

FAQ for National Ombudsman (Article VIII) Bylaws Amendment

- **Q:** What will this amendment do?

A: The position of National Ombudsman will change in TWO ways:

- 1) The National Ombudsman will be elected by and from the local group Ombudsmen, not appointed by AMC.
 - 2) The term of office for the National Ombudsman will be six years, not a lifetime appointment.
-

- **Q:** Why should the National Ombudsman be elected by the local group Ombudsmen, rather than appointed by the AMC?

A: The main role of the National Ombudsman is to serve as a neutral mediator for all problems, including any connected to the AMC in some way. By removing the AMC from the selection process, the National Ombudsman is removed from questions of bias and the outcome is seen as a fair result. By having the local group Ombudsmen select the National Ombudsman, we take advantage of the judgment expressed by the local groups' boards who have previously selected these people on the basis of their fairness and neutrality.

- **Q:** Why change the term of office to six years from lifetime?

A: Some AMC members might be loath to vote for removal, even if it is justified. In those cases, AML would have an ineffective (or worse yet, damaging) National Ombudsman in office for as long as he chose to remain. A term limit would reduce the potential damage that could be done by such a National Ombudsman.

- **Q:** Are the number of terms as National Ombudsman limited?

A: There are no term limits for the National Ombudsman. So long as he remains eligible to be re-elected as National Ombudsman by virtue of being a local group Ombudsman, he could be re-elected by the local group Ombudsmen.

- **Q:** What else does this amendment do?

A: It retains the current national-level Ombudsman in office as National Ombudsman for at most two years prior to an election by the local group Ombudsmen being held.

- **Q:** Do local groups with more than one Ombudsman get more than one vote?

A: No. Each local group will have one vote for the National Ombudsman. That vote will be cast by the local group Ombudsmen. In groups where there are multiple Ombudsmen, the groups are empowered to come up with their own procedures for determining how to cast that one vote. Groups that do not yet have an Ombudsman will need to appoint one before they are able to be included in this voting procedure.