

# Motion 1 - Change to a new five area model independent of any councils

## Executive Summary

This motion culminates the discussions and work over 8+ years by several R3 Directors, participants in several Region 3 Area meetings at SoutheastCon, and two ad hocs that specifically studied this problem. It proposes to change the number of areas from 9 (of varied sizes) to 5 approximately same-sized areas. A consequence of this restructuring, which was generally also thought to be a positive change, was the decoupling Area Chairs from Council Chairs.

The motion modifies the Region 3 Bylaws to decouple the Area Chair concept from the Council Chair concept as well as changes the number of areas from nine to five. The motion also modifies the Operations Manual to detail the new assignment of sections to areas as well as removing the potential alignment of Area and Council Chairs consistent with the proposed Bylaw change.

If this motion is approved, the Bylaw changes will be placed on the Region 3 Committee agenda for approval. Assuming approval by the Region 3 Committee, the Bylaw changes would next go through an MGA process culminating in a vote to approve by the MGA Board.

The changes to the Bylaws and Operations Manual marked "Motion 1" are the proposed changes for this motion. The remainder of the changes are the subject of a second motion.

## Motion

Move to recommend Region 3 ByLaw and Region 3 Operational Manual changes that modify the Area Chair model to reduce the number of areas in Region 3 from nine to five and decouple the Area Chair role from the Council Chair role as detailed in the Bylaw changes and relevant Operations Manual Changes.

1. See [R3 Bylaws with proposed changes](#)
2. See [Region 3 Ops Manual with proposed changes](#)

## Background

Over the last several years, Region 3 has been exploring it's approach to Areas. As defined in the MGA Operations Manual, "An Area is a part of a Region, consisting of several Sections, states, provinces, or countries which may be established by the Region Committee as a management and administrative organizational unit of IEEE to fulfill the communication needs and management/administrative missions of the Region within the territory prescribed." Several Region 3 Meetings at SoutheastCon have been held, and two ad hocs have studied the problem and reported.

In the early days, the ExCom met face-to-face 3-4 times a year without an opportunity for the Section Chairs to participate. Today all ExCom meetings occur using teleconferencing facilities and members of the Region Committee can easily and do attend the ExCom meetings. All of the communication, once conducted by postal mail, is done with email, websites, and social media. All of these are also inclusive of the Region Committee members. While we have the details of the Areas in the Operations manual, changing the areas is noted as requiring Region Committee change in both the Region 3 Operations Manual and Bylaws.

In the first recent ad hoc committee, [report](#) distributed in August 2019, it was documented that Region 3 had the largest number of areas and that the number of sections in each area varies greatly (from one to twelve).

The second ad hoc committee, [report](#) distributed 19 December 2020 to ExCom and Region Committee Members, found that the most important area chair function was monitoring and supporting section health. Their report also elaborated area models of five areas -- one based on geography and one based on section size. In SOSC, the committee found one based on geography to have superior characteristics (of stability, relative proximity, and providing more diversity of ideas within the area). The report's division of sections are proposed to be the new areas of Region 3 and are contained within the proposed Operations Manual Changes.

The proposed change also decouples Areas from Councils in the three cases where there are councils. It does nothing to the status (or governance or officers) of councils. Councils are organizations formed by contiguous sections for their purposes -- generally to have an organization of sections within a state. The coupling of areas and councils is a Region 3 concept -- they are separate concepts in the MGA Operations Manual.

If this motion is approved, it will then be put on the Region 3 Committee agenda for approval. Assuming approval by the Region 3 Committee, it would next go through an MGA process culminating in a vote to approve by the MGA Board.

In preparing this motion, it was noted that within the Region 3 Bylaws and Region 3 Operations Manual, there was a discrepancy on the requirement of the appointment of the Area Chair relative to an elected Council Chair of the same sections. The Bylaws said "will" and the Region 3 Operations Manual said "may". The proposed motion makes this issue moot.

#### Pros

- Reduces the number of areas with approximately the same number of sections within each area
- Reduces resources (both dollars and volunteers) allowing redirection to better serve the member
- Removes the potential conflict of having a position both responsible to the Director and to the Sections

#### Cons

- Changes Region 3 structure which many are used to
- Decouples area and council for three areas