NOCALL Bylaws Committee
Chair: Chuck Marcus
Final Recommendations for changes to the current NOCALL bylaws.
Submitted to the NOCALL Membership 03/16/2015

Recommendation 1 – Remove geographical location requirement for Active Membership and make the following changes to the NOCALL Bylaws:

Article II Membership;
Section 1 Categories of membership
   a. Active members. Any person ~~residing within the geographical boundaries of the Association and~~ meeting the following qualifications, may, upon payment of dues, have the status of active member:

Section 2. Rights and privileges

   c. Persons from any membership category~~, who reside within the Association's geographical boundaries,~~ may be selected to serve as committee members and committee chairs**.**

Section 5.

   ~~Except for the requirement that active members reside within the geographic boundaries of this Association, membership~~ Membership in this Association shall be open to any person eligible for membership in the American Association of Law Libraries. Any membership questions shall be decided in light of this provision.

Article VI. Committees and Representatives
Section 2.

Members of standing committees shall be appointed for terms of one (1) year, beginning at the close of the annual meeting. Committee members shall be chosen from ~~those~~ members of all categories~~, who reside in the Association's geographical boundaries~~.

This committee requests that the above changes to Article II, section 1, 2 and 5; and Article VI, Section 2 be made to the bylaws for the following reasons.

1) Jessica Trenary was a very effective committee chair of the Technology committee while living outside of the geographical location.
2) SCALL, Sandall, LLOPS and WestPAC—the Pacific chapters of AALL, do not have geographical limitations for active members in their bylaws.
3) The shifting economics of global law firms indicate that there is a good chance that a librarian working at a bay area law firm will have an office out of state (see for example Bingham McCutcheon's move of support staff to Kentucky; Orrick has at least one support staff [who is a member of NOCALL] in West Virginia; Nixon Peabody used to have a Library Assistant in Boston, who supported the SF office [and was a member of NOCALL]).

Recommendation 2-- More broadly define the types of law library employment for Active Membership and make the following changes to the NOCALL Bylaws:

Article II. Membership.
Section 1. Categories of membership. *Members of the Association shall consist of:*
a. **Active members.** ~~Any person residing within the geographical boundaries of the Association and meeting the following qualifications, may, upon payment of dues, have the status of active member:~~

> ~~Any person officially connected with or regularly employed in a law library or a separately maintained law section of a general library or who has had such a connection within the past seven years;~~

> ~~Any person officially and regularly employed in a government documents library or in a separately maintained government documents section of a general library or who has had such connection within the past seven years;~~

> ~~Any person providing professional librarian services to law libraries or who has done so within the past seven years.~~

This committee requests that Article II Section 1 Categories of membership be redrawn to read:

> Active Members. Any person who is interested in the objectives of the association and works, or has worked within the past seven years, with legal information in a library or information center.

for the following reasons:

1) AALL Bylaws were amended in October of 2012 to simplify Active members to be *any person who is interested in the objectives of the Association.*
2) AALL Bylaws were amended in October 2012 to state that *Chapter Bylaws must not be in conflict with the Bylaws of the Association.*
3) SCALL, Sandall, LLOPS and WestPAC—the Pacific chapters of AALL have more inclusive bylaws for active membership (See attached member bylaws)
4) The active membership category should be simplified and updated. There are more temporary and contract librarians in NOCALL now. Government documents librarians are included under the broader, simpler language.

Recommendation 3 – Clarify the NOCALL election Ballot date and make the following change the NOCALL Bylaws:

Article IV. Nominations and Elections.

Section 4. Elections.

The officers and executive board members shall be elected by secret ballot, prepared by the Secretary, and distributed to the membership no later than ~~March 1~~ the first business day in March. Persons elected shall be notified no later than April 1. If the Secretary is one of the candidates, ballots will be returned to another member of the Executive Board

For the following reason:

To make elections dates consistent year to year. In the 2014 election year, for example, March 1st fell on a Saturday, and the election started on Monday, March 3rd.

Recommendation 4—Allow for uncontested elections and make the following changes to the NOCALL Bylaws:

Article IV. Nominations and Elections.

Section 1. Nominating Committee

The Executive Board shall appoint a chair of the nominating committee, who will then select at least two (2) additional members. The nominating committee shall submit to the Executive Board, no later than December 15, a list ~~naming preferably two (2)~~ of candidates for each of the open executive board positions including the elected members and the following offices: Vice-President/President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer. No member of the nominating committee shall be a member of the Executive Board nor shall be a candidate for office in the succeeding election. *The Executive Board will be notified of an uncontested election no later than December 20*

For the following reasons:

1) Vice-President/President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer elections have been run uncontested for a number of years.
2) NOCALL members informally have requested to the board and the nominations committee, that they are willing to serve, but are reluctant to engage in contested elections with their peers.