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USPS District 27 Rules Committee Report – March 2017

The District 27 Bridge has directed the addition of a Members-Only section to the D/27 website upon the recommendation of the D/27 Planning Committee. However, there is no mention of a website or a webmaster or anything related to these subjects anywhere in the D/27 rules and regulations. USPS addresses the subject in Appendix G8 of the Operations Manual as “electronic storage”; there is no such reference in the USPS Bylaws. These Appendices are very much like the D/27 Standing Rules although much more encompassing. The USPS Webmaster is appointed by the Chief Commander rather than by the USPS Bridge. The USPS Webmaster is not a member of a specific department within the USPS organizational structure.

The recommendation of the D/27 Rules Committee, as follows, is based on the current USPS documentation on the subject as well as direct e-mail communication with the USPS Rules Committee (Bob Keller – Chair, Nick Howard – District Contact) and the USPS Webmaster (Miguel Long). The recommendation is that we add the definition of a D/27 website and a D/27 webmaster to the existing Standing Rules as a new section. It should include the definition of a Members-Only section accessible only to DB2000-certified members of D/27. Documents which are intended to be publically available should continue to be posted in the Documents section. The determination as to which section any given document shall be posted in should be decided by the D/27 officer submitting the document. The D/27 Webmaster shall be responsible for defining and implementing the security mechanism limiting access to the Members-Only section. Accordingly, and based upon the specific recommendations of the USPS Rules Committee to be in compliance with the guidelines provided by the US Internal Revenue Service, and inasmuch as USPS is defined as a “public accommodation”, the D/27 Bylaws and related documents should remain publically available in order to be consistent with the access afforded to the similar USPS documents.

The responsibilities of the D/27 Rules Committee are defined in Section 2.9.2 of the D/27 Bylaws. Those responsibilities are: 1 – be responsible for adherence to



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USPS and D/27 Bylaws, 2 – be familiar with and consistent with the Model Bylaws as provided by USPS, 3 – provide accurate wording for amendments as directed by the D/27 Council or Conference. In addition, the Committee is empowered to submit recommendations for changes to the D/27 Bylaws and related documents which it deems necessary. It definitely is not within the province of the Rules Committee to determine what individual officers are to do in the performance of their offices.

The Rules Committee was asked to define each item to be included in the D/27 and add them to the D/27 Procedures Manual. We are in agreement that these definitions should be included in the Procedures Manual for the purpose of consistency for both interpretation of the budget by members using the budget and for future budget committees preparing the budget. However, the definition of what items are to be included and what each item includes should be the responsibility of the D/27 Treasurer rather than the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will then assist with the accurate wording of the items and then incorporate them into the D/27 Procedures Manual.

The Rules Committee was asked to clarify the procedure defined in Section 2.9.1 of the D/27 Bylaws regarding vacancies in the D/27 Nominating Committee. Upon careful review of that section, the Rules Committee has concluded that the details in the subject section are not clear as to what the intention was when the section was written. We agree that there is a problem which needs to be resolved. The first step in a solution to the situation is for the D/27 Bridge to define the policy to be followed. Once that is done, the Rules Committee will be responsible for updating the Bylaws and then adding a detail section to the D/27 Procedures Manual defining how to proceed with the implementation.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Simons, AP-IN, Rules Committee Chair