CHARTER

I

Honest, free and independent journalism is the best contribution toward peace in a world of free nations peopled by free men.

II

Without freedom of the press there is no democracy. Freedom of thought and its expression, spoken or written, are inseparable, essential rights. Together, they constitute the guarantee and defense of the other liberties on which democracy is based.

III

Freedom of information is a right inherent in freedom of opinion. Information, whether national or international, should be received, transmitted and disseminated without any restriction and news disseminated by the media should circulate within a country or between countries with the same freedom. Any measures that under any pretext restrain such freedom are antidemocratic.

IV

The exercise of journalism is free. Prohibitions, restrictions or permits to exercise it, whether they affect owners, editors, publishers, contributors or employees of a publication, violate freedom of the press.

V

Political regimes that do not respect freedom of the press and the right of the people to be informed, or do not cause it to be respected fully, are not democratic.

VI

Whatever may be expressed verbally may be expressed by means of the printed word or online media. To close any printing press or online newspaper or make it unusable is harmful to culture and to democracy.

VII

The free press is basic in forming and expressing public opinion. America, by reason of its tradition and its destiny, must be a continent of public opinion.

VIII

It is contrary to the existence of a free and independent press and to the principles of the IAPA for newspapers to accept subsidies or any other form of economic help from governments.
OBJECTIVES

The purposes of this Association shall be:

a) To defend freedom of the press throughout the Americas and to struggle for recognition of the right of the people to be fully informed.

b) To foster and protect the general and specific interests of the daily and periodical press of America at all times.

c) To promote and maintain the dignity, rights and responsibilities of the profession of journalism; to encourage uniform standards of professional and business conduct; to exchange ideas and information which contribute to the cultural, material and technical development of the press of America and to its continuing welfare; to promote a more active and friendly intercourse among its members, to secure freedom from unjust and unlawful exactions, to gain common protection for intellectual property and copyrights; to protect its members from irresponsible acts and legislations; to foster a wider knowledge and greater exchange among the peoples of America in support of the basic principles of a free society and individual liberty; and to work collectively for the solution of common problems and for the preservation of the peace and tranquility of the New World.

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Last reviewed March 2012
BYLAWS

OF SOCIEDAD INTERAMERICANA DE PRENSA, INC.

(Inter American Press Association)

Article 1. Name:

The name of this corporation shall be SOCIEDAD INTERAMERICANA DE PRENSA, INC. (hereinafter called the "Association").

Article 2. Membership:

1. Bona fide newspapers and magazines published six or more times a year, whether printed or online, shall be eligible for Active membership. To become members, online media and magazines should primarily carry news, information, and opinions. Broadcast media that carry journalistic programming shall also be eligible for Active membership. No applicant shall be admitted as an active member unless it has been in continuous publication for at least one year. To be eligible for membership, all applicants shall have a proven commitment to freedom of expression, be privately owned, and support the principles and aspirations of Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa. Active members shall be represented at membership meetings by their proprietors, publishers, editorial directors, managers or registered representative. When one or more persons are registered as representatives of an active member, they will be entitled to only one vote jointly.

2. Publishing corporations, news and photographic agencies, and news and feature syndicates shall be eligible for Corporate membership. When one or more persons attached to a Corporate member are registered as its representatives, they shall have only one vote jointly.

3. Persons identified with newspapers, magazines, publishers' representatives, news, photographic and feature agencies or syndicates and schools of journalism, or those working in allied fields shall be eligible for Associate membership, such membership not being entitled to election to the Board of Directors of the Association (hereinafter the "Board" or "Board of Directors") or to vote. Corporations and other organizations affiliated with or rendering services to the publishing industry are eligible for Associate membership. Such members are not entitled to vote and their representatives are not eligible to hold office in the Association.

4. Any journalist or publishing executive who shall have distinguished himself by notable contributions to the public service or to the profession of journalism may
be elected to honorary membership. Such membership shall have no vote and pay no dues.

5. All candidates for Active, Corporate or Associate membership shall send a written application to the office of the Association, which application shall include a pledge to adhere to the Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Association and all Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board of Directors and to defend the freedom of the press. The office of the Association shall cause a report to be made to the Board of Directors covering all such applications and each applicant. The applicant shall pay the required dues at the time the application is filed. Applicants shall not be entitled to any membership privileges in the Association nor to be represented at its meetings until they have been elected to membership and paid their dues. Applicants may be elected to membership by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the directors present at a meeting where a quorum has been obtained or by a two-thirds vote by mail (including electronic mail or fax).

6. Media organizations or individuals which in the opinion of the Board of Directors adhere to totalitarian ideologies or advocate suppression of free expression do not qualify to become or remain members of the Association.

7. Any member failing to pay his/her dues or assessments during any fiscal year shall be eliminated automatically from the membership list in the subsequent fiscal year. Such member may be automatically reinstated at the discretion of the Executive Committee following payment of arrears. A publication closed or confiscated by a government shall continue as member without payment of dues until the publication is regained by its rightful owners.

8. The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of the whole Board, shall have the power to expel or to suspend a member for a stated period or indefinitely, when it shall appear to the Board that the member has violated the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws or Charter of the Association. The Board shall only entertain a motion of expulsion upon a presentation in writing by five voting members of the Association. In the case of either suspension or expulsion, the accused shall be given full particulars of the accusation and also shall be given at least 30 days; notice in writing of the time and place at which such complaints will be considered. An expelled member who presents a petition duly signed on behalf of at least 10 per cent of the voting members in good standing of the Association, with each such signature notarized, can appeal the decision of the Board of Directors to the annual meeting of the members of the Association next after the action of the Board of Directors, and such annual meeting, following such procedures as the meeting may deem advisable and with or without a hearing, may overrule the decision of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote of the Active and Corporate members of the Association represented at such meeting and entitled to vote. In the event that two-thirds of the members who are present at such meeting and entitled to vote do not vote in
favor of overruling the decision of the Board of Directors, the decision of the Board of Directors shall stand.

9. Any expelled member shall forfeit all rights and interests in the Association. Any individual who has been suspended or expelled as an Associate member shall be ineligible to attend any meeting of the Association as the representative of any Active member. Any suspended or expelled Active or Corporate member shall not be entitled to be represented at any meeting of the Association. Such ineligibility shall continue notwithstanding the pendency of any appeal, as provided herein, to the annual meeting of the members of the Association.

Article 3. Directors:

1. The affairs of the Association shall be under the direction of its officers and its Board of Directors. The Board shall be composed of:

a) The members of the Advisory Council, described heretofore, who shall be ex officio members of the Board;

b) The President of the IAPA Scholarship Fund Board of Governors and the President of the IAPA Press Institute Board of Governors, who shall be ex officio members of the Board, but only so long as they occupy such positions; and

c) Sixty individuals shall be elected by the annual General Assembly of the Association to compose the Board of Directors and hereinafter will be called the elected directors. Vacancies occurring on the Board shall be filled by election by the Board.

The Advisory Council shall be composed of: 1) the honorary officers and all past Presidents of the Association and of its predecessor, the Inter American Press Association (together the “Association”), 2) all past Chairmen of the Executive Committee of the Association, and all past officers of the Association, all past Chairmen of the Committee on Freedom of the Press and Information, and all past Presidents of the IAPA Scholarship Fund Board of Governors and of the former Inter-American Press Association Scholarship Fund, Inc., and all past Presidents and Chairmen of the Board of Governors of the IAPA Press Institute, and of the former IAPA Press Institute, Inc., provided they have served a total of at least five years in either one or more of those capacities.

The members of the Advisory Council, as well as the other ex officio members of the Board of Directors referred to above, shall have the same powers and voting rights as the elected directors. The members of the Advisory Council shall exercise their duties for life, and will also be life members of the Association.
2. At each General Assembly twenty directors shall be elected for a term of three years. Each elected director must be a qualified representative of an Active or Corporate member of the Association. Any elected director who shall no longer be a representative of an Active or Corporate member shall automatically cease to be a director. Should any Active or Corporate member, for whatever reason, cease to be an Active or Corporate member of the Association, any representative of such member on the Board of Directors shall automatically cease to be a Director. Any person whose activities outside the field of journalism, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, are contrary to the Charter Bylaws and Rules of the Inter American Press Association may not hold appointed or elected office in the Association.

3. Not less than one-third of the elected directors at all times shall be representatives of publications which are printed in the Western Hemisphere outside of the United States of America and Canada, and not less than one-third of the elected directors shall be, at all times, representatives of publications which are printed in the United States of America and Canada.

4. At any meeting of the Board of Directors the presence of at least one third of the directors shall be necessary for a quorum. Members of the Board of Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board by means of conference telephone calls or other communication equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other and participation in a meeting pursuant to this section shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

5. The Board of Directors or the Executive Committee may assign special projects to the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council may meet either by itself or with the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Committee on Freedom of the Press and Information or any other Standing or Special Committee of the Association. Members of the Council shall have voice and vote at these meetings.

6. Elected members of the Board of Directors shall assume office immediately following the termination of the meeting at which they were elected, and as soon thereafter as practicable the Board shall hold a meeting for which no notice need be given at which the Board shall elect a President, two Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary and a Chairman and members of the Executive Committee; none of the aforementioned officers has to be an elected member of the Board. The directors shall have power to fill vacancies in the Board occurring as a result of any cause between annual meetings of the members.

7. The Board of Directors shall hold a regular meeting during the annual General Assembly. The Board of Directors may also hold meetings when it deems appropriate at a time and place as necessary in agreement with the President of the IAPA and the Chairman of the Executive Committee and with due notice being given.
8. Special meetings of the Board and/or the Advisory Council may be called by the President or any 20 directors. Notice of all special meetings shall be given by regular or electronic mail or fax to each director at least 10 days before the date of the meeting.

9. The Board of Directors shall have the power to make all rules and regulations for conducting the business and affairs of the Association, to establish an office or offices as required either within or without the State of Delaware, to employ and discharge essential staff and fix compensation, and generally to do all acts and things deemed necessary for the best interests of the Association, including the fixing of dues and assessments.

10. The Board of Directors shall submit at each Annual Meeting a full report of the condition and finances of the Association together with a full review of its acts annually for the approval and ratification of the membership.

Article 4. Officers:

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and with the Secretary shall sign, on behalf of the Association, all documents approved by the Board of Directors. In general, he or she shall perform all duties usually incident to the office of President and such other duties as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine, or as may be prescribed in these Bylaws.

2. The two Vice Presidents in the order of their election may exercise any of the powers and duties of the President as directed by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. In the absence of the President, either of the two Vice Presidents, in order of precedence, shall preside at the meetings of the Association. In case of the resignation, death or incapacitation of the President, the First Vice President shall assume the presidency until the next election of officers.

3. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Association and shall make reports on the state of the finances of the Association to the Board of Directors at its Annual Meetings and to the annual membership meeting.

4. The Secretary shall attend the Annual Meeting and the meetings of the Board of Directors and shall keep a true record of the proceedings thereof.

5. The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the representative of the President of the Association and, as such, shall have the duties of the President on all matters dealing with the administration of the Association. He or she shall be responsible for the operation of the office of the Association and shall report to the Board of Directors at each meeting. He or she will direct the Executive Director and provide instructions on the affairs of the Association.
6. The administration of the affairs of the Association will be the responsibility of the Executive Director, who shall not be an elected officer of the Association. The Executive Director shall be directly responsible to the Chairman of the Executive Committee. He or she will keep in the office of the Association all letters, contracts and other instruments in writing as well as documents not required to be kept in the files of the Treasurer or Secretary.

7. Each officer shall perform such duties as may be incident to his or her office, including the preparation of reports and records required by the Board of Directors, and at the expiration of his term each officer shall deliver to the Board of Directors all books, papers and property of the Association.

Article 5. Committees:

1. The Board may by resolution designate two or more of its members to constitute the Executive Committee, which will also include as members the current officers of the Association - President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer - and the immediate past President. The Committee shall have and may exercise all of the powers of the Board in respect to the affairs of the Association in all cases in which specific directions shall not have been given by the Board. The presence of at least one third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Committee. The President then in office of said IAPA Scholarship Fund Board of Governors, and the President and Chairman of said IAPA Press Institute Board of Governors, and the Chairman then in office of the Committee on Freedom of the Press shall be ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

2. The President shall appoint such standing and special committees, other than the Executive Committee, as shall be determined by the Association or by the Board of Directors; the membership of the standing committees to be so constituted that not less than one-third of the members of any such committee at any time are identified with publications issued in Spanish or Portuguese, and not less than one-third with publications issued in English. The duties of standing and special committees shall be indicated by their respective names.

3. All standing and special committees shall report in writing to the annual meeting of the Association. Each standing or special committee shall serve for a term of one year from appointment, or until the end of the next Annual Meeting and should any standing or special committee fail to discharge the duties assigned to it with reasonable promptitude, such committee shall be declared discharged by the President, who shall appoint a new committee.

4. Vacancies in any committee except the Executive Committee shall be filled by the President subject to the provisions heretofore specified.
Article 6. IAPA Press Institute Board of Governors:

1. One of the principal purposes of the Association shall be to foster and protect the freedom of the press in the Western Hemisphere as well as promoting the technical and professional competence of the press, and in that connection to conduct, subsidize and encourage study and research concerning methods and techniques for the study and improvement of the publication and distribution of newspapers and news media in general, to receive and disburse moneys to be used for research, seminars and training sessions, and to foster, encourage and subsidize study and research in various fields of journalism.

2. In order to develop high quality seminars, publications and training sessions in support of independent and economically sound news media in a climate of press freedom, the Board may designate, or delegate the responsibility to designate to the Nominations Committee, members of the Association to constitute a Board of Governors of the IAPA Press Institute, who shall exercise such powers as the Board may determine and specify; provided, however, that any committee including any person not a director of the Association may not have or exercise any powers of the Board of Directors. A majority of all the members of such Board of Governors may fix its rules of procedure, determine its manner of acting, and fix the time and place of its meetings and specify what notice thereof, if any shall be given, unless the Board of Directors by resolution shall otherwise provide. The Board of Directors shall have the power to change the membership of the Board of Governors at any time, to fill vacancies therein and to discharge such committee and to remove any member thereof, either with or without cause at any time.

3. Number of Officers. The officers of the Board of Governors shall be the Chairman, the President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as may be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of this Article 6. One person may hold two or more of the aforesaid offices.

4. Election of Officers. The Chairman and officers of the Board of Governors of the IAPA Press Institute are appointed by the Nominations Committee and approved by the General Assembly. The Board of Governors has the power to appoint committees which can exercise the powers determined and specified by the Board of Directors. Each person elected an officer shall continue in office until the next annual meeting after his or her election or until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation, incapacitation or removal in accordance with the bylaws. Vacancies of officers may be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors or its designee.

5. Removal of Officers. Any officer of the Board of Governors may be removed at any time with or without cause and with or without notice by a vote of the majority of the Board of Directors or its designee at any meeting.
6. Chairman of the Board of Governors. The Chairman of the Board of Governors shall preside, if present, at all meetings of the Board of Governors, and he or she shall perform such other duties, and have such other powers, as may from time to time be designated and assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors.

7. The duties and responsibilities of the Chairman, President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary of the Board of Governors with respect to Press Institute matters will be similar in nature to those of the Association's respective officers outlined in Article 3.

Article 7. IAPA Scholarship Fund Board of Governors.

1. One of the principal purposes of the Association shall be to foster and protect the freedom of the press in the Western Hemisphere and promote honest, free and independent journalism, and in that connection to receive and disburse moneys to be used for scholarships to foster, encourage and subsidize study and research in various fields by granting financial aid to persons engaged therein.

2. In order to further the educational and charitable objectives above, the Board of Directors may designate, or delegate the responsibility to designate to the Nominations Committee, members of the Association to constitute a Board of Governors of the IAPA Scholarship Fund, who shall exercise such powers as the Board of Directors may determine and specify; provided, however, that any committee including any person not a director of the Association may not have or exercise any powers of the Board of Directors. A majority of all the members of such Board of Governors may fix its rules of procedure, determine its manner of acting, and fix the time and place of its meetings and specify what notice thereof, if any shall be given, unless the Board of Directors by resolution shall otherwise provide. The Board of Directors shall have the power to change the membership of the Board of Governors at any time, to fill vacancies therein and to discharge such committee and to remove any member thereof, either with or without cause at any time.

3. Number of Officers. The officers of the Board of Governors of the IAPA Scholarship Fund shall be the President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as may be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of this Article 7. One person may hold two or more of the aforesaid offices.

4. Election of Officers. The President and officers of the Board of Governors of the IAPA Scholarship Fund are appointed by the Nominations Committee and approved by the General Assembly. The Board of Governors has the power to appoint committees which can exercise the powers determined and specified by the Association's Board of Directors. Each person elected an officer shall continue in office until the next annual meeting after his or her election or until his successor shall have been duly elected and qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation, incapacitation or removal in accordance with the bylaws.
Vacancies of officers may be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors or its designee.

5. Removal of Officers. Any officer may be removed at any time with or without cause and with or without notice by a vote of the majority of the Board of Directors or its designee at any meeting.

6. The duties and responsibilities of the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary of the Board of Governors with respect to Scholarship Fund matters will be similar in nature to those of the Association’s respective officers outlined in Article 3.

**Article 8. Meetings:**

1. Unless good reasons should exist to the contrary, the Annual Meeting of the members of the Association shall be held during the month of October, preferably coinciding with the Birthday of the Americas, at a place determined by the Board of Directors and announced six months before such Annual Meeting.

2. Special meetings shall be called by the President upon the order of the Board of Directors or whenever a request in writing therefore shall be received by the Secretary, bearing the signatures of at least one-tenth of the voting members of the Association. The business of such special meetings shall be limited to that specified in the call.

3. To constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at an Annual Meeting or a special meeting of members there must be present at least fifty voting members of the Association, provided that not less than one-third of this number must be members identified with publications issued in Spanish or Portuguese and not less than one-third with publications issued in English. The report of the Legal Committee on the members attending at the opening of the meeting may be accepted for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

4. Any meeting of the members or directors of the Association may be held outside the State of Delaware.

**Article 9. Elections:**

1. The election of members to the Board of Directors shall be a part of the order of business of the Annual Meetings. The President shall appoint a Nominations Committee at the semiannual meeting to prepare a list of not less than forty qualified candidates for the twenty directors to be elected every year. This list shall be mailed to each member at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting. Additional nominations, which must be accompanied by signatures of ten seconding nominations, may be accepted by the Nominating Committee up to two weeks before the opening of the Annual Meeting. Each Active member qualified to vote will receive a ballot when he registers for the annual meeting.
Ballots will provide space for write-in candidates who may be nominated from the floor at the first morning session of the annual meeting.

2. Members shall be limited to one vote on each ballot for any candidate at any election, and a plurality of the votes shall constitute an election.

3. No individual shall cast a ballot or ballots as the representative of more than one member.

4. Each ballot should show votes for no more and no less than twenty candidates to the Board of Directors and any ballot with a lesser or larger number shall be invalid.

Article 10. Financial Obligations of Members:

1. Each member shall be required to pay regular annual dues fixed by the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

2. Members must have paid their dues in order to qualify for attendance at the annual meeting. Members not paying dues during any fiscal year shall be automatically eliminated from the membership list.

3. Members wishing to resign must notify headquarters before March 1 of each year. Resignations subsequent to that date will be accepted only after payment of dues for the current fiscal year. The Treasurer shall report fully to the Board on all resignations received.

Article 11. Amendments to Bylaws:

These Bylaws, or any of them, may be amended, modified or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted, either by vote of a majority of the directors present at any annual, regular or special meeting, or by vote of two-thirds of the members represented at any annual or special meeting and entitled to vote thereat, provided that notice of any proposal to so amend, modify, repeal or make new Bylaws shall be included in the notice of the meeting of the Board or the members at which such proposal is to be acted upon.

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RULES

Election of Directors

**Article I.-** Balloting for the election of Directors (Articles 3 and 7 of the Bylaws) shall be conducted in accordance with the following procedure:

a) Ballots shall be prepared under the supervision of the Nominations Committee and made available to member representatives when they register for the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly.

b) The President shall appoint an Election Committee of members, who are not candidates for election, who shall supervise the balloting with the help of such assistants as the Chairman of the Committee may decide, and such committee shall serve from the opening of the polls until the result has been ascertained.

c) All voting shall be by ballots cast by member representatives attending the Annual Meeting.

d) The President at the opening session shall announce a definite period of time for balloting.

**Article II.-** The ballots will be counted by the Committee or authorized representatives, and the results will be certified and reported to the membership by the Chairman of the Committee. The counting of ballots shall be strictly governed by Article 7, Section 2, 3 and 4 of the Bylaws. The Committee will ensure compliance with Article 3, Section 3, of the Bylaws by declaring elected those candidates with the greatest number of votes in each of the categories mentioned in that article, to guarantee election of the minimum number required.

Committees

**Article III.-** Standing and special committees referred to in Article S of the Bylaws shall function in accordance with the following procedure:

a) All committee meetings shall be held at the same place as the meetings of the Board of Directors or the General Assembly, unless specific authorization is given by the Executive Committee to meet elsewhere.

b) Committee meetings may be open, except those meetings involving the adoption of resolutions or recommendations that are to be studied by the Resolution’s Committee of the Board or the membership, as indicated below:
1. Members of standing and special committees shall be instructed to make clear in their discussions with representatives of the working press that the deliberations of their committees be reported only as deliberations and not as final actions committing the IAPA.

2. Resolutions and recommendations will be arrived at in executive sessions and will be submitted by the various committees to the Resolutions Committee of the Board of Directors or the membership, as the case may be, and acted on in accordance with the Rules and Bylaws of the IAPA before becoming official utterance of the IAPA.

3. Committee members will conduct themselves, in relation to their committee's resolutions and recommendations, in a way which will assume that such resolutions and recommendations are not for public release until submitted to the Board of Directors or the membership.

Meetings

Article IV.- In compliance with Article 6 of the Bylaws the following rules of parliamentary procedure will be observed at meetings, unless suspended by a majority vote of those present:

a) Except in the case of rectification or clarification of their remarks, delegates shall not be entitled to speak more than once nor for more than five minutes on any given subject under debate and speakers shall be limited to five in favor and five against.

b) Delegates may speak a second time on a given topic only for the purpose of rectification or clarification and will be limited to three minutes.

c) In the case of a point of order the delegate shall be entitled to three minutes to make his statement.

d) Upon his request to speak, each delegate must state his name and the name of the publication he represents.

e) For the purpose of interrupting a discussion only the following will be considered in order:

1. Application of the Bylaws or these Rules.
2. Motion to suspend or postpone the debate or refer the matter under discussion to a committee.
3. Reconsideration of any decision taken by the meeting, provided a motion of reconsideration is made and supported by two delegates who have voted in the affirmative.
4. A motion to adjourn or to recess.
Article V.- The President shall appoint a Resolutions Committee of at least five members and any other special committees he may deem necessary. The Resolutions Committee will study all draft proposals and report back with its recommendations for approval or rejection. With the exception of courtesy or procedural proposals, no proposal will be discussed on the floor without first having been studied and reported back by the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee shall submit each resolution separately and each shall be debated and voted on separately.

Article VI.- All votes at meetings, with the exception of election votes, shall be by a show of right hands. Any delegate has the right to request a roll call vote, which will be decided by a majority vote of those present.

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