

GOVERNANCE BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

NATIONAL BOARD REPORT -- DECEMBER 2021

The first (213-GV01) concerned the composition of the Executive Committee (EC), due to the combining of District 1 from the Eastern Zone with District 2 from the Central Zone to create Region 1. There were no other changes proposed at this time to either the composition or the role of the EC. The placement of Region 1 into the Central Zone solely for the purposes of EC composition was approved. The number of Regions included in the Eastern, Central and Western Zones beginning in 2022 will be five, four and four, respectively. Motion carried: 24/1/0.

Two additional motions (213-GV02 and 213-GV03) had to do with the few remaining instances where changes in the Codification (primarily in Part 2—Bridge Operations, Chapter III – Administration, B. Districts) to the role/responsibility from what has traditionally been done by a District Director remained to be made. In some cases, the change was to the District President and in others, the change was simply from the District Director to the new title of the person filling that position—the Regional Director. In addition, these motions included basic “cleanup” to bring the Codification into alignment with current practice and to change the name of the Board of Governors to the new name “Advisory Council.” Motions carried: 24/0/1.

A fourth motion (213-GV04) was fairly complicated and had to do with the formation, transfer and dissolution of units. The proposed changes were based on recent experience when Units requested administrative actions from Headquarters and the Codification proved to be incomplete in addressing resolution of the requests. The addition of a regulation on how to deal with very small units was quite controversial and the Board voted to table this motion until the spring or summer of next year, allowing more time to discuss the most appropriate way to address the administrative challenges of and for small units. Motion tabled: 23/1/1.

The final motion (213-GV05) was also quite complicated, but by the time all changes were voted on and approved, it resulted in substantial changes being made to the election process for the ACBL Board of Directors and Advisory Council members (Codification Part 1 – Governance and Policy, Chapter III – Administration, D. Elections). Key changes in the approved regulation 1) ensured that the description of Unit voting power is consistent with our Bylaws; 2) clarified and streamlined the administrative process (e.g., stating

actual dates by which actions would occur instead of the number of business days between one action and another; updating statements regarding mail-in ballot requirements that were no longer in effect and emphasizing email communications and online voting); 3) updated and clarified candidate rights to address Unit Boards during the election process, either in person or by some electronic means, e.g., Zoom, phone; 4) clarified the run-off election process; 5) modified the notification method and content of Board election results; and 6) significantly reorganized the entire Chapter to eliminate duplication, remove contradictory information and simplify instructions and administrative actions. Motion carried: 23/1/1.

A Discussion Item (DI213-GV01) about the roles, responsibilities, and requirements of Units (Codification, Part 2—Bridge Operations, Chapter III—Administration, A. Units) was presented. Although much of the content was very different from what was proposed by 213-GV05, the discussion that ensued will be valuable in updating many aspects of Unit requirements and expectations.

A second Discussion Item (DI213-GV02) dealt with Board operations and communications and how the Board could and/or should change how it operates and communicates in 2022 based on its somewhat smaller size and continuing the transition of many of its functions to Advisory Council and other Committees as well as to Management and the advisory groups that will be available to lend expertise when needed. Over the past two years, the Board has become increasingly adept at using virtual meetings to conduct in-depth Committee discussions so that F2F meeting time can be spent on the strategic concerns and fiscal status of the organization. The ongoing challenges of how best to integrate online and F2F play will require focused conversations and coordinated communication among the Board, Management and Stakeholders to help ensure an organization that is able to meet all members' needs.

A final Discussion Item (DI213-GV-03) proposed an improved process for developing and submitting motions and discussion items. It outlined what actions were accomplished internally and what actions are needed by motion-makers. This process will be implemented beginning in 2022.