
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT STATE-APPOINTED ALTERNATES

Occasionally, NSNA receives inquiries from constituents about how they can have a state Board member represent their school at the NSNA House of Delegates because they are unable to send a delegate. This is known as “proxy voting” and is not allowed under NSNA’s Bylaws.

However, NSNA’s Bylaws do provide for a school to request that the state association designate an alternate delegate to represent the school. This can only be done, however, when at least one delegate from the school is **present** at the convention.

State and school constituents with delegates attending the NSNA annual convention should carefully review Article VII, Section 3.a.3 of the NSNA Bylaws which states:

- a) *If a constituent school is unable to fill their delegation, said school should provide written authorization to their State Board of Directors requesting them to appoint one member of the State Board to act as a state-appointed alternate delegate for their school chapter. School chapters shall approve of the appointment.*
- b) *The state Board of Directors shall verify that any state-appointed delegate is a member in good standing of the NSNA and the state association.*
- c) *A school chapter must have at least one selected and/or elected delegate present at the NSNA Convention in order to have a state-appointed delegate seated in the House of Delegates.*

This section of the NSNA Bylaws was amended by the 2002 House of Delegates to allow schools to have State appointed alternate delegates at the House of Delegates. The intention of this section is not to have state appointed alternates represent a school that is unable to send a delegate to the convention. **The school must have at least one delegate present in order for a state appointed alternate(s) to participate.**

States and schools are urged to review this provision of the NSNA Bylaws. **Schools using state-appointed alternates must submit a copy of the letter of request to the state on official school letterhead, signed by the dean or faculty advisor. In addition, a letter from the state indicating who the alternate is must also be submitted. Both letters are handed in during delegate credentialing at the NSNA convention. Questions can be directed to Susan Wong, susan@nsna.org at the NSNA office.**