



National
Accreditation
Council for
Agencies
Serving People
With Blindness or Visually Impairment

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Member Communications

At the meeting May 2-3, 2003, the NAC Board of Directors implemented major changes, most of which were recommendations from the December 2002 Summit meeting of leaders in the field. (The transcript of the entire Summit is available in print and in braille from the NAC office.)

Information Sharing:

A monthly communication will be sent to member organizations from the NAC office, beginning in June 2003. The Board members will contact each member organization to start the process.

The NAC website is being updated. The plan is to eventually do most On-Site Review (OSR) communications, including OSR reports, via secured links of the NAC website. In addition, two features will be added to the website; a "forum" and a "current events" section. In the future, a database for standards compliance and demographics will be developed and made available to members.

Standards Revision:

A thorough revision of NAC's accreditation standards is planned as a three phase process. NAC signed a contract, effective May 1, 2003, with Dr. Richard E. Hyer to direct phase-one of the Project that is scheduled to be completed this September. With the assistance of about six selected associates, under Dr. Hyer, the goals of phase one are to:

- 1) Reduce to a minimum redundancies and eliminate outdated elements
- 2) Clarify the evaluation process (rating system) during the On-Site Review
- 3) Reduce the documentation requirements
- 4) Clarify and simplify the self-study preparations and
- 5) Make the format of NAC's accreditation standards more compatible with those of other recognized accrediting bodies.

The contracted amount for phase one of the Project is \$12,500.

While phases two and three are in the planning process, the primary purpose of phase two will be to restate the standards in a format that enables the assessment of agency's effectiveness and outcomes in fulfilling its mission and goals, as well as evaluating its structure and procedures. Phase three will be aimed at an agency organizing an effective continuing self-study and planning process based on a knowledge management systems approach. The revisions will be researched and validated information and regulations that will be kept continuously updated.

Fundraising Plan:

The NAC Board of Directors and its Executive are completing a Capacity Quotient (CQ) Questionnaire from the Unity Foundation. It will accomplish two things; permit NAC to apply to the Unity Foundation for operating expenses and it will begin a formal plan for fundraising. When NAC member organizations number over ninety (90), NAC can be self sustaining. With that level of membership, or higher, NAC can operate very efficiently with the support of volunteers complemented by a computerized system, although donations will be solicited to reduce the cost of special accreditation program and to continuously improve NAC's accreditation standards and services.

NAC Has Reorganized, May 3, 2003:

The primary recommendation from the Summit meeting December 13, 2002 was to include organized consumer representation on the NAC Board as voting, ex-officio members. At the May NAC Board of Directors meeting, the following revision of the constitution of the Board was established as reflected in its revised bylaws:

“Section 2. Number, Tenure and Qualifications: The number of directors shall be no fewer than 21 and no greater than 27. Of the number of directors a majority shall be chosen as members at large. In addition one ex-officio, voting member from each representing the following organizations shall be chosen:

- 1) American Council of the Blind (ACB),
- 2) Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER),
- 3) Blinded Veterans Association (BVA),
- 4) Council of Schools for the Blind (COSB),
- 5) National Association for Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI),
- 6) National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind (NCPAB),
- 7) National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and
- 8) National Industries for the Blind (NIB).”

Each organization listed will be invited to sit on the NAC Board. It will be requested that either the CEO or a representative of the CEO be selected to serve. NAC will follow the custom of other accrediting bodies to require that each organizational representative pay the cost of attending meetings and other expenses relating to NAC Board membership.

Eight seats will be permanently available January 2004 for representative members and one at-large member, for a total of 21 member positions.

The NAC member agencies would be represented in the at-large group of Board members.

The implementation schedule for adding new members was also established by a lottery and Father Gillick pulled the names out of the hat resulting in the following:

Three representative members will be installed from **NCPAB, ACB and BVA** for a full three year term ending December 31, 2006.

Three will be installed, **NFB, AER and NAPVI**, for a two-year term ending in December 31 2005.

Two more will be installed, **NIB and COSB** for a one-year term ending in December 31, 2004.

Correspondingly, new and the one-term-renewing members will be installed in year two and three until the rotation is complete. NAC will elect seven members to the Board each year for three-year terms.

NFB will be invited, with the requirement that NFB rescind or at least put their opposition to the existence of NAC in abeyance, before they take a seat on the board.

Other major changes in the structure of the Board included the Committee on Standards in place of a former Commission on Standards, and the change of the name of the Commission on Accreditation to the Committee on Accreditation and Recognition. With these changes, authority pertinent to NAC's standards and accreditation is vested in the voting members of the Board of Directors
