

# Change R3 Area Structure And Decouple Area/Council Chairs

14 Mar 2021



# Brief Background - In the beginning

The decision to use Areas goes back to 1970 with establishment of six areas (as well as some region committees). Creation of some councils led to some splitting of areas. In 1985, Jamaica was added as a Region 3 Section and as its own area partly with the unfulfilled expectation that other nearby sections might join Region 3.

- In the 80's and 90's, Region ExCom met face-to-face four times a year (3 times separately and SoutheastCon)
- All reports were on paper
- Postal mail was the communications medium

# Background - Today

Since at least 2014, the Region (principally the Directors and ExCom) has been concerned that the existing Area Structure was not the best use of resources (money, volunteers) to fulfill the Region's mission.

- Region ExCom meets 10-12 times a year using video teleconferencing
- All reports are electronic, distributed to both ExCom and Region Committee, and posted online
- The Internet is the communications medium
- Section Support & Member Communication Committees
- Specialists

# Multiple studies - 1

There have been several ad hocs looking at this issue. Most recently...

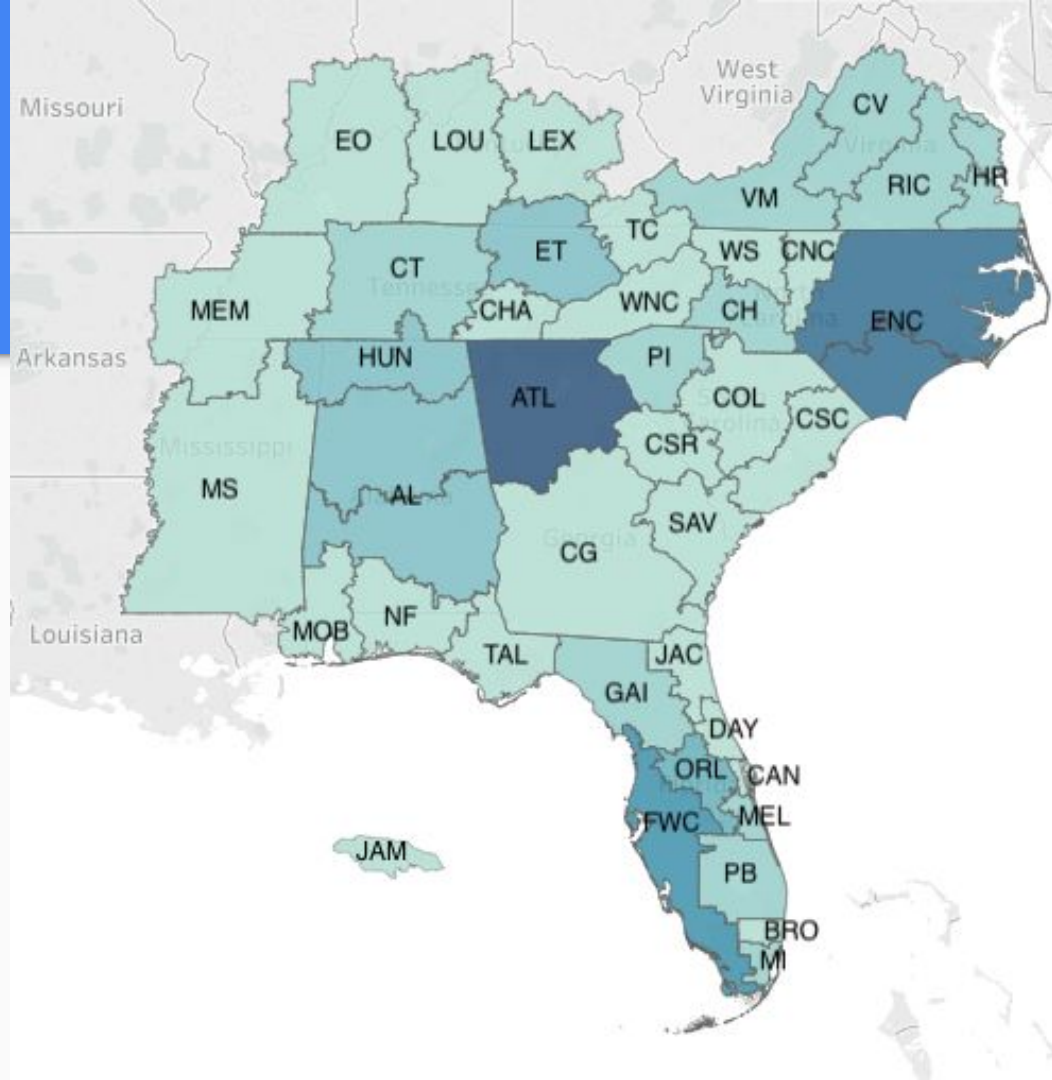
- **Operational Audit Committee (OAC) Study in 2019**
  - Region 3 has many more areas than any other region
  - Surveyed Sections, Area Chairs, others
  - Majority concluded present structure was not effective
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Area Chairs**
  - Notes on next slide

# Multiple studies - 2

- Ad Hoc Committee on Area Chairs
  - The most important area chair function was monitoring and supporting section health
  - Other area chair functions have become less important to operations due to new ways of operating and the Internet
  - Section boundaries (and thus Area boundaries) are often based around business centers not state boundaries
  - Proposed reducing to five areas grouped by **geography** or by size with a list of sections in areas for both scenarios

# Map of Region 3 Sections

- 41 Sections
- Color by size
- Note that several extend across state boundaries



# Supporting Information

- Motion 1 document - detailed summary, background, motion and links to other documents
- Marked up Bylaws (Only those items marked “Motion 1” apply)
- Marked up Operations Manual (Only those items marked “Motion 1” apply)
- OAC Report
- IEEE Region 3 Ad Hoc on Area Chairs

# Proposed new areas

1. Eastern North Carolina, Richmond, Charlotte, Central Virginia, Virginia Mountain, Hampton Roads, Central North Carolina, Western North Carolina, Winston-Salem
2. Atlanta, Piedmont, Jacksonville, Columbia, Coastal South Carolina, Central Georgia, Savannah, Central Savannah River
3. Florida West Coast, Orlando, Palm Beach, Miami, Melbourne, Broward, Daytona, Canaveral
4. East Tennessee, Central Tennessee, Memphis, Louisville, Lexington, Chattanooga, Evansville-Owensboro, Tri Cities
5. Huntsville, Alabama, Gainesville, Mississippi, Tallahassee, Northwest Florida, Mobile, Jamaica



# Decoupling Area Chair and Council Chair Position

- Only three Councils exist in Region 3 today
- Area & Councils are responsible to different structures
  - The area chair reports to the Region
  - The council chair reports to the sections
- Areas and councils no longer line up

# Pros and Cons

## Pros

- Reduces the number of areas and redefines the areas to each have approximately the same number of sections
- Reduces resources (both dollars and volunteers) allowing their redirection to better serve the member
- Increases number of ExCom Committee Chairs who also are voting members of the Region 3 Committee
- Decouples areas and councils - removing 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

# Process

- Ad Hocs did prior work
- SOSC refined and recommend
- ExCom - Operations Manual (Approved contingent on final approval of the Bylaws), Bylaws (Recommended)
- Region 3 Committee <<< we are here
  - MGA Ops Manual requires Area/Section groupings to be approved by Region Committee (but not MGA). The groupings located in R3 Operations Manual.
  - Bylaw Changes
- MGA review process for R3 ByLaws
- MGA Board of Directors for R3 ByLaws (final approval)

# Motion

Move to approve Region 3 ByLaw 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 with the listed Areas grouping the Sections as shown in the Operations Manual Changes.