

Notice to Membership

The NFH Board of Directors approved the following bylaws amendments to be put forth to the membership for a vote at this year's annual membership meeting, April 21, 2017. Approval of these amendments requires two-thirds (2/3) vote of those regular members present and voting, provided that the amendments have been submitted to the membership in this call to the meeting. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes please contact me, Jay Tripathi, NFH President, at (707) 857-2050 or jay@gardenworks-inc.com.

The NFH Board of Directors, Elections Committee and Bylaws and Policy Committee recommend the membership approve the following changes:

Recommended Bylaws Changes (changes / additions underlined):

Article III – Officers and Directors

Section 1: The officers of NFH shall be president, vice president, secretary and a treasurer. Officers and directors shall be elected using a printed by ballot mailed made available to all certified regular members. ~~using United States Postal Service (USPS) mail.~~ No proxy voting is permitted. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, by the policies and procedures, and by *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

Article IV – Meetings

Section 2: Call to Meeting notice of the annual business meeting shall be sent to the last known address of each member in the NFH newsletter not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the nature of the business to be considered.

Section 4: Voting on issues other than the election of officers, other directors and nominating committee can be accomplished at all business meetings of NFH. The quorum shall be a majority of the regular members who have registered as attending. For election of officers, other directors and the nominating committee by ~~written~~ ballot, the quorum shall be the number of ~~returned~~ ballots received. No proxy voting is permitted.

Article XII – Nominating Committee. A nominating committee of five (5) members shall be elected using printed by ballot mailed made available to all certified regular members using United States Postal Service (USPS) mail. One member shall be a director and one shall have served the previous year. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the board of directors, officers and the nominating committee. The nominating committee also shall recommend candidates to the board for director vacancies and the member-at-large on the executive committee.

The NFH Board's rationale for these bylaws amendments:

- Retains the election by ballot provisions of the current Bylaws, permits the use of online voting, and purposely does not state the means by which ballots will be distributed, since yet undefined procedures may be desired in the future with the advent of advances in technology.
- The elections process will be more efficient, cost effective and promote greater membership participation in the election of officers, directors and nominating committee members.