

Proposed Amendment to the AVA Bylaws

Title: Deputy Regional Directors

Motion: Amend Article VI “Regional Directors” of the Bylaws to allow Deputy Regional Directors

Current	Changes	If Adopted
<p>6.1 Number. At least six, but not more than ten geographic Regions shall be created from the jurisdiction of the AVA. The number of Regions and the area of each shall be established by the National Executive Council and recorded in the corporate records of the AVA. Each Region shall be represented on the National Executive Council by a Regional Director.</p>	<p>6.1 Number. At least six, but not more than ten geographic Regions shall be created from the jurisdiction of the AVA. The number of Regions and the area of each shall be established by the National Executive Council and recorded in the corporate records of the AVA. Each Region shall be represented on the National Executive Council by a Regional Director <u>(RD), or a Deputy Regional Director (DRD), in the absence of the RD.</u></p>	<p>6.1 Number. At least six, but not more than ten geographic Regions shall be created from the jurisdiction of the AVA. The number of Regions and the area of each shall be established by the National Executive Council and recorded in the corporate records of the AVA. Each Region shall be represented on the National Executive Council by a Regional Director (RD), or a Deputy Regional Director (DRD), in the absence of the RD.</p>
<p>6.4 Removal. Failure or refusal to perform the prescribed duties shall constitute grounds for removal from office. Any Regional Director of the AVA may be removed from office in the represented Region and from membership on the National Executive Council by a recall motion instituted by a Member in the represented Region, provided said motion is submitted in writing to the National Executive Council and endorsed by at least twenty-five percent of the Members in the Region.</p>	<p>6.4 Removal. Failure or refusal to perform the prescribed duties shall constitute grounds for removal from office. Any Regional Director <u>or Deputy Regional Director</u> of the AVA may be removed from office in the represented Region and from membership on the National Executive Council by a recall motion instituted by a Member in the represented Region, provided said motion is submitted in writing to the National Executive Council and endorsed by at least twenty-five percent of the Members in the Region.</p>	<p>6.4 Removal. Failure or refusal to perform the prescribed duties shall constitute grounds for removal from office. Any Regional Director or Deputy Regional Director of the AVA may be removed from office in the represented Region and from membership on the National Executive Council by a recall motion instituted by a Member in the represented Region, provided said motion is submitted in writing to the National Executive Council and endorsed by at least twenty-five percent of the Members in the Region.</p>

Current	If Adopted
<p>6.6 Election Procedures New 6.6(h)</p>	<p>(h) For those regions that choose to elect a Deputy Regional Director, it may be done by one of two methods: 1. A Regional Nominating Committee makes (a) recommendation(s) to the Members in the region for their selection; 2. The RD makes a nomination to the Members in the region for their approval.</p>
<p>New 6.8 Deputy Regional Director (Optional)</p>	<p>6.8 Deputy Regional Director. Each Region is authorized to establish a single position of Deputy Regional Director (DRD) who will act in cooperation with and under the direction of the Regional Director to assist in carrying out tasks outlined in Duties (6.3). Qualifications specified for the Deputy RD are the same as those of the RD. Any Deputy RD must be able to assume the role of RD at any time in the two-year term, and not be in conflict with any provisions in the Bylaws, such as term limits for previous service. When a Region has a DRD, a vacancy in the office of RD will be immediately filled by the DRD. A vacancy in the office of DRD during the term can be filled in accordance with 6.6(h).</p>

Rationale: This amendment allows Regions that elect to do so to have one Deputy RD who is duly elected to work with the RD, and be available to be a temporary substitute for him/her or, if necessary, be able to immediately replace the RD for as long as necessary. In the past, when it was essential to make a long-term replacement, the region’s leadership had to begin an election process, starting with looking for (a) candidate(s). At specific times in the cycle of tasks that must be done according to a timeline (approval of ESRs for Yrs, SEs, & TEs; Awards; etc.) having to replace an RD could disrupt the approval process. In addition, during the time interval when the region is without an RD, the region is without representation at the national level meetings and decision making sessions. Overwhelmingly, the quick fix was to go to a person who had already served as RD, rather than having a person already prepared to take over the reins as an active participant in a similar role.

Each RD’s region covers massive land areas taxing an individual RD from being able to physically attend but a very few formal activities of the region’s clubs, say nothing of visiting those clubs that are being confronted with troubling issues, such as dormancy, had declared a status of “Inactive”, or trying to carry out the tasks associated with establishing new clubs. The very limited budget of AVA to support RDs’ services fall far short to support his/her travel expenses across the region. It is necessary to have additional official AVA “boots on the ground” closer to clubs to address those areas of concern.

Building leadership at the regional level should be a top priority of AVA; that is where our participants are found. With the institution of a system such as Deputy RD, we can start to nurture the development of new leaders from the clubs to take on tasks in their immediate areas outside of their own club, and start to learn how to handle tasks of the RD. Although potential “new blood” might be interested in serving at the regional level, many are not willing to jump in and take on the whole role of RD for the region without some time to learn the job, but would be willing to start off at a more modest level to learn the elements of the RD’s role.

Sponsor: Doug Reynolds, Northeast Regional Director

The National Executive Council recommendation: Approve