

To: All members of the NSCS

Date: 8 May 2006

From: John Shea (for the By-Laws Revision Committee)

I want to point here to the more substantive revisions that have been incorporated into the most recent draft of the By-Laws, ignoring minor and apparent changes in wording, sentence structure, and style from the current version (last revised in 2000). You will all have electronic access to the current version and the new one for comparing them minutely if you wish.

Article I. The statement of purpose has been made more brief and more focused on the specific mission and operation of NSCS. The provisions in points 3 and 4 concerning opportunities for soloists and instrumentalists have been eliminated; the new point 2 adds phrases emphasizing their supporting role.

Article II. The new section 1 specifies the term of office for all Board members and the number of terms each may serve. The number of terms for Directors-at-Large is limited to three consecutive terms to encourage these Board positions being regarded as developmental. Also the revision eliminates the Executive Committee (EC), which the Board judges to be an unnecessary mechanism, given today's methods of putting Board members in instant touch with one another. (No Board member can recall any instance of the EC being called together.) The new Sections 1 and 2 reflect this change.

The new Section 3 adds a sentence concerning voting limitations for the Music Director and the General Manager. Section 5 now reverses the order of the two sentences in the current version and specifies that Board meetings shall take place monthly from September through June. Section 6 adds a proviso exempting the Music Director and the General Manager from being removable from office by vote of the membership: this eliminates the contradiction with Section 3, which gives that prerogative to the Board of Directors. Section 6 also newly specifies seven days as the minimum time between cause being given for removal of a Board member and the vote of the membership on the question. Section 9 now gives two deadline dates for adopting the budget: before the end of the calendar year for a tentative budget and before the new fiscal year for the final budget; old Section 9 did not mention a tentative budget.

Article III. The revision contains 10 sections instead of 11. The duties of the President are now given in one section instead of two; the list of duties has not been changed. The old Section 3 concerning the absence or disability of the President has been incorporated into Section 2. The new Section 4 adds “the Society’s website” to the supervisory responsibilities of the Vice-President, Public Relations. Section 6 expands the duties of the Secretary to include revision of the minutes, resubmission to the Board, and a copy for the archive. Section 7 clarifies procedures to be followed by the Treasurer (“Shall make all payments...”). Section 8, on the duties of Directors-at-Large, is new. Section 9 now includes the provision for the Music Director to exclude an unprepared singer, formerly in Article V, Section 4. Section 10 revises the duties of the General Manager.

Article IV. Sections 1 through 4 have been recast so that the supervising vice-presidents are now in the foreground. In Section 3, a webmaster has been added to the positions under the supervision of the Vice-President, Public Relations. (See also Article III, Section 4.)

Article V. Section 3 has been revised and expanded to reflect the Board’s recent discussions of excessive absences from rehearsals. Section 4 has been moved to Article III, Section 9. Section 5 has been shortened by a third so as to be less legalistic.

Article VI. Sections 1 and 2 have been reversed to put the nomination process *before* the election. Section 1 adds a provision that current members of the Board may not be appointed to the nominating committee. Section 2 adds “the members in attendance shall elect” to make a passive construction active; and adds a provision that any member may be nominated from the floor.

Please send any comments or questions that you have on the By-Laws revisions to me at [jshea9306@comcast.net](mailto:jshea9306@comcast.net)