

Overview of Project and Proposal

The Council currently divides the country into nine regions, overseen by Regional Vice Presidents who are elected to loosely “oversee issues in their respective region”. For nearly 20 years now, the Council has studied how to better maximize this role. A current proposal (see accompanying fact sheet) aims to transform the role, including: enhanced national representation, a streamlined and simplified dues structure, regional meetings converting to a caucus format, and a reduction in the number of regions from nine to three.

Q. Is Women’s Council taking away national leadership opportunities?

A. No. The National Liaison role is an enhanced national leadership role with new representation on the national Executive Committee and on nominating committee. Women’s Council continues to expand national opportunities. Last year, six project teams worked on a variety of issues. A newly launched Leadership Institute also adds to leadership opportunities nationally.

Q. As a region, we enjoyed regional conferences. Will these still happen under the new model?

A. Yes! Regions have always organized conferences under their own initiative. Under the new structure, regions are welcome to continue organizing regional conferences; with streamlined regions, the membership base to pull from will be broadened (currently, most regional meetings attract 200 or less members).

Q. As a region, we enjoyed visits from RVPs. Who will visit under the new model?

A. For Council matters, official visits are typically conducted by the national leadership team (under both the existing and proposed new structure). Contact national offices to follow the process for a national officer visit. Face-to-face meetings are important, but we also encourage regions to use technology to conduct meetings, including conference calls, Zoom meetings, and other methods to communicate and collaborate.

Q. What will happen to regional assessments now and in the future?

A. Note that 2020 is proposed to be a transitional year and regions will be assessed dues for 2020 (as in years past). The proposal as it currently stands would not take full effect until 2021. Under the new model (in 2021), it is envisioned that regional assessments would be eliminated entirely, which would represent a net dues decrease for members. If the bylaws changes are approved this May, regions will be encouraged to spend all funds in regional accounts before 2021, in order to zero out the accounts.

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- Q. Does the new regional model disempower smaller states, since each region will have a large state?**
- A. As for recommendation of candidates from regions, the new proposed regions are permitted and welcomed to put forward multiple national candidates (under the previous model, regions were encouraged to put forth one candidate). The caucus style meetings are intended to provide states (regardless of size) a voice.
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- Q. How will nominating structure change with the proposed reduction in RVPs?**
- A. With the reduction in RVPs/National Liaisons from nine to three, the proposal also reduces the nominating committee from twelve (12) to nine (9) as follows:
- 1 Chair (outgoing national president)
 - 3 National Liaisons, elected at the Midyear Business meeting.
 - 1 Past National President (plus 2 alternates), elected at the past president's advisory committee at the midyear meetings.
 - NEW: 2 Executive Committee representatives (plus 2 alternates), elected from that group.
 - NEW: 2 Governing Board representatives (plus 2 alternates), elected from the group.
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- Q. Why are executive committee and governing board representatives being added to nominating and what is the rationale with this?**
- A. With the reduction in RVPs, an opportunity exists to have the nominating structure elected almost entirely from core member constituencies, further empowering executive committee and governing board, and enhancing the leadership opportunities that these bodies represent.
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- Q. What are the leadership qualities of a National Liaison?**
- A. Similar to the RVP role, the National Liaison should understand Women's Council's mission & values, have the ability to advocate for its agenda and influence its members, good presentation skills, and generally speaking possess a deep knowledge of the organization.
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- Q. What are the requirements of a National Liaison?**
- A. Similar to the RVP role, there are no formal requirements to become a National Liaison, but a candidate should have served at many levels of the organization. While a candidate does not have to currently be a local or state officer, ideal experience includes (but is not limited to) completing terms as local network President, state officer, and state governor; appointments and having served on local, state & national committees of both Women's Council and the REALTOR® organization. The PMN designation is also highly desirable.