

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

**Introduction of Business:** For those regions that choose to do so, in addition to being authorized one Regional Director (RD), this would also provide for one Deputy Region Director (DRD), and several Assistant Regional Directors (ARDs).

**I move that:**

The Bylaws of AVA, “Article VI, Regional Directors”, be modified to include a new VI, 6.8 that would state: “Each Region, if a majority of clubs in the Region agree, is authorized to establish a single position of Deputy Regional Director (DRD) who will act in cooperation with and under the direction of the RD to assist in carrying out tasks outlined in Duties (6.3).” The last sentence in Article VI, 6.1 would be modified to “Each Region shall be represented on the National Executive Council by a Regional Director (RD), or the duly elected Region’s Deputy Regional Director (DRD) if the RD is unable to attend a meeting(s), or carryout other responsibilities, either short, or long term.”

“Requirements specified for the Deputy RD will be the same as those of the RD: Eligibility (6.2); Removal (6.4); Vacancy (6.5); Election Procedure (6.6); and Term of Office (6.7). However, for a Region that has a duly elected Deputy RD, that individual will automatically replace the RD, if necessary, when requested by the Regional Director, or a majority of club Presidents in the Region, for the RD’s unexpired term. 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. In a case where the replacement is permanent, the DRD will immediately assume the position of RD for the unexpired term, and a DRD may be replaced according to the aforementioned procedures.”

Further, The Bylaws of AVA, “Article VI, Regional Directors”, be modified to include a new VI, 6.9 that would state: “Each Region, if a majority of clubs in the Region agree, is authorized to establish several positions of Assistant Regional Director (ARD) who will act in cooperation with and under the direction of the RD to assist in carrying out tasks outlined in Duties (6.3). Club Presidents within the Region will make recommendations of volunteers for such positions to the RD who will make the selections based on the recommendations, and a balance of needs at specific locations within the Region (typically in the state of the ARD, or an immediate adjacent state). Those selected Assistant RD volunteers will serve at the pleasure of the RD, or may be removed by a majority of the clubs. Both the Deputy RD and Assistant RDs, will be provided an official AVA name tags with position, and supply of business cards at the beginning of their service, and at year’s end, they will be provided an AVA letter for IRS to confirm that they provided services to a Section 301(c)(3) nonprofit organization.”

**Summary of Proposed Action:**

This provision allows Regions that elect to do so to also 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; then, approval of TEs; Awards; etc.) having to replace an RD could really disrupt the approval process, with the potential of missing important time bench marks. 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 (new blood) already prepared to take over the reins as an active participant in a similar role, as is guaranteed for the President who has the Vice President as a backup in the wings.

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.

Even with the RD, and the Deputy RD, there is still an enormous amount of real estate to be covered within the region. From time to time, it would be worthwhile to be able to assign an official AVA person, an Assistant Regional Director, to assist a club that is having administrative or operational difficulties and could benefit from short or long term technical assistance onsite. Further, a never ending concern is the establishing of new clubs, or reactivating “Inactive” clubs in areas of void of an AVA presence. “The number of clubs in the (AVA) reached a milestone number 500 on Dec. 30, 1987 ...” (History of Volkssporting in the USA 1976-1989 by Charlene Agan-Traub, Ph.D.). In 1989 AVA had over 600 clubs. Currently we are at about 255, losing clubs since 2004 at a rate of about 11.5 per yr. Neither the RD, nor the Deputy RD can do much at a distance for the many “empty territories”. It is essential that we have a cadre of representatives who can assist in fostering the development of new clubs, providing them guidance through the process of becoming sanctioned, and sharing “tips and techniques” on growing the club.

Presently, half of the regions have at least one State Organization that potentially provides invaluable support to the clubs within the Organization’s state. This group can provide a wonderful training ground for potential RDs, DRD, & ARDs. However, overwhelmingly, most of the states do not have such an administrative structure. For those regions that choose this option of electing an Associate Regional Director as provided in this modification to the AVA Bylaws, the DRDs and ARDs could add additional support services to their clubs not having the advantage of such a statewide support system.

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 and Assistant RDs, we can start to nurture the develop 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.

**Motion Made By: Doug Reynolds, Regional Director - Northeast**

**Seconded by:**

**Action:           Motion Carried**

**Motion Failed**