

Southern California World Service (SCWS) Bylaws updates 2024

SCWS became a 501c3 non-profit corporation in early 1990s, mainly for the purpose of getting a non-profit discount on mailing our newsletter (the largest expenses we had back then). Bylaws were required and they remain in the background. The Service Manual is our guide (as noted in our Bylaws).

The occasional updates are made to our Bylaws to incorporate the votes that the Group Representatives (GR) already made (during the past few years), but only those which affect our Bylaws, and to incorporate changes from our guiding AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (itself updated about every 3 years by AI-Anon's largest group conscience at the World Service Conference by discussion and votes by Delegates and Trustees from US and Canada), also SCWS process changes, and language clarifications.

We operate as a spiritual fellowship, not a legal corporation. So we do not put focus on the Bylaws (as noted in the Bylaws themselves). For SCWS the Bylaws are meant to follow SCWS, not to lead it. **To incorporate recent changes, we commonly update the Bylaws about every 3 years.**

Our SCWS past delegates serve on this Bylaws update committee, bringing the historical knowledge they have acquired. **Each and every draft change has been discussed and agreed upon by the committee** (they met nearly every Thursday for the past 3 years). The board is kept informed during the process. Then the draft is presented to the full SCWS Committee. They then decide to put it on the agenda for an upcoming Assembly. The **Bylaw updates must be accepted/voted on by the GRs.**

Bylaws require that proposed changes be posted for review 45 days in advance of a vote. **Yellow highlighting draws attention to all proposed changes.** To help you understand the individual changes, **comment boxes have been placed to the right.**

We learned from past experience that time constraints prevent additional changes from being made during the Assembly. Plus, any changes would require another 45 day review period. Therefore, at the Assembly the **GRs are asked to vote to accept the draft changes, or reject them, as a whole.** Time will be given for questions. We appreciate you reviewing the posted draft in advance. Thank you for your service, and thanks to all our SCWS trusted servants.

Please note, following WSO's lead, unfortunately Bylaws are a specific legal document and therefore they cannot be translated into Spanish.