

Proposed Change to the SONKA Constitution

The SONKA Governance Council, after a review of the effectiveness of the Association's leadership and a review of the leadership structure of other associations, proposes a change in the terms of the SONKA Officers, currently outlined in Article IX, Sections 1-through-7:

- **Moderator, Vice Moderator Terms of Office:** Change from one year to two-year terms.
- **Secretary, Treasurer:** Change from three-year to two-year terms.

Study indicated that changing the Moderator and Vice Moderator positions each year stymied the effectiveness of the leadership. Two-year terms of office would provide continuity in leadership. The other associations in the Heartland Conference specify two-year terms for their officers.

The change to the terms of the Secretary and Treasurer are recommended to insure, or at least minimize, the chance that the four leadership positions change in the same year. The Secretary and Treasurer would be elected in the years in which there is no election of the Moderator and Vice Moderator.

The Secretary and Treasurer continue to be eligible for re-election to consecutive/multiple terms of office, as is currently provided by the Constitution. The Moderator and Vice Moderator are not eligible for re-election after their terms, although the Vice Moderator is eligible to be elected Moderator, as is currently provided.

As a point of information, the need to change Ohio Conference to Heartland Conference in several areas of the Constitution have been identified.

The SONKA Governance Council supports the adoption of these changes. This will be brought forward for discussion and a vote by the general membership at the SONKA Annual Meeting.

ORIGINAL WORDING:

ARTICLE IX. ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Section 1 General Duties and Responsibilities. The elected officers of the Association shall be: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Officers shall have the powers and duties customarily associated with such offices, without in any way limiting their other general powers.

Section 2 Moderator as Temporary CEO. In the absence of an Association Minister or designee for the position, the Chief Executive Officer of the Association shall be the Moderator.

Section 3 Signatories. The Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer and Secretary are authorized to sign deeds, mortgages, contracts and such other written instruments as shall become necessary or appropriate in protecting and carrying on the business and property interests of the Association. The Governance Council may, from time to time and only for a specific purpose, authorize other individuals to execute specified documents or take other specific action on the Association's behalf.

Section 4 One-Year Terms. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall each be elected by the Association for single, one-year terms. The Vice Moderator, upon completion of the one-year term of office, shall be eligible for election as Moderator. The Moderator, upon completion of the one-year term of office as Moderator, shall automatically serve on the Governance Council in the role of Immediate Past Moderator. The Immediate Past Moderator shall likewise serve in such role for one year.

Section 5 Three-Year Terms. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by the Association for three-year terms, and may serve until a successor is selected. The three-year terms of the Treasurer and Secretary shall be staggered.

Section 6 Term Limits. Except as provided in Article IX, Section 4, no individual elected previously to a position on the Governance Council shall be eligible for re-election into any office on the Governance Council until at least one year has passed between such terms of service.

Section 7 Beginning/End of Terms. Terms of office shall begin immediately following the Association meeting at which the new officers have been elected and shall terminate at the close of the meeting at which the officers' successors are elected.

KEY TO CHANGES:

New/substitute language – underlined

Language to be removed – ~~lined out~~

PROPOSED CHANGES

Section 4 **Terms of Office, Moderator and Vice Moderator. One-Year Terms.** ~~One-Year Terms.~~ The Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall each be elected by the Association for single, two-year ~~one-year~~ terms. The Vice Moderator, upon completion of the two-year ~~one-year~~ term of office, shall be eligible for election as Moderator. The Moderator, upon completion of the two-year ~~one-year~~ term of office as Moderator, shall automatically serve on the Governance Council in the role of Immediate Past Moderator ~~for a two-year term. The Immediate Past Moderator shall likewise serve in such role for one year.~~ Upon completion of a term of office that includes holding the offices of Vice Moderator, Moderator and Immediate Past Moderator, an individual is not eligible for re-election to any office on the Governance Council until at least one year has passed between such term of service.

Section 5 **Terms of Office, Secretary and Treasurer. Three-Year Terms.** ~~Three-Year Terms.~~ The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by the Association for two-year ~~three-year~~ terms, their election occurring in opposite years as the election of Moderator and Vice Moderator. The Secretary and Treasurer are eligible for re-election to their positions and may serve until a successor is selected. ~~The three-year terms of the Treasurer and Secretary shall be staggered.~~

~~**Section 6** **Term Limits.** Except as provided in Article IX, Section 4, no individual elected previously to a position on the Governance Council shall be eligible for re-election into any office on the Governance Council until at least one year has passed between such terms of service.~~

Section 6 7 **Beginning/End of Terms.** Terms of office shall begin immediately following the Association meeting at which the new officers have been elected and shall terminate at the close of the meeting at which the officers' successors are elected.

Editorial Update:

Change OHIO CONFERENCE to HEARTLAND CONFERENCE

With the renaming of the Ohio Conference to the Heartland Conference, references to the Conference throughout the SONKA Constitution need to be changed. Below is a list of pages and areas in which this change needs to be implemented:

Heading – top of all pages

Page 2	Article I
Page 3	Article II, paragraph #1, #2 (twice)
Page 4	Article II, paragraph #6, #8, #10
Page 5	Article VI, Sec. 2
Page 7	Article VIII, Sec. 1
Page 9	Article X, Sec. 2 (twice), Sec. 6.1 (twice)
Page 10	first paragraph (3 times)
Page 12	Article XII, Sec. 3
Page 16	Article XV, first paragraph