



2022 Officers/ Executive Board

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Escrow Associates of San Gabriel Valley

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California Advocates, Inc.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Teresa Excinia, MBA, CAE
*California Advocates
Management Services*

MANAGEMENT

*California Advocates
Management Services*

California Escrow Association

Town Hall – March 25, 2022 – Irvine, CA

Summary of Meeting

Background and Discussion Points

Members of the California Escrow Association, including members of the Board of Directors, Past Presidents, and members-at-large, plus staff from California Advocates Management Services (CAMS) aka CEA Headquarters, attended the CEA Town Hall on Saturday, March 25, 2022, at the Hilton Hotel in Irvine, California.

The purpose of the Town Hall was to revisit prior discussions amongst the Executive Board and the Board of Directors regarding restructuring the CEA Board of Directors in order to allow for more participation on the Board and in the association.

Statistics relating to past and current board representation was distributed in advance and shared during the meeting. Statistics included:

- 25 Current Regional Associations
- 11 Regional Presidents
- 34 Current Voting Directors
- The current membership count is 568, and a breakdown of the regional membership was provided.
- Three first-year Board members are serving in 2022; all other Board members have been on the CEA Board from 4 years to 19 years.

The Town Hall attendees discussed many issues currently facing CEA, including the challenge of member participation and engagement, and membership retention and recruitment. It was noted that member participation and engagement need to begin at the Board level, therefore, a change in the Board structure is needed.

Based on data provided by the 2021 Regional Survey and current statistics, CEA Headquarters was tasked to facilitate the development and presentation of three restructure options for discussion and consideration. These options, for restructuring the Board of Directors, are listed below and were discussed by Town Hall attendees.

Members of the
American
Escrow Association

- Option 1 - Board of Directors Representative Restructure – keep remaining structure in place but reduce the number of Board Representatives allowed per Regional Association from three to one.
- Option 2 – Merge the Regional Associations into geographic Districts.
- Option 3 – Allow for representation on the Board of Directors by the entire state without Regional Association representation.

After discussion of each option, a straw poll of the attendees resulted in the majority voting for option 3, which is further described as follows:

OPTION 3 – CEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPRESENTATION BY THE ENTIRE STATE WITHOUT REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

- a) The Nominating Committee shall be in effect.
- b) The CEA voting members shall elect the Board of Directors.
- c) A call for nominations shall be sent to the voting members; nominations for any eligible member shall be submitted by any voting member to the Nominating Committee; a slate shall be established; a ballot shall be sent to all of the voting members.
- d) Eligibility to serve on the Board of Directors shall be defined in the Bylaws.
- e) The Board of Directors will be limited to 24 members.
- f) There shall be no geographic restrictions applied to the composition of the Board of Directors.
- g) Half of the Board of Directors shall be elected annually.
- h) Each term of a Director shall be two-years, with a maximum of three terms.
- i) A Director may serve again following a one-year absence from the Board of Directors.

Option 3 Summary:

This option eliminates the requirement that the Board of Directors be comprised of Regional Association leaders and allows any eligible member to be nominated and to serve without any affiliation to a Regional Association. This option also allows CEA to be more inclusive to represent the entire membership (including State Only members). Regional Associations would be disbanded but may remain intact in a different capacity, without the requirement to elect Directors to serve on the CEA Board of Directors. Regional Associations could be restructured and renamed to serve the members in an education and networking capacity, at a local level, without the need for governance structure and activities.

Action Items and Timeline

- Regional Association leaders are asked to take this information back to their Regional Association members and share with their members to seek feedback.

- Regional Associations shall provide a written report to CEA Headquarters regarding any feedback. This report is due to CEA Executive Director, Teresa Excinia, via e-mail by Friday, May 15, 2022, who will compile the reports for the Executive Board.
- The Executive Board shall meet in May/June to review and discuss the member feedback.
- Amendments to the CEA Bylaws shall be drafted and presented to the Board of Directors at the August 13, 2022, Board of Directors meeting. The proposed amendments shall be e-mailed in advance of the meeting in accordance to CEA governing documents.
- If the proposed amendments are approved by the Board of Directors in proper time, the proposed amendments shall be published in advance and presented to the CEA members during the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, October 22, 2022, during the Annual Conference at the Renaissance LAX Hotel. If the proposed amendments to the Bylaws are approved by two-thirds of the members in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting, the revised Bylaws shall be effective immediately, thus effecting the 2023 CEA Board of Directors structure.

Questions

Any questions should be presented, in writing, to the following:

- Susan Paul, President – mrspaul1992@msn.com
- Teresa Excinia, MBA, CAE, Executive Director – teresa@caladmanagement.com
- Stephanie Schoen, Board Liaison and Membership Coordinator – stephanie@caladmanagement.com
- Jenny Blevins, CMP, Special Projects – jennifer@caladmanagement.com

Thank you for your participation in this very important process; CEA appreciates your valuable feedback and investment of time.