

Date: March 1, 2005

To: USMS Members

From: Betsy Durrant, Planning Committee Chair

As many of you know, a subcommittee on Structure and Governance began work after the 2003 USMS convention. At the 2004 Convention, a proposal to change the Executive Committee (EC) and the Board of Directors (BOD) of USMS was presented to the House of Delegates (HOD). The proposals (with some modifications) were accepted by the HOD. The result was that the Executive Committee increased from six voting members (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, zone chair, and immediate past president) to eight voting members (president, vice president of member services, vice president of community services, vice president of local operations, vice president of national operations, secretary, treasurer, and immediate past president). The Board of Directors decreased from the previous thirty-five or forty members to 16 voting members (eight from the Executive Committee and eight at-large members (nominated from each of the eight zones).

At the 2004 convention, legislation was passed to enable the elections at this year's convention to reflect the new configuration. Since the convention, the Governance committee has been working on the definition of powers and responsibilities for the HOD, BOD, and EC. A policy statements and the pertinent legislation are published here. All legislative proposals will go to the Legislation committee and then to the HOD at the 2005 convention. Because so much is done in such a short time at the convention, the Governance committee feels it is important to publish our proposals and to get comments and suggestions prior to the convention. Additional policy and legislative proposals will be published as they are completed.

A thread on the Discussion Forum has been opened to discuss these three documents. I urge you to read all three before commenting. The discussion will be open for three weeks, March 1-21. After that, the Governance committee will consider all comments and make changes in the proposals if necessary. Additional topics will follow the same procedure: posting and open discussions on the Forum. All final proposals will be presented for discussion and approval at the 2005 convention.