

Proposed Change to the MVFD Method of Operations

Summary:

It is proposed that the MVFD discontinue the practice of appointing one member of the program committee to begin in July. All members of the program committee should be appointed and begin their terms in January.

Current Wording:

ARTICLE V: STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Program Committee: ... Part of the committee will be appointed in January and part in July, each member to serve one year. ...

Proposed Wording:

ARTICLE V: STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Program Committee: ... The committee will be appointed in January and will serve one year. ...

Background:

For many years, the program committee was appointed as a whole committee in January. One year someone resigned in the middle of the year. Shortly thereafter the council began appointing one member to begin in July.

Discussion:

In theory, having a program committee member span between two years makes sense, in order to provide some continuity from year to year. However, I feel we are sacrificing much to achieve this single goal.

Although appointed in January, the program committee is responsible for the time frame of March through February. The person coming on in July effectively serves from August through July. That works out to be 7 months on one committee and 5 months on the next committee.

By not coming on until July, this person is deprived of participating in the program planning process for the entire year. When he does come on he is faced with having to implement plans over which he has had no control or input.

This person does get to participate in the planning process for the next year. However he does not get the privilege of helping to implement many of those plans.

The carryover person does not get the privilege of possibly serving as the committee chairperson either year, and is not afforded the opportunity of being a full committee member the second year.

Many times I see the carryover person get frustrated and feel helpless about making any contributions to the committee. Sometimes this person loses interest and essentially ends up not participating. In reality, we end up with a 4 or 4 1/2 person committee instead of a 5 person committee.

Finally, if this person has not been participating fully, he can not provide continuity for the next committee. In fact, because this person did not participate in the initial planning processes, he cannot provide continuity anyway, because he may not understand the reasoning, discussions, and negotiations that were behind the planning and decisions for the previous year.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Leslie K. Hill*