

ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

REQUEST FOR CHANGE – BYLAWS

Date: 01/31/21

Name: Bylaws Committee

State/Chapter:

Email/Phone: librnok@hotmail.com

Article #: III Section #(s): 3.02 Other Article(s) Affected: Article III Section 3.03 (Eligibility)

CURRENT LANGUAGE

PROPOSED REVISIONS

REVISED BYLAW

<p>Section 3.02 Membership. The Corporation shall have two classes of members: Regular Members and Dual Members.</p> <p>a. Regular Members shall be entitled to vote to hold office as a national officer, regional director, state officer, state representative, chapter officer or chapter representative, and to chair committees of the Corporation.</p> <p>b. Dual Members shall have no such rights.</p>	<p>(re-letter current [b] language to [c]):</p> <p>Section 3.02 MEMBERSHIP. The Corporation shall have two three (3) classes of members: Regular Members, Incarcerated Veteran Members, and Dual Members.</p> <p>a. Regular Members shall be entitled to vote on all business and to hold office as a national officer, regional director, state officer, state representative, chapter officer or chapter representative, and to chair committees of the Corporation. at all levels.</p> <p>b. Incarcerated Veteran Members shall have the above rights only within the facility in which they are housed.</p> <p>(Current (b) will become new (c))</p> <p>c. Dual Members shall have no such rights.</p>	<p>Section 3.02 MEMBERSHIP. The Corporation shall have three (3) classes of members: Regular Members, Incarcerated Veteran Members, and Dual Members.</p> <p>a. Regular Members shall be entitled to vote on all business and hold office and chair committees at all levels.</p> <p>b. Incarcerated Veteran Members shall have the above rights <i>only</i> within the facility in which they are housed. Dual Members shall have no such rights.</p> <p>c. Dual Members shall have no such rights.</p>
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JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE: (To be filled in by submitting party)

There is a legal issue with having incarcerated members who are not veterans being included in an exclusive group, which is given special dues or privileges, as well as an issue with treating incarcerated veterans differently than other regular members, because we have nothing spelled out that coincides with the passages in the District of Columbia code, under which we are incorporated. There is no justification in our bylaws to single out any incarcerated member of any kind, until we have a member group that specifies them, in the same manner as the regular and dual members are specified. If we are going to continue with incarcerated veteran members, the group needs to be added to our bylaws. The only reason we ever had special treatment for veterans incarcerated was because they are, in fact, veterans, and we wanted to be helpful to veterans. Other incarcerated people are not in a special category and should not be treated differently than any regular members. Please see the documents which follow this page, titled "Statement of Facts Article III" and "Incarcerated Membership Info" for background information.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE USE ONLY:

COMMITTEE COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend Passage as written: ("X" in appropriate box)

NO:

YES:

Recommend Passage With the Following Amended Language: