

Good afternoon –

Thank you to those who have participated in the Council of Delegates conference calls to discuss the proposed changes to the National Board composition. There is one more opportunity to share your best thinking before the national conference.

The proposed changes in board composition will require bylaws amendments. The National Board will be considering the amendments at its meeting just prior to the Council of Delegates meeting in Nashville. As we have noted before, changing board composition is just the first step in modifying our governance, leading us to our 20/20 vision of 20 million campers and 20,000 participants in ACA. The goal is not to simply change governance for the sake of change. Our goal is to set the stage for a powerful future for camps and campers.

I want to take this opportunity to address how the bylaws amendments will occur. The board will vote on the amendments as presented; a vote by the Council of Delegates is not required. Input from the COD has been extremely helpful, as the board has listened to the comments by section presidents and delegates and will also consider ideas and opinions from the online moderated chat to be held on Tuesday, February 5.

As many of you have requested, the Council of Delegates will have as an agenda item discussion regarding the role of the delegates within the governing laws of the state of Indiana, where we are incorporated. Since this topic has not been discussed as part of the conference calls, this will not be an action item. However, the COD may decide to initiate a process to consider ways to refine its role in light of the changes to the board. The COD may decide to facilitate a year long process of discovery and dialogue using the technology available to us today. There will also be other questions posed to the COD for discussion.

These are exciting times for the American Camp Association. I am eager to report on the work of ACA during the last year, share information about where we're going as an association, hear your ideas about how the Council of Delegates should function in the future, and learn your thoughts about developing leadership within the association.

It will also be a pleasure to present to the Council of Delegates our new president, Peter Surgenor, who will begin his term at the end of the conference. I am confident that Peter will lead our association to great heights during the next three years and I know you'll enjoy hearing him share his goals for ACA.

If you have not yet voiced your opinions about the proposed changes, I urge you to participate in the moderated online chat. Instructions to join the online chat on Tuesday, February 5, at 1:00 p.m. EST will be available at www.ACAcamps.org/volunteers/delegates.

See you in Nashville!

Sincerely,

Ann Sheets
National President