Trustee positions: Chair and Treasurer. While not burdensome, the recommended additions will add a degree of protection for the fellowship.