ORANGE COUNTY AL-ANON

SERVICE BOARD

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Service Board Membership & Eligibility

November 3, 2026

To: Orange County Al-Anon Intergroup Representatives

Dear Intergroup Representatives,

The Orange County Al-Anon Service Board is providing this notice of **four proposed amendments to the Orange County Al-Anon bylaws** concerning Service Board membership and eligibility.

In accordance with our bylaws, this notice is being provided to Intergroup Representatives at least four weeks prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendments will be considered for a vote.

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The Service Board has experienced increasing difficulty in filling available service positions with qualified volunteers. The proposed amendments are intended to **broaden the pool of members who may be willing and able to step into Service Board service while preserving the experience, knowledge, and continuity that are important to an effective Service Board.**

The proposed changes would provide greater flexibility in the size of the Service Board, make prior service experience a suggested rather than an absolute requirement for certain positions, and provide an opportunity for experienced former Board members to return to service after a period of time.

The intent is **not to diminish the value of experience in Al-Anon service**, but rather to make service opportunities accessible to more willing and qualified members while continuing to encourage and value prior service experience.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

1. ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1A — MEMBERSHIP

CURRENT LANGUAGE

“The Service Board shall consist of the Chairman, Chairman-Elect and sixteen members who have voice and vote.”

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

“The Service Board shall consist of the Chairman, Chairman-Elect and up to sixteen members who have voice and vote.”

PURPOSE:
This amendment would allow the Service Board to operate with fewer than sixteen members when there are not enough volunteers available to fill all positions, rather than requiring a specific number of members.

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2. ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3 — CHAIRMAN-ELECT ELIGIBILITY

CURRENT LANGUAGE

“Any person who has served as a member of the Service Board for at least one year shall be eligible to serve as Chairman-Elect.”

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

“It is suggested that a person have served as a member of the Service Board for at least one year to be eligible to serve as Chairman-Elect.”

PURPOSE:
This amendment would continue to recognize and encourage prior Service Board experience while allowing another qualified and willing member to be considered when a candidate with one year of prior Board service is not available.

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3. ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4 — SERVICE BOARD ELIGIBILITY

CURRENT LANGUAGE

“Any person who is a member of any REGISTERED Group and has served as an Intergroup Representative for at least one year shall be eligible to serve.”

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

“It is suggested that a person have served as an Intergroup Representative for at least one year to be eligible to serve.”

PURPOSE:
This amendment would continue to recognize Intergroup Representative experience as valuable preparation for Service Board service while allowing other qualified and willing members to be considered when a candidate with one year of Intergroup Representative experience is not available.

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4. ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4 — SERVICE BOARD ELIGIBILITY

CURRENT LANGUAGE

"No elected member of the Service Board (including Chairman) shall be eligible for re-election to the Service Board."

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

"A member having previously served on the Service Board, including Chairperson, shall be eligible to be elected and serve again after five years have passed from the end of prior service."

PURPOSE:
This amendment would allow experienced former Service Board members to return to service after a five-year period. It would provide the organization with an opportunity to benefit from the knowledge and experience of former Board members while allowing time for new members to participate in service.

DECEMBER INTERGROUP MEETING

The four proposed amendments will be presented for **discussion and vote** at the December Intergroup meeting.

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026

HYBRID MEETING

IN PERSON
Trinity Episcopal Church
2400 N. Canal Street
Orange, CA 92865

ZOOM
Meeting ID: **890 1915 6449**
Passcode: **045708**

PLEASE REVIEW AND DISCUSS

We encourage each Intergroup Representative to review these proposed amendments and discuss them with the members of their respective Al-Anon group prior to the December 2nd meeting.

The Service Board believes these proposed changes will help address the ongoing challenge of finding willing volunteers for service while maintaining an emphasis on **experience, knowledge, continuity, and responsible service to the Al-Anon fellowship.**

Thank you for your continued participation and commitment to Al-Anon service throughout Orange County.

In Service,

Matthew St Marseille
Chairperson
Orange County Al-Anon Service Board

July 2026 – June 2027