

Tuesday, September 19, 2006 Board Conference Call
9PM to 10PM EST
USSRA Governance Review Task Force session

The Governance Review Task Force hosted the first of three conference calls seeking input from you on important issues relevant to formulating changes to USSRA governance.

Present on the call from the Task Force were Carey Anderson, Peter Lasusa (moderator). Board members on the call included Jeannie Blasberg, Kevin Jernigan, Tim Wyant, Jack Wyant, Marty Clark, Kim Tunney and Kevin Klipstein by invitation.

Mr. Lasusa opened the call indicating the feedback gathering nature of the calls and outlined the transition the board is driving from a grassroots volunteer driven organization to a professionally run organization. Influencing this transition are several factors including the general modernization of the management of non-profits, the encouragement of the US Olympic Committee to streamline governance structures of national governing bodies and the general desire of the board for the bylaws to accurately reflect the shift taking place in the board's role from an operating board to a governing board.

Mr. Lasusa continued by introducing the topics for the evening: Optimum Board Size, Structure, Terms and Meeting Frequency and the current findings of the Task Force.

Board Size & Structure

Related to size and structure, it has been found that smaller boards tend to be more committed and engaged. The general trend appears to be away from constituency-special interest boards to boards with broader vision, but to provide for representation using various structural mechanisms. A possible SRA Council was discussed as one option to engage all SRA's and obtain proper regional diversity and representation. With smaller boards, the committee structure tends to receive additional focus and is where "things get done". Executive Committees are less common, indicating that the board is indeed the governing board. Discussion turned quickly to a transition plan rather than the concept of reducing the USSRA's board size. This will be the topic of future calls, but it was indicated this is typically done over time.

Terms

Longer terms, staggered over time are the trend, with 3 or 4 years being the typical term. The discussion appeared to reach a consensus of 3 to 4 years being appropriate for the USSRA.

Meeting Frequency

Bi-monthly or quarterly seems to be the general guide, given that more frequent meetings will engage the board more actively. From a practical point of view, the Executive Committee has been meeting three times per year in person, with periodic conference calls. No consensus was reached however it was agreed more frequent in person meetings were appropriate and that a willingness to attend in-person meetings would be a demonstration of commitment to the organization.

The scope and content of the next two calls, along with the process for developing revised bylaws was outlined. The next calls will be OCTOBER 17 on Committee Structure and NOVEMBER 14 on the Nominations Process and Transition Steps.

The call concluded at approximately 9:40PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kevin Klipstein