

Task Force Call- August 26, 2023 Notes

There were 20 on the call. Darlene updated the group on communications since the last call.

We discussed the Pros-Cons survey. It is clear that there are still misunderstandings that something will go away (services, ability to work on joint projects) if zones are changed or go away. We still have members struggling with technology. There wasn't a ringing endorsement for change but also there were ones supporting changing how we communicate. And it was evident that we need a plan coming out of this meeting.

We discussed Mark Agerter's responses to our emails about timelines. Robin Fossum shared that there is no clear consensus on timelines for approving changes but because the governance committee was focused on the new P & P and CCPP, they were slower approving lodge or district changes. That should be more streamlined now. District 5 is the pride and joy of SN. Duane Kittleson shared that he felt we can eliminate zones but keep some in-person events and continue our communications. President Schlessler shared that we are lucky to have weekly communications with the FFFN but we need to promote it more as many (including board members) don't utilize it.

The group discussed that a proposal to change district zones really doesn't have a cost to International so that shouldn't be an issue. Some felt we should leave things as they are but discussion then focused on the problems we have in filling positions. Each zone has its unique strengths, weaknesses, and needs. Some of the outlying lodges are really removed from many zone activities. The value of in-person visits and activities allows us to see any struggles lodges might be having. As we discussed before, observation, outreach, and support is needed and that is something that zone directors can continue to do. Sister lodges and mentors would be something that would provide additional support.

On board structure, if we looked at having an officers and at-large directors, the need for alternates would still be needed. Alternates might also be located in other areas and could help with in-person outreach when needed.

The group discussed the current bylaws of the secretary and treasurer not having term limits and decided that should remain as those two positions have very unique skill sets and if we have someone willing to continue, they should be allowed to. There was a lot of discussion about the two consecutive terms and if that should stay. Some thought to continue, some to allow three consecutive terms, and some to remove it. In the end, we will let that remain and if the delegates in 2024 want to address it, they can.

As the group worked out the details in what they felt would be a good proposal, there was a lot of discussion on logistics and details.

There was a motion made: ***That the task force recommends the elimination of zones in District 5 and charges the board to consider various mechanisms for enhancing cohesion and communications between lodges and how we can serve lodge's needs. The new board structure would be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Youth Director, Sports Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director and four at-large Directors. All could serve two consecutive two-year terms with the exception of the District Secretary and Treasurer who would have unlimited terms. All positions would have an alternate elected for each position.***

2nd. Motion passed.

The next call will be on Saturday, September 23, for all District 5 Board members, Task Force Members, and 2022 Delegates (District 5 Lodge members) to discuss this proposal. Their feedback would then be discussed by the Board on October 13-14 and hopefully the board will approve a proposal that will go to the District 5 Lodge members for approval in November. Our hope is that an approved change could be sent to International by the end of December and that their approval would come in early 2024 so our nominating committee work could begin.

Next meeting: September 23, 9:00 AM CST via ZOOM

Notes by Darlene Arneson, Task Force Chair