

## **Response of the Special Revision Committee to the March 18 Report of the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Constitution & Bylaws**

---

In his report of March 18, 2011, the CBL Chairman makes a number of very strong statements regarding the proposed revised Constitution and the process by which it was developed. Some of these statements do not stand up to scrutiny and some should be viewed as “personal opinions” and not findings of fact. Other statements relate to Bylaws and not the Constitution. It must be noted that this report appears to be the work of the Chairman alone and not the three member Standing Committee. It should not be represented as a Standing Committee report.

We will address the main points briefly in this note.

No Input from Members: The CBL Chairman comments that there was no input to the revision. This is false. The Committee interviewed Standing Committee Chairs, all Region Presidents and several Past International Presidents. We reviewed previous member surveys, a report by a Past International President and Committee reports including those of the 2020 Committee. As well, we received almost 300 comments from members through available web forums that were viewed 15,700 times.

“Blue Ribbon” Committee: The inference here that the Revision Committee members are unqualified is inappropriate. This statement suggests that there are different classes of members. Committee members were chosen as a diverse group representing a broad cross-section of WBCCI. All are members in good standing who have served and are serving in elected positions at the Unit, Region and International levels of the Club.

Revision Committee violates the WBCCI Constitution: The CBL Chairman describes the formation of the Committee as being in violation of the current Constitution and Bylaws. This is false. The mandate of the CBL Committee is to review proposed “amendments”. Robert’s Rules is very clear that when changes proposed are so extensive as to be a new document, these are revisions and not amendments. This was clearly explained – the CBL Committee is not mandated to do a revision.

Not consistent with the Ohio Codes: The WBCCI attorney has stated that the proposed revision is in compliance with the Ohio Codes. To suggest otherwise is false. There appears to be a false impression that all meetings must be conducted “face to face” when in fact the Ohio codes authorize use of electronic means.

Direct voting not effective: This is unsubstantiated personal opinion. If it were true, then it must be true for all elections where individual members have the opportunity to vote, for example at the Unit level. The current Delegate system does not guarantee that the Delegate will fully reflect the Unit’s wishes and fails completely if a Delegate is unable to attend the Delegates meeting in person.

Role of Past International President: This position is not removed from being an International Officer as stated but is changed to a non-voting advisory role on the IBT.

Elimination of 3<sup>rd</sup> VP: This can readily be accomplished in conjunction with an overhaul of management of the International rally. Elimination of this position will reduce club expenses. The CBL Chairman appears to argue for the status quo throughout his report.

Reduction in Number of Regions/Areas: The proposal does not specify a number as the report would imply, leaving this to the Bylaws. A reduction combined with the elimination of the 3<sup>rd</sup> VP position could save the Club as much as \$17,000 annually.

Standard of Conduct: The Revision Committee has indeed changed the Code of Ethics to prevent it from being used as an enforcement tool to punish outspoken members. The notion that we might somehow be opened up to legal action is a personal opinion not shared by Committee members. An alternative view is that use of the current Code as an enforcement tool could open the Club to litigation.

Name of Corporation: Adding the words “also known as the Airstream RV Association” does not compromise any agreement with Airstream Inc., it simply incorporates the wording currently on the WBCCI letterhead which more clearly identifies who we are.

End of term audit: No end of term audits have been conducted in recent memory, so the CBL Chairman is arguing to retain something that WBCCI does not do. The Club will be better served by an independent CPA review of the financial statements, which will be incorporated into the Bylaws and which will provide the desired independent professional oversight at lower cost. We are a simple organization and a formal audit is an unnecessary expense.

IBT Meetings: The CBL Chairman does not recognize that much routine club business can be conducted electronically without the expense of travel to meeting sites. Using electronic means to do routine business frees up scheduling of meetings and saves the Club money.

Burden on Staff: The workload for compiling direct member voting results has been studied and found to be very modest. The impact on HQ staff is minor, amounting to a few hours to tabulate votes as well as the time required to prepare and send out ballots. This would be offset by the elimination of staff time formerly dedicated to preparing for the Delegates meeting.

Nominating Committee: Concern about nominations from the floor is unnecessary as the proposed process would allow candidates to “self-declare” by a specified date. Members should know the names and qualifications of all candidates and what each candidate wants to achieve in the office sought.

Amendments: The CBL Chairman opposes streamlining the amendment process. The current processes are complex, confusing (witness the DenCo motion) and time consuming. Change is needed. A streamlined process with Direct Member Voting will be more efficient.

Warning: This warning is highly inappropriate and beyond the role of the Chairman. It is also inappropriate to advise Delegates not to listen to anyone outside their Unit or Region. Does The CBL Chairman want to block members taking an interest and sharing opinions about issues that are important to members? Discourse among members is always to be encouraged.

**Closing Comment**

As the proposed revision is outside the mandate of the Constitution and Bylaws Standing Committee, a copy of the proposed revision was sent to the CBL Chairman as a courtesy and not as a requirement of the WBCCI Constitution and Bylaws. His report was improperly sent directly to Region Presidents and circumvented the Executive Committee. The report appears to be his work alone, based mostly on personal opinion of merit and not a factual review of the technical validity of the proposed revision.