

The first amendment proposed would alter Article III of the By-Laws so as to take account of the dissolution of the Tri-Affiliate arrangement in Northern Virginia by which Northern Virginians formerly held dual membership in ACLU of Virginia and ACLU of the National Capitol Area.

Article III (NOW)

MEMBERSHIP All members in good standing of the American Civil Liberties Union, Inc., resident within the State of Virginia shall be deemed members of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, Inc. Membership in any other affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, Inc., operating in the State of Virginia shall not be a bar to simultaneous membership in this organization.

Article III (PROPOSED)

MEMBERSHIP All members in good standing of the American Civil Liberties Union, Inc., resident within the State of Virginia shall be deemed members of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, Inc., except those members who have elected sole membership in another state.

The second proposed amendment would alter Article VI, Section 3 of the By-Laws so as to give the Board of Directors power to set and alter the geographical boundaries of chapters. It would also eliminate jurisdiction of the Central Virginia Chapter over all the Divisions of the Western District which do not contain chapters -- a jurisdictional responsibility which has long since lapsed.

Article VI, Section 3 (NOW)

The jurisdiction of the existing chapters shall extend to the boundaries of the Federal District Court Divisions within which the chapters are located. Upon the chartering of new chapters within a Federal District Court Division where a Chapter already exists, the Board of Directors of the State affiliate, with the advice of the Board of the affected existing Chapter and the advice of the steering committee of the proposed Chapter, shall determine the geographical jurisdiction of the Federal District Court Division among the Chapters within the Division.

The Central Virginia (Charlottesville) Chapter shall have jurisdiction over all of the Divisions in the Western District until such time as new Chapters are created within the boundaries of the Western District.

Article VI, Section 3 (PROPOSED)

The Board of Directors shall determine the geographical jurisdiction of each Chapter. To the extent practicable, a Federal Court Division which contains only one Chapter shall be assigned to that Chapter. Where a Division contains more than one Chapter, the assignment shall be made by the Board of Directors with the advice of the Board of each Chapter affected.

The third amendment would alter Article VI, Section 2 so as to limit any chapter's representation on the Board of Directors to 25% of the membership of the Board. The proposed change consists of the additional language underlined.

Article VI, Section 2

Each chapter shall be entitled to three (3) Directors for the first 75 members or fraction thereof in the Chapter and one (1) additional Director for each 100 additional members or fraction thereof. No chapter's representation shall exceed twenty-five percent of the total membership of the Board of Directors.

The purpose of the amendment obviously is to preclude domination of the Board by a single large chapter. At the moment no chapter's representation is over 25% of Board membership, but that has not always been so.

The Board considered a recommendation to reduce minimum chapter representation from 3 to 2 members. That recommendation was overwhelmingly defeated.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF VIRGINIA
Insurance Building 10 South 10th Street Suite 709
Richmond, Virginia 23219

