

## Proposed Amendment to SRRT Bylaws

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SRRT Bylaws, Part IV “Action Council,” Section 4 currently reads:

“The editor of the SRRT Newsletter shall serve by appointment of Action Council. The newsletter editor shall serve a term of 3 years. The editor shall be considered an ex-officio member of Action Council. An editorial board of 3 members shall also serve by appointment of Action Council. Whenever possible, the editorial board should be selected from members of Action Council. If Action Council members are unavailable to serve, the editor may nominate members from the SRRT membership to Action Council for approval. The term of office for the editorial board shall be 3 years. There will be staggered terms of appointment. The editorial board will advise the editor upon request on matters of editorial policy.”

Suggested changes (**boldface** and ~~striketrough~~):

<sup>1</sup> “**All members of the SRRT Newsletter editorial staff shall be selected from current SRRT**  
<sup>2</sup> **members.** The editor of the SRRT Newsletter shall serve by appointment of Action Council **on**  
<sup>3</sup> **recommendation of the SRRT Newsletter Editorial Board or other body responsible for**  
<sup>4</sup> **reviewing applicants.** The newsletter editor shall serve a term of 3 years **and may be**  
<sup>5</sup> **reappointed for one additional term.** The editor shall be considered an ex-officio member of  
<sup>6</sup> Action Council. An editorial board of **5 to 7** members **shall** serve by appointment of Action  
<sup>7</sup> Council **on recommendation of the newsletter editor and already appointed members of**  
<sup>8</sup> **the editorial board.** ~~Whenever possible, the editorial board should be selected from members~~  
<sup>9</sup> ~~of Action Council. If Action Council members are unavailable to serve, the editor may~~  
<sup>10</sup> ~~nominate members from the SRRT membership to Action Council for approval.~~ **Both Action**  
<sup>11</sup> **Council members and SRRT members at-large shall be represented on the editorial**  
<sup>12</sup> **board. Whenever possible, the editorial board will consist of equal members from Action**  
<sup>13</sup> **Council and SRRT membership at-large.** The term of office for **members of the editorial**  
<sup>14</sup> board shall be 3 years, **with the option to be reappointed for an additional term. An**  
<sup>15</sup> **editorial board member may not serve more than two terms consecutively, but may be**  
<sup>16</sup> **reappointed to the board after 3 years off. Editorial board appointments will be staggered**  
<sup>17</sup> **on a 3-year rotation, such that approximately 1/3 of appointees shall turn over annually.**  
<sup>18</sup> The editorial board **shall** advise the editor ~~upon request~~ on matters of editorial policy.

Summary of amendment:

- Add provision for the process of selecting the editor and offer 1-term reappointment option to editor
- Increase number of editorial board members from 3 to 5-7 and revise provision that editorial board members should be selected from both Action Council members and SRRT members at-large.
- Clarify terms of editorial board appointments

Rationale:

- Lines 1-2 boldface: An addition clearly indicating how the newsletter will be staffed removes any ambiguity that non-SRRT members would be among the number considered for SRRT Newsletter positions.

- Lines 2-4 boldface: It should be clear how Action Council is expected to make the appointment of SRRT Newsletter editor.
- Lines 4-5 boldface: Almost all other leadership positions mandated by the SRRT bylaws are either elected or appointed for a term of three years with option to serve one additional term. The newsletter editor should be offered the same options as at-large Action Council members, other volunteers and liaisons. See Part IV, Section 5, Subsection 3 and Part IV, Section 6, Subsection 1.
- Line 6 boldface: An editorial board is essential to assist the editor in producing a high-quality publication. A greater number of members allows for wider delegation of tasks among volunteers who are already busy and pressed for time. 5 members were appointed in Midwinter 2010.
- Lines 7-8 boldface: see rationale for Lines 1-3 boldface.
- Lines 8-13 boldface and strikethrough: The language we are replacing seemed exclusionary and too unwelcoming to newer members who are looking for ways to become more involved with SRRT. We recognize the value of both having both Action Council members and members-at-large serving on the editorial board. One brings institutional knowledge while the other often brings a fresh perspective. Both perspectives are essential for continuing the newsletter's tradition of lively and provocative journalism.
- Line 13-14 boldface: added for clarification and style.
- Lines 15-17 boldface: see rationale for Line 5 boldface. Also, requiring a board member to serve the length of an entire term off the board before being reappointed will be a healthy practice for both board and board member.
- Line 18 boldface and strikethrough: updated to strengthen the language and make consistent with other changes.