Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws to be Presented to the Membership for Voting in October 2019

In addition to electing Board officers and directors, voting members will also vote on a proposed Bylaws amendment. The proposed change appears below. Please note that material proposed to be deleted is struck through; material proposed to be added is underlined. ATA’s Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the voting members.

Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws

Proposed: Article V, Section 1

No President shall be elected to serve more than one full term, and no Secretary or Treasurer shall be elected to serve more than two three full terms in that office.

The ATA Board of Directors recommends approval.

Commentary

The current term limits specific to the position of secretary and treasurer are anachronistic and redundant and no longer serve their original purpose. A primary purpose was to mitigate the possibility of conspiracy and possible fraud between the individuals holding those offices by preventing the same individuals from serving for an extensive period. This made sense when the secretary actually received and handled correspondence, especially invoices and payments via postal mail, and the treasurer actually wrote and signed checks to pay bills. But that has not been the case for many years since ATA Headquarters staff has assumed those functions. The term limits have therefore been overtaken by administrative developments in that the safeguards against fraud now rest elsewhere in the Association.

In addition, for the treasurer in particular, most individuals serving in that capacity need one full two-year term simply to become familiar and comfortable with the duties incumbent on that office. After an additional two-year term, when those individuals have just become comfortable and efficient at their duties, they are barred from remaining in that office.