

**From:** Dallas Genealogical Society <Dallas\_Genealogical\_Society@mail.vresp.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 18, 2010 1:37 PM  
**To:** aehanson@swbell.net  
**Subject:** Proposed DGS Bylaws Change - Update

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## Proposed Bylaws Changes

Dear Tony,

Provided below is a response to questions raised at the DGS General Meeting on September 11, 2010 concerning proposed changes to Dallas Genealogical Society Bylaws.



The vote on the proposed changes to the bylaws will be held at the October 2nd General meeting. All DGS members are encouraged to attend and cast their vote.

See the [DGS web page](#) to view a full copy of the proposed bylaws.

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### **#1 - Article IV, Section 5. Transition to New Board Year**

There is a proposed change to the program year of DGS from the current January to December schedule to September 1 through August 31. A little background: when DGS was formed in 1955, the year was set for January-December. In 1971, the year was switched to July-June and later changed to May-April; this remained in place until 2004 when it was changed back to January-December to coincide with the fiscal year.

For the past several years, incoming Boards have indicated that the timing of this turnover at the end of the year during the holiday season is problematic for the new Board members. They have to "hit-the-ground" running in January with little time for preparation considering the chaos and hectic schedules during the holiday period. The Treasurer does not see a problem with having the program year and fiscal year end at different times.

The proposed changes to the Bylaws would have a 3-month overlap for transition. The new Board would actually be elected in May but would be installed at the first meeting in September, thus providing time over the summer when no general meetings are held for the Boards to make the transition as smooth as possible. Both Boards would work together to conduct the Summer Institute and would develop a program plan for the coming year.

During discussions within the Bylaws committee about proposing such a change, we discussed options for making the transition to the new program year: Would we elect a Board in December

that would serve only six months before being replaced by another Board? Would we ask the new Board elected in December to serve from January 2011 until September 2012? Would we ask the current Board (elected in December 2009) to serve from January 2010 until September 2011?

We approached the current Board to determine their willingness to serve an extended term since they are already in office and, we believe, would be more willing to commit to a few extra months than a new director coming into office. The Board members indicated they would be willing to serve until September 2011, with replacement Board members elected in May 2011 and both Boards working together during the summer. Records indicate that the Board in place when the Bylaws were changed in 2004 also served an extended term so this seemed to set the precedent for how DGS had handled this in the past.

## **#2 -Article IV, Section 2. Nominating Committee**

The current Bylaws indicate that a Nominating Committee is to be elected at the September Board meeting that will provide a slate of officers for the coming year at the November meeting. Such a committee has two Board appointees and three members-at-large. There was one volunteer from the general membership and additional members-at-large are being sought for this committee to be chaired by Jean Larson.

The outcome of the voting on the proposed Bylaws changes at the October meeting will determine which path we take:

1. Vote YES to the proposed changes:

- The new Bylaws become effective immediately and supersede all previous versions of the Bylaws.
- The current Board would remain in office until September 2011 with a new Board elected in May to be installed at the September 2011 meeting. At that point, all future Boards would serve one-year terms from September 1 through August 31 each year.

2. Vote NO to the proposed changes:

- The current Bylaws remain in effect.
- At the November 2010 meeting, the Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates for Board members who will assume office in January 2011.

Bylaws are approved by the general membership of the Dallas Genealogical Society. Upon approval by DGS general membership, any proposed changes to the Bylaws become effective immediately and thus govern Board actions from that date forward.

The Bylaws Committee

Dallas Genealogical Society

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