

Committee History

In 1977, NAHB appointed a task force to study the role of the Associate members: how NAHB could best serve them and the role they could play in NAHB's political actions. The task force found that a national committee could act as a clearinghouse, providing ideas to aid in the development of Associate membership, including prototype programs and projects to use on the local level. It recommended that, under the NAHB Bylaws, a national Associate Members Committee be established, and the Board of Directors agreed.

The Associate Outreach Network

The committee formed a group made of two representatives from each state. First called the Associate Advisory Council, it is now known as the Associate Outreach Network, an informal, unofficial structure by which each state is assured an opportunity to allow its Associate members to get involved on the national level.

Associate Outreach Network members are encouraged to attend all committee meetings, invited to join any of the subcommittees and receive the same information, offer opinions, share in the recognition and work toward the same goal as committee members. However, NAHB Bylaws stipulate that only officially appointed members of the Associate Members Committee may vote.

NAHB Associate Directors and Alternates

Since its inception, the Associate Members Committee sought representatives on NAHB's Board of Directors. However, it was not until 1985 that the bylaws outlining the election of directors were amended to allow each affiliated state association to nominate one Associate member from that state as a director. The first National Associate Directors were seated in 1986 and took part in the election of NAHB's 1986 Senior Officers.

Life Directors

In 1996, the NAHB bylaws were amended to allow NAHB Associate Directors who attended two or more board meetings as a voting director in each year for 10 or more years to become Life Directors. Associate Life Directors are eligible for Senior Life Director status as well.

National Directors

In 2000, the NAHB Governance Task Force recommended and the Board approved the following change to the bylaws:

Local Associations with more than 50 Builder members, but not more than 150 Builder members, may nominate one Associate Member to the Board. Local Associations with more than 150 Builder Members may nominate one Associate member for every multiple of four director positions to which the Local Association is entitled.

These Associate Member National Directors serve in lieu of the allowable number of directors for each association.

National Associate Chairman

Bylaw changes were also made to allow for the election of a National Associate Chairman (NAC) in 2003. This NAC serves as a key representative of the Associate members and joins with the existing 15 area NACs in their role as association leaders.

In preparing for the election of this key position, the NAHB Senior Officers charged the Associate Members Committee to create a process to bring forward a nominee. In 2002, the committee approved the qualification criteria and at the 2003 IBS Board of Directors Meeting, the committee nominated Ralph O. Kennedy II, who was elected.