

Dear ESA Member:

We have been working diligently to position ESA for continued success and I would like to bring you up to speed on all that is happening in preparation for a very important membership vote coming up in June.

Recognizing the need for ESA to remain relevant and attract the next generation of volunteer leaders, a task force was formed to evaluate the governance structure of the association. A new governance model was proposed to the board of directors last June and was approved.

ESA is now moving forward with next steps to prepare the model for presentation to you, our ESA members. The Bylaws Committee has drafted the changes needed to implement the proposed model.

Below is additional background information behind this endeavor:

**The process:**

- Discussions around updating the governance structure began in 2013.
- The Governance Task Force dedicated over 600 volunteer hours researching and developing a new model.
- Throughout the process, the task force engaged experienced association experts in the development of the proposed model.
- The board of directors invested countless hours discussing and investigating prior to approving the proposed model in June of 2016.

**Current governance structure:**

- **Committee and Professional Groups:** 14 committees and 2 professional groups investigate and vet programs and services offered by ESA; member

influence and the chapter's voice is most effective by populating committees and professional groups.

- **Executive Committee:** 8 voting members and 2 non-voting members meet twelve times per year. This committee has the authority to act on behalf of the board of directors between board meetings.
- **Chapter Representatives:** A representative from each chapter participates in an informal meeting twice a year.
- **Board of Directors:** 45 voting members and 5 non-voting members come together twice a year to hear information and receive committee reports creating an informational board.

#### **Proposed governance structure:**

- **Committee and Professional Groups:** 14 committees and 2 professional groups investigate and vet programs and services offered by ESA; member influence and the chapter's voice is most effective by populating committees and professional groups.
- **Executive Committee:** This committee is eliminated based on redundancy allowing the proposed board of directors to be the decision making authority.
- **Chapter Council:** A representative from each chapter serves on a formal council which acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors. These meetings will promote interchange among chapters and provide an opportunity for chapters to participate in the governance process.
- **Board of Directors:** 13 voting members and 2 non-voting members meet twelve times a year. They make up a diverse and nimble board of directors that can be collaborative and strategic when making decisions and setting direction.

In summary, this new governance model will provide chapters a greater voice and influence with at least 38% of the voting seats on the board of directors. This model will also eliminate the Executive Committee, as the new board will make the day to day decisions, tackle strategic planning and become more attractive to the next generation of volunteer leaders.

In order to ensure you have all of the information you need to make an informed decision when you vote, we will hold a webinar on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm CDT to walk through the proposed changes and answer any questions you may have. Additional details and an invitation to sign up for the webinar will be sent soon.

In the meantime, I'm happy to answer questions you may have and can be reached at [Angela.White@ESAweb.org](mailto:Angela.White@ESAweb.org) or 972-807-6833.

Sincerely,

Angela White  
President