Under the direction of President Mike Poppe, the Bylaws Committee was tasked with modernizing and streamlining the Bylaws of the Association. The Bylaws Committee was co-chaired by Jessica McAlpin, Elizabeth Berg, and Kurt Laker. Members of the Bylaws Committee were Jeff Bosse, Mary Slade, and Matt Russell.

Over the course of numerous meetings and drafting sessions, each lasting 3-5 hours, the Chairs developed a proposed set of wholly revised bylaws. This draft was presented separately to the Agents’ Section and the Underwriters’ Section for review and comment as well as to the entire Bylaws Committee. Those groups each offered recommended edits and revisions, the majority of which were incorporated into the final draft developed by the Bylaws Committee. Once finalized, the proposed Bylaws were approved by the Board of Governors for presentation to the membership. The proposed Bylaws were sent to membership for review via e-mail on August 16, 2019. On September 12, 2019, following expiration of the comment period on September 1, 2019, the Bylaws Committee submitted their final draft to the President. On September 13, 2019, the final draft of the Bylaws was transmitted to membership via e-mail for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting, in accordance with the current bylaws.

In the view of the Committee, the proposed Bylaws represent an effective streamlining of the current Bylaws, which have undergone amendments for many years. Over time, this process inevitably affects the readability of the Bylaws and creates potential conflicts and inconsistencies in language. The revised Bylaws are designed to address those problems, while not fundamentally altering the governance process or needlessly changing longstanding rules and procedures that have served the Association well for decades.

The Committee is grateful to all members who took the time to read and comment, especially those in the Agents and Underwriters Sections. The Committee also thanks Danielle Kaiser and Jennifer Wallander, who helped establish the early groundwork for this effort.

Bylaws Committee Co-Chairs

Kurt V. Laker
Elizabeth Berg
Jessica McAlpin