

APPENDIX 3. SURVEY

NASW Ad Hoc Constitutional Review Survey 2016

The NASW Constitutional Review Ad Hoc Committee invites you to participate in a survey of NASW members. Please take a few moments to share your views on the potential effect(s) of a proposed change to the organization's constitution as it relates to the election of officers. Participation is anonymous and should take about 10 minutes. To participate, please click on the "Begin Survey" button below and complete the survey by the end of the day, Tuesday, March 22.

Thank you in advance for helping shape our understanding of the NASW membership and its views on the constitutional issue now under discussion.

Tell us about yourself

1. Approximately how long have you been a member of NASW (including student membership)?
 - a. Fewer than 2 years
 - b. 2 to 4 years
 - c. 4 to 10 years
 - d. 10 to 15 years
 - e. 15 to 20 years
 - f. More than 20 years

2. How many ScienceWriters meetings have you attended in the last 5 years?
 - a. None
 - b. 1
 - c. 2
 - d. 3
 - e. 4
 - f. 5

3. Which NASW services/events/resources are most valuable to you? Rank your top five below. You may only use each number choice once. *[Note: Response options were randomized.]*
 - a. Job listings
 - b. NASW website resources (such as Words' Worth pay database, Fine Print contracts database, compensation survey results, funding sources database, etc.)
 - c. Workshops at ScienceWriters annual meeting

- d. Opportunities to network with other science writers
- e. Career development programs (mentoring program, internship fair)
- f. ScienceWriters quarterly magazine
- g. Funding opportunities (Idea Grants, travel fellowships)
- h. Member access to scientific resources (journals, scientific meetings)
- i. Science in Society Awards
- j. NASW discussion groups
- k. NASW.org email alias and/or web page hosting
- l. Local group meetings and events
- m. Other (please specify)

4. Are you primarily...

- a. Freelance
- b. Staff or long-term contractor
- c. Staff (part- or full-time, or long-term contractor) plus regular freelance

5. Which label or labels would you use to identify yourself? (PICK ALL THAT APPLY)

- a. Journalist
- b. Public information officer or other media relations professional
- c. Other (please specify)

6. Overall, how much time do you devote to work in science writing or a related field?

- a. Full time (or more!)
- b. Part time

FILL IN % OF FULL TIME: _____

7. Please check all activities that you currently engage in as a science writer. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- a. Writing/editing text or producing multimedia materials in a journalistic role for print, online, or broadcast media outlets
- b. Writing/editing for university/alumni or scientific society magazines
- c. Writing/editing for industry-funded trade magazines
- d. Writing/editing/producing publicly available news articles, blog posts, or multimedia materials for an institution such as universities, research institutes or centers, scientific societies, nonprofit organizations, museums, government agencies, advocacy organizations, or companies
- e. Writing non-public materials for an institution (such as annual reports, updates to donors, grants, internal reports)
- f. Acting on behalf of an institution to affect media coverage of that institution (e.g., writing/editing press releases, pitching stories to media, serving as a media liaison or doing media training of scientists, or disseminating public information following a newsworthy event on behalf of an institution)
- g. Working to promote the legislative or regulatory interests of an institution

- h. Writing/editing technical materials such as journal articles, meeting materials or reports, white papers, product documentation, grant applications, or continuing medical education materials
- i. Writing non-fiction science books
- j. Writing/editing textbooks, curricula, or related educational materials
- k. Working as an instructor or administrator in an educational program that teaches science writing, journalism, or science communications
- l. Other (please specify)

Tell us about your work

8. Based on the writing activities that you chose in question 7, please break down, roughly speaking, where you spend your time as a science writer: (FILL IN PERCENTAGES FOR ALL THAT APPLY. USE WHOLE NUMBERS ONLY. NUMBERS MUST ADD UP TO 100.)

- a. Writing/editing text or producing multimedia materials in a journalistic role for print, online, or broadcast media outlets
- b. Writing/editing for university/alumni or scientific society magazines
- c. Writing/editing for industry-funded trade magazines
- d. Writing/editing/producing publicly available news articles, blog posts, or multimedia materials for an institution such as universities, research institutes or centers, scientific societies, nonprofit organizations, museums, government agencies, advocacy organizations, or companies
- e. Writing non-public materials for an institution (such as annual reports, updates to donors, grants, internal reports)
- f. Acting on behalf of an institution to affect media coverage of that institution (e.g., writing/editing press releases, pitching stories to media, serving as a media liaison or doing media training of scientists, or disseminating public information following a newsworthy event on behalf of an institution)
- g. Working to promote the legislative or regulatory interests of an institution
- h. Writing/editing technical materials such as journal articles, meeting materials or reports, white papers, product documentation, grant applications, or continuing medical education materials
- i. Writing non-fiction science books
- j. Writing/editing textbooks, curricula, or related educational materials
- k. Working as an instructor or administrator in an educational program that teaches science writing, journalism, or science communications
- l. Other (please specify)

9. Based on the writing activities that you chose in question 7, please break down, roughly speaking, where your science writing income derives from (FILL IN PERCENTAGES FOR ALL THAT APPLY)

- a. Writing/editing text or producing multimedia materials in a journalistic role for print, online, or broadcast media outlets
- b. Writing/editing for university/alumni or scientific society magazines
- c. Writing/editing for industry-funded trade magazines
- d. Writing/editing/producing publicly available news articles, blog posts, or multimedia materials for an institution such as universities, research institutes or centers, scientific societies,

- nonprofit organizations, museums, government agencies, advocacy organizations, or companies
- e. Writing non-public materials for an institution (such as annual reports, updates to donors, grants, internal reports)
 - f. Acting on behalf of an institution to affect media coverage of that institution (e.g., writing/editing press releases, pitching stories to media, serving as a media liaison or doing media training of scientists, or disseminating public information following a newsworthy event on behalf of an institution)
 - g. Working to promote the legislative or regulatory interests of an institution
 - h. Writing/editing technical materials such as journal articles, meeting materials or reports, white papers, product documentation, grant applications, or continuing medical education materials
 - i. Writing non-fiction science books
 - j. Writing/editing textbooks, curricula, or related educational materials
 - k. Working as an instructor or administrator in an educational program that teaches science writing, journalism, or science communications
 - l. Other (please specify)

Offer your opinions

Any NASW regular member, regardless of professional activity or employer, is currently eligible to serve on the executive board of NASW. But to be an officer (President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary), the constitution requires that “a substantial majority of an officer's science-writing activities shall be journalism. Officers may not write press releases or otherwise act on behalf of an institution or company to affect media coverage while they serve in office.”

Members of NASW have petitioned the board to consider amending the constitution to allow any NASW regular member, including public information officers and others who primarily work outside of journalism, to be eligible to serve as an officer.

Article IV, Section 1:

Current language: *The elected officers of the Association shall consist of a president, a vice-president who shall be president-elect, a treasurer, and a secretary, who shall all be ex officio directors. A substantial majority of an officer's science-writing activities shall be journalism. Officers may not write press releases or otherwise act on behalf of an institution or company to affect media coverage while they serve in office. Officers who engage in such activities shall notify the Board immediately. They may remain on the Board, but the Board shall appoint another fully qualified member to carry out the officer duties.*

Proposed change: *The elected officers of the Association shall consist of a president, a vice-president who shall be president-elect, a treasurer, and a secretary, who shall all be ex officio directors. Candidates shall be regular members in good standing at the time of their nomination.*

The following questions are intended to explore members' views on such a change.

10. What is your opinion about changing the NASW constitution to allow any regular member (including those who primarily work outside of journalism) to serve as an officer?

- a. I strongly disagree with this proposed change
- b. I disagree with this proposed change
- c. I have no opinion about this proposed change
- d. I agree with this proposed change
- e. I strongly agree with this proposed change

11. Please consider how changing the NASW constitution to allow any regular member to serve as an officer would affect your experiences in each of the following ways:

- a. Would strongly negatively affect
- b. Would negatively affect
- c. Would not affect
- d. Would positively affect
- e. Would strongly positively affect

- Interest in attending future ScienceWriters meetings
- Interest in serving on NASW committees or doing other work on behalf of the organization or the science writing community
- Ability to advance your career or develop your skills
- Sense of engagement in the science writing community
- Belief that your work and viewpoints are valued

12. How likely is it that you would leave NASW if the constitution is changed to allow any regular member to serve as an officer?

- a. Extremely unlikely
- b. Unlikely
- c. Neither unlikely nor likely
- d. Likely
- e. Extremely likely

13. How likely is it that you would leave NASW if the constitution is not changed to allow any regular member to serve as an officer?

- a. Extremely unlikely
- b. Unlikely
- c. Neither likely nor unlikely
- d. Likely
- e. Extremely likely

14. What other effects, if any, would the proposed change have on your experience in NASW or in the science writing community?

OPEN TEXT RESPONSE: _____

15. What is your opinion about changing the NASW constitution to allow any regular member to serve as an officer, but specifically excluding:

- a. I strongly disagree with such a change
- b. I disagree with such a change
- c. I am neutral about such a change
- d. I agree with such a change
- e. I strongly agree with such a change

- Those whose work involves acting on behalf of any institution (including a university, research institute or center, scientific society, nonprofit organization, museum, government agency, advocacy organization, or company) to affect media coverage
- Employees of or independent contractors for the federal government (including a federal bureau, agency, department, research center, or national laboratory)
- Employees of or independent contractors for a company or corporation (other than a media company)
- Employees of or independent contractors for an advocacy organization

16. How valuable do you find it to be part of an organization whose membership is a mixture of journalists and non-journalists?

- a. Not at all valuable
- b. Slightly valuable
- c. Moderately valuable
- d. Very valuable
- e. Extremely valuable

17. If a substantial amount of your work time or income comes from work you do on behalf of an institution, would you be able and willing, for the term of an appointed role as President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer in NASW, to forgo those parts of your work that involve seeking to affect media coverage of the institution?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know
- d. Not applicable

18. Would you be willing to be contacted by a member of the Constitutional Review Ad Hoc Committee to provide further thoughts? If so, please enter your name and email address:

OPEN TEXT RESPONSE: _____
