

Frequently Asked Questions GALA Bylaws Update & Revisions

Question	Answer	Notes
Why is GALA changing its name?	GALA members voted to change the name to Gala Pride and Diversity Center in order to reflect growth and evolution in the LGBTQ+ community over the decades since the organization was created. The name honors our history while embracing diversity and inclusion moving forward.	
Why is the Gala Pride and Diversity Center updating the bylaws?	The name change requires an update to the bylaws. It also provides an opportunity to revise them to reflect progress within our community- for example, language reflecting gender and identity was updated to be more inclusive. The bylaws needed modernization for things like the use of emails, teleconferencing and electronic banking and communications.	
What else is being updated?0	The Gala Pride and Diversity Center was originally formed as a “statutory membership” organization, requiring a costly and cumbersome formal voting process by all members for bylaw related decisions, an annual Board vote, and annual adoption of a budget. That structure served its purpose at the time, however, most non-profits like ours are organized as honorary membership organizations in order to efficiently and effectively serve the Mission of the organization and its members. Can you imagine the HRC having to request every member to vote on all statutory decisions? The revised bylaws place these responsibilities in the hands of a prudently and transparently elected Board of Directors.	
What about my GALA membership?	The Gala Pride and Diversity Center represents every member of the LGBTQ+ community on the Central Coast, and its membership structure will now reflect that. Your membership will advance from a “statutory member” to an “honorary member”, the same model as HRC, NPR, or PBS. Members and Supporters will continue to receive the benefits of membership: newsletters, social & event calendars, and support & advocacy resources. All contributions continue to qualify as tax deductible. United and focused, our reach and influence will grow and strengthen in order to advocate on your behalf.	

Why is a vote required to update the bylaws?	The original by-laws administratively require a vote of statutory members to effect these changes. After an affirming vote, a fiduciary responsibility continues to be placed upon the Board of Directors to see that the Mission of the organization is being fulfilled, again, the same way organizations like HRC work. After the revision is adopted, membership-wide votes will not be required unless at the direction of the Board.	
Whoa, wait a second. Is this some kind of power grab?	No. The revised bylaws do place increased management responsibility upon the board. This is not an attempt to hinder the wishes of the membership; in fact, the sole objective is to empower the organization to achieve its Mission in the most efficient and effective manner possible, providing maximum benefit to every member of the LGBTQ+ community on the Central Coast.	
How will the Board of Directors be chosen?	Moving forward, your voice is important and needed in selecting the Directors. The bylaws establish a standing Governance and Nominating Committee, made up of members, that identifies board nominees. Any member may volunteer to join the committee and participate in the nomination and steering process. Any member may apply for a board seat. (There are up to 15 seats available on the Gala Pride and Diversity Center board)	
How will these changes affect GALA as an organization?	These revisions are designed to make Gala Pride and Diversity Center as efficient, adaptable, and effective as possible in order to best serve our LGBTQ+ community and to increase our relevance and prominence in the greater community. The larger supporting membership will have increased opportunity to become involved because members won't be required to become a "statutory member" in order to have their voice heard and counted.	
Bottom line: What are the goals & objectives of the update and revisions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unify & Strengthen Gala Pride and Diversity Center to better represent you and advocate on your behalf ● Simplify & modernize administration of the organization ● Align our structure with effective and successful organizations like HRC ● Provide efficient & effective paths to productive decision making ● Increase opportunities for engagement & participation ● Ensure diversity & inclusion ● Build trust among the leadership of Gala Pride and Diversity Center and the membership 	