

Task Force for 21st Century Governance

January 2013

The Task Force's charge was to formulate a plan for transitioning to a new governance structure. Increasingly, AMBUCS Board of Directors realized that the system of districts and regions designed in the last mid-century did not reflect the reality of AMBUCS today. AMBUCS needs a new structure that serves its members, new members and growth pattern. The new governance structure must take into account the following factors:

1. DEFINE THE OPTIMAL SIZE FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 - a. It must be manageable for size and cost. It must reflect the membership representation.
 - b. Task Force recommends eleven (11) members as optimal. This preserves membership representation, but controls costs.
 - i. Three (3) board slots for the national officers – same as existing slots.
 - ii. Seven (7) board slots for the Regions & Big Hat.
 1. Six region directors –
 - a. 2-year terms – with 3 elected each year.
 2. Big Hat President, with BHC Vice-President (no vote) as board member in training.
 - iii. One at-large (1) board slot for needed skill sets. 2-year term.
 1. Build a list of possible skill sets needed.
 2. Appointed by national board.
 3. Candidates will not have any prerequisites for service within AMBUCS' governance structure.
 - iv. This preserves the principle that elected membership retains control of board of directors but adds resources and talent.
2. DEFINE HOW WE CAN ATTRACT OR RECRUIT THE NEEDED TALENT AND SKILL SETS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 - a. The executive committee will be charged with defining the skill sets the organization needs with respect to the strategic plan. Board members will be invited to suggest other possible skill sets to be added to the list. The board of directors will then decide on the skill set desired, and recruitment of the at-large board member can begin. During the board meeting at the national conference board members will select the skill set desired. The skill sets will be reviewed bi-annually by the National Board.
 - b. Plan to move the annual meeting to October. Hold elections for Region Directors at the annual Region spring conference. Combine the region fall and spring meetings into one spring conference with a training emphasis. The new AMBUCS calendar would look like this:
 - i. Chapter year remains June 1-May 31.

- ii. Annual Conference held within October.
- iii. Regions hold spring conferences in April.
- iv. National Board meets twice per year: at Nat'l conference and second meeting (board training & retreat) in May.

3. DEFINE NEW REGIONAL BOUNDARIES TO REFLECT PRESENT SIZE AND EXPECTED GROWTH.

- a. This item has not been addressed. It can be undertaken in the next 2-5 years.
- b. To keep our board size manageable, base the regions on club census, not membership census. Consider existing size and growth pattern, and plan for six to ten (or less) regions in USA.
- c. Remove the travel and visitation responsibilities for region and district officers from governance documents. Keep the training emphasis and responsibilities for training in the spring region meetings.

4. REVIEW AND DRAFT PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE BYLAWS.

- a. The Bylaws governance documents have recommended updates to reflect our current and proposed activities.
- b. With respect to boundaries and leadership development: Currently, districts are optional for new chapters. Districts will gradually become unneeded as part of the mandated governance structure for AMBUCS. Almost all of the support functions conducted by the traditional structure are now delivered via the web site and electronic means. Web conferencing will become standard tools for meeting and communications. Chapters will have the option to participate in a district if they so choose. Within tighter geographical areas districts may still have benefits. Those existing can continue to operate if they wish.
- c. Our strategic need is for leadership development. The requirement that national board members must have served a full term as district governor should be dropped. The prerequisites for Region Director become:
 - i. Candidates must have been a member for three (3) years prior to election.
 - ii. Candidates must have served a full term as Chapter President.

5. USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THE AMBUCS YEARLY CALENDAR TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW STRUCTURE.

- a. This provides an opportunity to realign programs, meetings and activities to reflect our new reality.
- b. Move the annual conference to the October time frame. This opens up new seasonal cost savings and new locations, as well as moderate temperatures.

- c. Request that the awards committee develop a judging system to bring the Achievement awards into the same year as Merit awards. This allows the awards program to make all awards in the same year.
- d. Consider whether some of our programs be re-aligned in the calendar. i.e. national visibility month, AmTryke month, etc.
- e. This frees up volunteers and staff to run AmTryke Bike Days and Road Shows throughout the summer – peak riding season in most of the USA. This would be a much wiser use of our marketing time and efforts.
- f. Consider developing a signature fundraising event all chapters can conduct in the fall.

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