

Calling all Voting Members of APRIL!!

Please see proposed By-Law revisions below for your consideration.

Have questions about your APRIL Membership Status? Contact APRIL at eellis@april-rural.org

Want to increase your current Organizational Membership to become a Voting Member? Contact APRIL at eellis@april-rural.org

Want to become an APRIL Member? Your Membership will go into effect immediately! [Login | APRIL Rural Portal – Access Your Account](#)

- **Voting opens:** October 11, 2026 at 12:00 a.m. EST (you will receive a separate email with access to voting)
- **Voting closes:** October 16, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. EST (seven (7) calendar days prior to the Annual Conference)

Bylaw Revision 1: Section 4.4 Term of Office:

Current language:

B. Members elected to serve as Executive Officers shall serve as an Executive Officer no more than three (3) terms in that position. The three (3) term limit for Executive Officers is in addition to the three (3) term limit for non-Executive Officer Board membership. A full term is two (2) Years.

Proposed language:

B. Members elected to serve as Executive Officers shall serve no more than three (3) full terms in the same Executive Officer position. Upon completing three (3) terms in an Executive Officer position, a Member may be elected to serve up to three (3) full terms in a different Executive Officer position. The three (3) term limit for Executive Officers is in addition to the three (3) term limit for non-Executive Officer Board membership. A full term is two (2) years.

Bylaw Revision Two: Section 4.3 Nomination and Election

Current Language:

Board Members shall be nominated and elected by the majority vote of the current APRIL Membership. The Board and Public Relations Development Committee shall solicit nominations no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Membership Committee. Nominations from the membership shall be submitted to the Board and Public Relations Development Committee no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Membership Meeting. Ballots for Board elections shall be distributed electronically at the direction of the Board and Public Relations Development Committee at the conclusion of the Annual General Membership Meeting, and voting shall remain open until 11:59 p.m. EST, on the fifth calendar day following the conclusion of the Annual General Membership Meeting. Ballots shall indicate the type of membership casting the vote in order to allocate the appropriate weight to the vote.

Proposed Language:

Board Members shall be nominated and elected by a majority vote of the current APRIL Membership.

A call for nominations shall be announced to the membership no later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Annual Conference. The nomination period shall

remain open for no less than fourteen (14) calendar days. Nominations must be submitted in the manner and by the deadline specified in the call for nominations. Following the close of the nomination period, the Board and Public Relations Development Committee shall verify the eligibility of nominees and announce the candidates to the membership prior to the opening of voting.

Board elections shall be conducted electronically and administered by an independent election process designated by the Board and Public Relations Development Committee. APRIL staff shall not manage, administer, or oversee Board elections. Voting shall remain open for five (5) calendar days and shall close at 11:59 p.m. EST seven (7) calendar days prior to the Annual Conference. The election dates, candidates, and voting instructions shall be announced to the membership prior to the opening of voting.

Ballots shall indicate the type of membership casting the vote in order to allocate the appropriate weight to the vote.

Bylaw Revision 3:

Section 4. 4

Added Section:

L. If a Board Member is affiliated with a CIL or SILC that is placed on a Corrective Action Plan related to federal funding for Independent Living Centers Part B or Part C, the member must notify APRIL's Board President within 60 days. The Board Member may be placed on a leave of absence from the Board if the term of the Corrective Action Plan is six (6) months or less. If the term of the Corrective Action Plan exceeds six (6) months, the Board Member may be removed from the Board, and may seek reelection upon the affiliated CIL or SILC's successful submission of the Corrective Action Plan. APRIL's Board President will notify APRIL's Executive Director and Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall review and take appropriate action.

Bylaw Revision 4: Section 6.2 Community Committees

Current Language:

E. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair chairs this committee. This committee exists to promote equity, diversity and inclusion within the disability community, and to advise on processes related to recruitment and retention of diverse members and community. This committee will have a commitment focused upon disability, equity, diversity, and inclusive policies, practices, and behaviors. At all times, the committee must ensure that APRIL's programs and activities comply with federal and state laws and well as funding and grant source requirements and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability or other protected characteristics—no matter the program's labels, objectives, or intentions.

Proposed Language:

A. Our Voices Committee

The Our Voices Chair chairs this committee. This committee exists to promote accessibility, participation, and inclusion within the disability community, and to advise on processes related to recruitment and retention of members and community partners. This committee will have a commitment focused on accessible, inclusive, and nondiscriminatory policies, practices, and behaviors. At all times, the committee must ensure that APRIL's programs and activities comply with federal and state laws, as well as funding and grant source requirements, and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or other protected characteristics, regardless of the program's labels, objectives, or intentions.

All areas throughout bylaws that references DEI Member and DEI committee to be updated

Section 5.1 Makeup of the Executive Officers of the Governing Board
and other areas updated that applies in all areas of the bylaws from:

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Member To:

Our Voices Member