

**Notes from ACR Chapter Leaders Teleconference
June 07, 2007**

Agenda items for the call:

- I. Board Update
 - II. Voting for Chapters Director
 - III. Annual Conference Update
 - IV. Public Education
 - V. Next Steps – Topics for Future Calls
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Participants:

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| • Lou Gieszl – ACR Chapters Director | • Pat Shanahan – Northern California |
| • Marya Kolman – ACR Conference Consultant | • Ashley Parker – ACR Membership and Chapters Associate |
| • Stuart Binstock – DC | • Ed Blumstein – Greater Delaware Valley |
| • Frances Mossman – Hawaii | • Ray Lanier – ACR President |
| • Nicky Davenport – Georgia | |
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I. Board Update

* ACR is in the final stages of review of the relocation proposal. The move, if it is approved, will take place in September. The decision has been made to stay in Washington, DC.

* The last stages of the organizational assessment have begun. The Board is in the question and clarification stage and will be sending out information to the volunteer leadership soon. Chapter leaders and others will be asked for feedback and for assistance in implementation.

* The Board has retained a search firm for the ACR Executive Director position. They have decided to go with a DC-based firm, which does about 40 % of its work with non-profits. The process is likely to take 10-12 weeks. Information will be sent out at a later time regarding a process for those wishing to put themselves in the running for the Executive Director position (*Note: Please see the email of June 20, 2007, subject "ACR Executive Director Search" for more information.*)

* Stuart inquired about the lessening number of ACR staff (as of 06/11/07 there will be 2 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee.) Ray responded that due to the transition and due to the salary structure this is not surprising. One of the challenges for the incoming Executive Director will be to look at the salary, growth opportunities and staffing structure. The Board would like for the permanent Executive Director (in place in 10-12 weeks) to make hiring decisions.

II. Voting for Chapters Director

* For some time board has been considering changing the ACR bylaws regarding how board members are elected. One part of this regards the Chapter Director position. Currently all

members vote for Chapter and Section Directors. A change is being proposed that would allow only members of a Chapter/Section can vote for that position.

* Questions 1: is that a good idea. Question 2: how do we do it? One possibility is to have a better system of name sharing between Chapters and ACR to verify those eligible. Another would be to have voters self-identify and take them at their word. A third possibility is to have only the Chapter presidents vote for the Chapters Director. Frances supports having the Chapter members vote, and suggests that perhaps in the short-term have the Chapter presidents vote, with the understanding that it is not a personal vote, but a vote as a representative to their members. This would encourage conversation regarding the candidates and issues. It also might encourage more Chapters members to become ACR members. Nikki agrees with having Chapter presidents vote on behalf of the Chapter members. Pat's concern is that few Chapter members might be informed about what going on at the ACR level. She suggests that the Chapters each get one vote, instead of the Chapter presidents or the Chapter members.

III. Annual Conference Update

* Everything is on schedule except for the proposal acceptances (there has been a reduction in the number of sessions going on concurrently, which is making the process a little more competitive.) The marketing brochure is ready and information for potential exhibitors is online (a printed copy can be sent by request.) William Ury will be the Keynote Speaker. Because there were so many qualified people in the running for the Keynote it has been decided that there will be a number of mini-plenaries with some hot topics. Youth info is not on the website *yet* but Marya and Ruth will send out further information on that in the meantime. Ruth has done a phenomenal job with the Youth Conference. The committee is in the process of picking the trainers.

* Fliers are ready. If you have a desire for fliers ONLY, please contact Marya (mckolman@columbus.rr.com.) If you are requesting general ACR handouts (magazines, applications, pens, etc), please continue to go through Ashley (Chapters@ACRnet.org) and the fliers will be included.

IV. Public Education

* Jim Rosenstein and Rita Callahan co-chair the committee dedicated to educating the public about conflict resolution. They have put together a plan, but the plan is on hold until funds are available. In the meantime they are considering looking at public education in the same way that ACR looks at diversity and equity, meaning that it will be a factor and will be represented in every ACR project and committee. At this time everyone is encouraged to go for the "low-hanging fruit" and see what they can do easily and inexpensively.

VI. Next Steps

Topics for future calls include: the process for voting for Chapters Director; Public Education; Conflict Resolution Day events; Diversity and Equity; ACR Annual Conference plans.

**Our next Chapter Leaders Conference Call will take place on
Thursday, July 05, 2007.**

Please save the date for a call on the first Thursday of each month.