

Rationale for Proposed changes to Article XI of the CMR Bylaws – Officers and Directors

CMR is a strong REALTOR® association recognized nationally for some of its programs and services. The Strategic Plan for the association includes objectives designed to provide stability while encouraging growth and ensuring continued viability. We believe that the strength of the association is enhanced through choosing well-qualified officers and directors and investing time and resources into their training. In keeping with the current [Strategic Plan](#), the Board of Directors is proposing two changes to the Officers and Directors section of the bylaws that will be voted on at the [February 19, General Membership Meeting](#).

1. **Change the Treasurer from a one-year elected position to a multi-year appointed position.** This process would ensure the Treasurer is properly interviewed and vetted to identify the REALTOR® who has a strong financial background and skill, whose interest is in association financial management rather than ultimately seeking the position of President and who might be willing to serve multiple terms. While our CFO is a certified public accountant, as our organization becomes larger, it becomes more complex and an additional level of experienced financial oversight is desirable.
2. **Add the officer position of First Vice-President as the leadership position that will automatically elevate to President-Elect and then to President.** The additional year of board service prior to assuming the presidency provides time for more hands-on experience, opportunities for training in leadership, and involvement at the State and National levels, ensuring that the president is well-equipped for their year in office.

The proposed revisions are displayed below with underlines and strikeouts. Please contact jo@cmr.realtor or at 601-948-1332 Ext. 18 if you have any questions.

Article XI – Officers and Directors

Section 1. Officers. The ~~elected~~ officers of the association shall be: a president, a president-elect, ~~a first vice-president~~ and a treasurer, ~~who together comprise the leadership team. They shall be elected for terms of one year.~~

~~The president, president-elect, and first vice-president each serve a term of one year. At the end of their term, the president-elect *automatically* ascends to president, and the first vice-president *automatically* ascends to president-elect for the following year. The first vice-president shall be elected by the membership as per Article XI, Section 4.~~

~~The treasurer shall be appointed by the board of directors, in consultation with the leadership team, the Chief Financial Officer, and any additional staff or outside consultants at the group's discretion, to render a prudent decision. The treasurer serves a two-year term and is eligible for reappointment.~~

Section 2. Duties of Officers. The duties of the officers shall be such as their titles, by general usage, would indicate and such as may be assigned to them by the ~~board of~~ directors. It shall be the particular duty of the chief staff executive to keep the records of the association and to carry on all necessary correspondence with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the Mississippi Association of REALTORS®. (*Amended 1/05*)

Section 3. Board of Directors. The governing body of the association shall be a board of directors consisting of the ~~elected~~ officers, the immediate past president of the association, and eight (8) ~~elected~~ REALTOR® members of the association, ~~four (4) of whom shall be elected by membership and four (4) who shall be appointed by the board of directors.~~ Directors shall ~~be elected to~~ serve for terms of two (2) years ~~so that each year, two (2) directors shall be elected and two (2) shall be appointed.~~ *(Amended 1/05, 12/16)*

The immediate past president, three ~~elected~~ officers (the president-elect, the ~~first vice~~-president, and the treasurer) and the president of the Multiple Listing Service with which the association is formally affiliated shall be voting members of the board of directors so that the board of directors shall be comprised of thirteen (13) voting members. ~~The president shall vote only to break a tie vote.~~

No more than two (2) REALTORS® from the same real estate firm may simultaneously serve on the board of directors. *(Adopted 11/09)*

Section 4. Election of Officers and Directors.

- (a) At least two (2) months before the annual election, nominations shall be made by a nominating committee composed of the REALTOR® members who are past-presidents of the association, with the chairman being the immediate past president, or if they are unable to serve, then their most recent and available predecessor shall serve in their seat. The ~~committee~~ will nominate one REALTOR® candidate for ~~President-Elect first vice-president and Treasurer~~ and ~~will nominate~~ two of the four directors. They will nominate four REALTOR® candidates for the two remaining open director positions, to be elected by membership, with the two being elected that received the highest number of votes in the election. *(12/16)*

All nominations for the officers and directors shall be presented to the REALTOR® membership electronically prior to the annual meeting in September. Additional candidates for the offices to be filled may be placed in nomination by petition signed by at least 100 REALTOR® members eligible to vote. The petition shall be filed with the chief staff executive at least two (2) weeks before the election. The chief staff executive shall send notice of such additional nominations to all members eligible to vote before the election. *(Amended 1/05, 11/16)*

- (b) The nominees presented by the nominating committee and any nominees nominated by petition shall be voted on at the annual meeting of the association in September, or electronically where permitted by state law in advance of the September meeting, and shall take office on the first day of January following the election.

The ballot shall contain the names of all candidates nominated and the offices for which they are nominated. Officers will be elected by a majority of those voting. In the event of a tie, there shall be a run-off between those tying and the nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.

- (c) The president, with the approval of the board of directors, may appoint an election committee of REALTOR® members to oversee the election.