

May 2017 Florida Whips Board Meeting Minutes

8 of 9 voting board members voted. The meeting was held virtually due to schedule conflicts.

Old Business

- **Planning meetings and upcoming events.** Regional directors and all members have access to all event requirements on the Whips website under the Governance tab. Events should be approved at the planning meetings and then sent forward with appropriate forms before the August board meeting. The May 2017 newsletter also covered the process for event planning.
- **Whips Facebook Page.** Discussion continued on how the Florida Whips Facebook page should be handled. Currently the policy is to restrict the page to only Whips members, but maintenance is challenging. Additionally, some members and nonmembers have requested broader inclusion. The Board was not unanimous in their policy votes, although most wanted broader inclusion in Facebook. It was decided that the members should vote on the topic to provide broader results.

New Business

- **Region reorganization.** Membership report shows very few members in the Panhandle region, and the question arose as to whether the Panhandle should be combined with the Northern region. A further proposal was to combine the SE and SW regions. It was decided that a membership vote would be taken on the topic. A proposal was offered that the affected region members would be counted in the vote (e.g. Panhandle and Northern region members would decide whether or not they should be combined, and SE and SW members would decide whether their two regions would be combined).
- **Elections.** The Secretary and Treasurer positions are up for re-election in odd years; President, Vice President, and Membership Director are up in even years. Mary de Greef offered to continue being Treasurer for a second term, and Erika Matulich offered to be secretary for a second term. It was also noted that any elected board member position, including regional directors and regional alternates, are limited to two concurrent two-year terms, for a maximum of four years. Regional director and regional alternate elections should be held at the planning meetings.
- **Bylaws update.** The bylaws were last updated in 2011. A review of the bylaws indicated that some updates would be needed. All bylaws changes must be voted upon by the general membership. Electronic voting had already been approved by the board in 2016. Areas of update include:
 - Article II, Section II (Meetings).
 - Proposal: Require one general membership meeting per year instead of two.
 - Reasoning: Given our electronic communication systems (Whips group email, Whips Facebook page, website, newsletter), we may not need as many required in-person meetings for handling business items for the general membership.
 - Article II, Section VII (Voting).
 - Proposal: Modify voting verbiage to reflect electronic voting.
 - Reasoning: Current wording is more suitable for paper ballots.
 - Article III, Section I F (Vice President).

- Proposal: Discontinue requirement of VP to attend all regional planning meetings.
 - Reasoning: Given the geographic range, the fact that many planning meetings occur at the same time, and the ability to electronically communicate, this requirement appears to be outdated. Regional directors have to report calendar planning anyway.
 - Article IV, Section II (Committees).
 - Proposal: Discontinue requirement of permanent committees.
 - Reasoning: Bylaws require three permanent committees: Nominating, Auditing, Bylaws/Policy. These committees are neither active nor staffed because board members and general members take care of these issues as needed. The requirement should be changed to an option.
 - Article V, Section I (Regions).
 - Proposal: Allow more flexibility in regional composition
 - Reasoning: Given the ebb and flow of regional membership and activity, and the need to either combine or split regions at times, changing the wording would assist with these options.
- **August Board Meeting:** Voting board members and ex-officio active (nonvoting) board members cannot all meet on any of the August dates proposed. Further dates will be explored, with August 19 and August 26 being the top contenders.
 - **Annual Reports.** All annual reports are due to the Secretary by the end of May.

Board business concluded. Membership voting begins May 25 and concludes June 5.