The debate of resolutionsis how formal business is considered and adopted by the NBLSA General Assembly or its Regional Assemblies. Resolutions are made up of three main parts: the title, the “whereas” clauses, and the operative clauses. This process is central to conducting the corporate business of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). Resolutions are different than main motions made verbally at plenary because they typically are more complex or lengthy.

**Resolution Overview**

The title of the resolution must appropriately reflect the intent. Resolutions begin with "Whereas" statements, which provides the basic facts and reasons for the resolution, and conclude with "Resolved" statements which, identifies the specific proposed course of action that the organization should take. Note: the specific language used is binding on the organization, thus language is very important, as very little interpretation is permitted other than what can be gleaned from the minutes of the meeting. A sample resolution can be found [here](https://d.docs.live.net/919bccfcc0c6888f/Documents/NBLSA/convention%20stuff/for%20B/sample%20resolution.doc).

***Whereas Statements***

"Whereas" information provides the rationale for the "resolved" course of action. The whereas statement(s) should lead assembly delegates to your conclusion (your resolved clauses). In writing whereas statements, begin by introducing the topic of the resolution. Be factual rather than speculative and provide or reference or research whenever possible. The statements should briefly identify the problem, advise the timeliness or urgency of the problem, the effect of the issue, and indicate if the action called for is contrary to or will revise current NBLSA policy.

Structure

**WHEREAS, The ... (text of the first preamble clause); WHEREAS, ... (text of the next to the last preamble clause); and**

**WHEREAS, ... (text of the last preamble clause); now, therefore, be it**

***Resolved Statements***

Resolve statements are the only parts of a resolution that the General Assembly may act upon. Each Resolved clause must contain an actionable request and make sense when read alone, since the Resolved clause represents the policy, program, position, or amendment that will be adopted. Each Resolved clause should each be a single sentence in length. If the action has a specific effective date or sunset clause, that should be specified in a Resolved clause.

Structure

**RESOLVED, That ... (stating action to be taken); RESOLVED, That ... (stating further action to be taken); and RESOLVED, That ... (stating the last action to be taken).**

**Drafting Amendments to Documents**

When proposing an amendment to a NBLSA governing document[[1]](#footnote-1), be it regional or national, the following guidelines must be followed:

1. The current Constitution and/or Bylaw language must be included and juxtaposed against the proposed Constitution and/or Bylaw language in a clear, concise and easy to read format. See an example of a past resolution below:

**Resolved**, that Article VI, Section 2, Subsection of the NBLSA Bylaws be amended as follows:

Original Language: “NBLSA shall report on the progress of its programs every thirty (30) days and post such language to its website.”

New Language: “NBLSA shall **create a written** report on the progress of its programs every ~~thirty (30) days~~ **forty-five (45) days** and post such ~~language~~ **reports** to its website.

1. Amended language should be clearly identified as follows:
   1. Added language within an existing sentence or paragraph should be **bold** and underlined.
   2. Deleted language within a sentence or paragraph should be marked with ~~strikethrough~~ with the font color changed to red.
   3. New Sentences or paragraphs that entirely revise what was previously there should be italicized.

Procedure and Upcoming Deadlines

1. Proposed resolutions for the national level can involve the National Bylaws, national policies, programs, and positions (meaning official stances the organization takes).
2. All proposed resolutions must be submitted with the Plenary Legislative Business Resolution Form which can be found [here](https://d.docs.live.net/919bccfcc0c6888f/Documents/NBLSA/convention%20stuff/for%20B/Plenary%20legislative%20business%20form%20-%20DRAFT%202018-2019.docx). A rationale and an impact of the proposed resolution must be included.
3. All proposed resolutions on the *national* level must be sent via email to [parliamentarian@nblsa.org](mailto:parliamentarian@nblsa.org) and cc’d to [secretary@nblsa.org](mailto:secretary@nblsa.org) no later than Saturday, **January 26, 2019** at 11:59 pm EST.
4. Submissions will be reviewed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, chaired by the National Parliamentarian.
5. Valid proposals will be combined and distributed by the National Secretary to the chapters by Sunday, **February 10, 2019** at 11:59 pm EST.

1. Please be advised that the National Constitution may not be amended at this year’s Convention per the Assembly’s decision at the March 2018 NBLSA Convention. Proposed amendments to the National Bylaws are permitted and must be in conformity with our Bylaws (See Bylaws, p. 36, Article 12, Section A, subsection 1). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)