

Why Change the Leadership Structure of our Club?

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Many of you may have caught a whisper in the wind...and it's not just those warm breezes of summer on the way! They say nothing is as constant as *change*, and new perspectives can offer new directions. We at WBCCI are always seeking new vistas – not just geographically but in improvements to our Club.

My name is Jenny Schnettler. My husband John and I are committed to our Airstream friends, and the Club that supports us, and as such, we became quite involved in the past two years, finding great projects that have welcomed our inclusion. Today I am sharing an inspiring journey through the inner-workings of this Club and how it's run.

Presently, we have a vibrant and dedicated leadership elected by the Delegates (your direct representatives) and serving one-year terms. The limitation these outstanding elected leaders face is that with only a single-year term, they simply don't have enough time to address many of their goals and the goals of the Club's Long Range or Strategic Plans. Consequently, our forward direction gets stalled, resulting in very constricted far-sighted opportunities. Recognizing this short-coming of the present leadership structure, our current President Tye Mott requested that a Special Committee evaluate if perhaps two-year terms might better serve our Club.

This Special Committee evaluated implications of two-year terms and suggested alternative Leadership Models that might allow for a more

fluid structure. Ultimately, this evolved into two additional Special Committees that developed a proposal for going forward. It is exciting to think that 21 members have been working since last July, 2021 to brainstorm, debate, deliberate, and finally support this new idea into a working leadership platform.

But wait! Was our old format really so bad? Not at all, but every organization needs to be cautious that it doesn't fall into the mantra "If it was good enough then, it's good enough now". Honest examination for any business structure usually suggests ways to improve, and ways to remain more relevant.

Bottom line, we looked at what was great, and what could use some updating, and through these three Special Committees, we propose a new look for our Administrative Branch of the International Board of Trustees.

At first, the alphabet soup that made up the EC, IBT, of the WBCCI was a confusing jumble! Breaking down your organization into its real words makes it much easier to understand: Here's the lowdown!

Our Club (Wally Byam Caravan Club International) is run by a group of seven *Executive Committee* members, and 12 Region Presidents. These 19 people are collectively

known as the International Board of Trustees. (IBT). The seven Executive Committee members are better known as the 3rd International Vice President, 2nd International Vice President, 1st International Vice President, International President, Immediate Past International President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Executive Committee is the Administrative Branch of the International Board of Trustees. They are elected into their positions by the Delegates (There's 104 Delegates, representing your local clubs). Their terms, being only one year each, allow little time for more than assisting with the International Rally planning (attended by approximately 12% of membership) and the immediate needs of the Club. Goodies like addressing any long-range or strategic plans or interfacing with sitting Committees are often delegated to the back burner as more pressing demands intrude. This compromise has led to effectively running at mach speed just to stay in one place! We think we have a solution to allowing this Administrative Leadership time to think, plan, and direct this Club toward defined goals.

What would things be like if our leaders had the tools through a true community consortium to hear exactly what YOU wanted? Or how about if you were kept "in the loop" with those long-range goals? Or what if YOU wanted to jump

aboard and help impact and direct your club through opportunities for inclusion at multiple levels? These were the exact questions we asked in our team discussions. Some great ideas ensued:

For more information, visit:

<https://airstreamclub.org/EC Restructure Proposal>

Rather than an Executive Committee of seven elected officers, chosen by the Delegates to serve for one year, we could have an **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**. Now I'm not trying to say "Knights of the Round Table" kind of thing, but consider a group of ten **Executive Council** members that work together to develop solutions through a format of cooperation. These ten members are elected directly by YOU, the membership. The elections are for a Seat at the Table... meaning that we elect these members to serve ON THE COUNCIL! Decisions as to who serves as the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer are made by the entire International Board of Trustees (IBT), those people that are most intimately involved with these Council members, and who know exactly what specific skills each possesses.

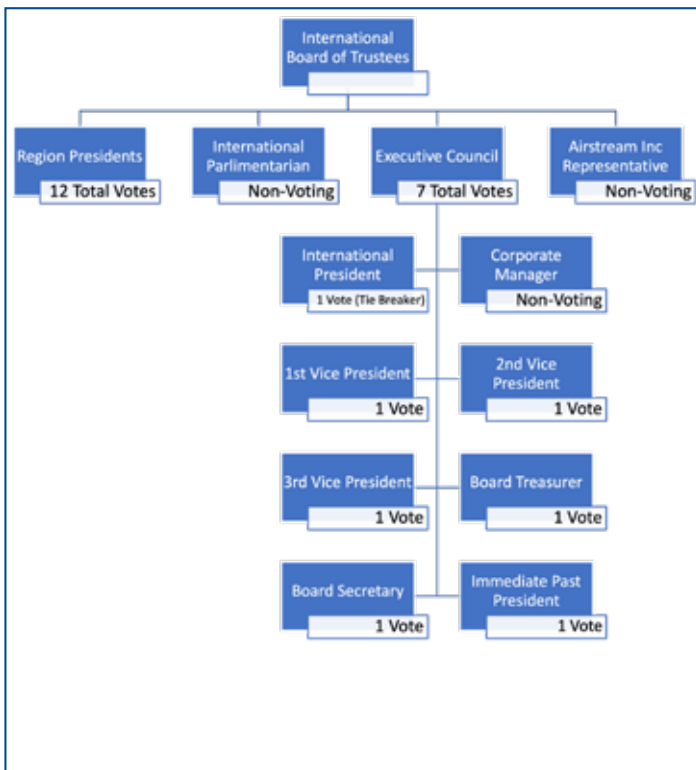
These Executive Council members each serve for two years, called a TERM. We have elections only on the alternating odd-years, for ALL SEATS on the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. This point is really important!

You are the voting membership. Every two years, all seats are up for re-election (*except the International Past Immediate President who is designated into his/her office*). Nine seats are up for re-election! It becomes a huge honor to serve on the Executive Council. If a member wants to seek re-election, and YOU the membership deem him/her worthy, then that member may serve another term if re-elected by the membership. An Executive Council member may not seek re-election once he/she has completed three total terms (except if the Immediate Past International President is needed in office for a 4th term as relative to officer elections).

A member of the Executive Council may seek election to an officer role, once certain eligibility requirements are met. That member of the Executive Council must obtain a 51% vote of the entire International Board of Trustees to be seated in office. No Executive Council Officer may serve more than three terms (remember that Immediate Past International President may be called upon to serve a 4th term if necessary based upon the current president's term).

In a nutshell, there is room here for all of us to participate in many levels of involvement for our Club. This new idea offers opportunities for big and small commitments that can include YOU! Please consider joining in – make an impact with your ideas, your talents, and mostly whatever you dream that this WBCCI can offer for you.

Current Structure



Proposed Structure

