

## **How ComRules processes your amendments**

Some of you may have wondered about how the members of ComRules go about the process of approval of your bylaws or amendments to them. The committee is not there to nitpick your words, ideas or plans. It is elected to review the proposed bylaws to (1) see that they are consistent with the national bylaws and (2) that they present a reasonable and practical set of rules that can be adhered to without requiring members to "jump through hoops" to do so. When a non-standard policy is proposed, often one that has been shown to be a problem elsewhere., the ComRules member may well advise a different wording or procedure.

Should the proposed amendments not be approved -- and the explanations for the disapproval seem unreasonable to the squadron or district -- the appropriate rules committee has the option of appealing that disapproval to the chairman of ComRules. He will review the situation and either uphold the disapproval or ask for the entire committee to consider the matter. Then by consensus, the entire committee will vote one way or another. The final decision will be from the committee as a whole.

The model bylaws are written to provide a guideline and except in the case of a provisional squadron may be modified to fit local circumstances. They provide a base for ComRules to compare your proposals. If reasonable and no conflict with national bylaws is apparent, they will normally get preliminary approval. On occasion, the ComRules member may provide suggestions on wording that will make things easier to apply or for members to understand. Once preliminary approval is given, the several steps listed elsewhere on this website must be taken.

Most of our squadrons and some of our districts are incorporated. As such they are subject to corporation law. States are typically precise about votes, quorums and adherence to the established rules -- it may seem bureaucratic, but it is in the best interest of all of our units. A reminder -- incorporated squadrons should consult with the squadron law officer when revising the bylaws. You may be required to inform the proper government agencies. This is particularly important if you are changing the squadron name in any way, even just from Podunk Power Squadron to Podunk Sail & Power Squadron. ComRules will work with the squadron (or district) to find acceptable language that satisfies USPS policy and state legal requirements.