

Southwind

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Association of
Electric Motor Repair Shops
for Co-operative
Self-Improvement

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SPECIAL EDITION INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS DROPS BOMBHELL ON U.S. CHAPTERS

UNANIMOUS VOTE BY BOARD TO *DISSOLVE* ALL CHAPTERS, REGIONS AND
"STRICTLY GEOGRAPHICAL" REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES

As reported in the August edition of *Currents*, the EASA Board of Directors, at its recent meeting in Washington, DC, "approved recommendations by the Ad Hoc Committee on Chapters/Regions to: 1) Remove governance/charters from all Chapters in the U.S. 2) Eliminate regions and therefore geographically based representation on the Board of Directors." According to *Currents*, immediate past Chairman Les Parsons announced this action in remarks addressed to the Annual Business Meeting June 23 in Washington. His comments were printed verbatim in *Currents* [and reprinted on page 2 of this *Southwind*] and will undoubtedly spark an intense debate among the organization's members, Chapter officers and Chapter directors. Although more details have been promised, these remarks are tantalizingly vague.

While asserting that this step has been taken to make the Association "stronger and more responsive to the needs of the majority of our members," no explanation is given for how eliminating "strictly geographical" representation on the board will further this goal. Although there are "many reasons" the Board is making this recommendation, the only one directly referenced is a need to "reallocate our resources so we can provide technical assistance in new areas – perhaps first starting with pumps." According to EASA International Chairman Bill Nielsen, this reflects the Board's belief that dues monies currently going to the Chapters would be better used by International for (among other things) expanding technical support services into areas such as pumps. The result, however, could be an ultimate lack of local control of the organization as a whole. A comparison to state and federal governments is inescapable.

More details have been promised and will be forthcoming in the September *Currents*. However, this question is of vital interest to the Southeastern Chapter and we cannot allow our upcoming Fall Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (October 7-9) to approach without addressing it. The Southeastern Chapter Board of Directors will meet immediately prior to the Fall Conference, and the membership of our Chapter will conduct its Annual Meeting of the Chapter at 9:00 AM, Saturday October 9 at the Myrtle Beach Hilton Resort. This issue will undoubtedly be a topic of discussion and action at both of these events, and we hope that Mr. Nielsen, who will be a special guest and speaker at our conference, will be able to give us more information.

We are urgently asking all Chapter members to make *every effort* to attend this most important Annual Meeting, even if they are unable to register and attend the conference. Based on information that will (hopefully) be given to us by Mr. Nielsen, and recommendations made by the Chapter Board of Directors, we expect to take some action that will express the will of our Chapter and direct its resources to support this bylaws amendment, work toward its defeat, or simply remain neutral in the coming debates.



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IMPORTANT!
SPECIAL EDITION – PLEASE READ!

*By Bill Nielsen
Chairman of the Board
Flanders Electric Motor Service of
Illinois, Inc.
Marion, Illinois*

At its recent meeting in Washington, DC, your Board of Directors took important actions that we believe are necessary for EASA to remain strong and viable.

While there are many details to be worked out, I want to let you know what information is available now.

Parsons Announcement At Business Meeting

Following are remarks made by Les Parsons, our immediate past chairman, at the Annual Business Meeting on June 23 in Washington:

“I’m very pleased to be able to announce a very positive and potentially far reaching action taken by your Board of Directors.

The Board has taken a bold step to make our Association stronger and more responsive to the needs of the majority of our members. As part of our new strategic plan, the Board voted at its pre-convention meeting to ask the membership next spring to approve changes to EASA’s bylaws that will remove the charters from all the chapters in the U.S. (so the chapters in the States would be dissolved) as well as eliminate regions and *strictly* geographically based representation on the Board of Directors.

There are many reasons that the Board will be making this recommendation to the membership. Our new strategic plan directs us to reallocate our resources so we can provide technical assistance in new areas—perhaps first starting with pumps.

Technical support is—by far—the most highly valued and most highly utilized member benefit.

Membership approval of our bylaws proposals next spring will allow your Association to use its resources more efficiently and effectively—again, for the *majority* of our members.

There are many more reasons the Board feels this action would be in the best interests of members.

You can be assured that we will outline the big picture surrounding this proposal for the entire membership in *CURRENTS* and in other Association forums over the coming months.

We want you to know why this proposal will be so good for you, for the membership and for EASA. And of course we want your support in making it happen.

Ultimately, you and other members will decide—through a bylaws vote to be held next spring—whether the plan is implemented. We believe it is the right thing, and we want your support. Again, we will provide much more information about this in the coming months.”

Best Interests Of Members

The Board is elected and charged with making decisions that are in the best interests of the Association membership as a whole. And with its **unanimous** vote in June, we feel the Board did just that.

More details and reasoning behind these proposed changes will be available in the next issue of *CURRENTS*. And, as Past Chairman Parsons indicated in his remarks, the membership will ultimately decide whether to carry out the Board’s recommendations.

This article appeared in the August edition of *Currents* and is reprinted by permission.

I regret that the quality of this reproduction is not up to the usual standards of the *Southwind* Newsletter.

Proposed Agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Chapter, October 9, 2004 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

- I. Call to Order, Chapter President Brenda Cole
- II. Reading of the Minutes
- III. Reports
- IV. Special Orders
 - A. Competing Motions to automatically restructure the Chapter dues amount:
 - (a) A net loss in any operating year shall be divided by the number of members, rounded to the nearest dollar, and added to the chapter dues amount for the following year.
 - (b) The annual membership dues amount shall immediately be raised to \$200 per year, and a dues credit of \$100 annually given to each member firm that attends one or more Chapter conferences each year.
 - B. Information and discussion regarding the EASA International proposed bylaws amendment which would dissolve the Southeastern Chapter. Motions will be entertained to establish the position of the Chapter on this issue, and to develop a strategy to implement that position.
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Adjournment