

A Proposal to the Membership of Subud PNW, July 2026

submitted by Rayma Norton

Proposal:

I propose that a bylaws working committee (to be approved by the regional board members) be tasked with creating clear guidelines for the selection and further definition of the role “Regional board members not at Centers” (also referred to as “members-at-large” below). The areas to be defined will include but are not limited to:

- i. Qualifications for candidates for said positions of regional member-at-large to the board;
- ii. Process of appointment or selection of candidates;
- iii. How candidates are approved (by testing, vote, both, other?),
- iv. Time or term of service for those approved to serve in this position.

These clarifying definitions are then to be submitted to the general membership for approval and amendment to the existing bylaws.

Background:

Current section of Bylaws referred to in this proposal:

V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. MEMBERS — The members of the Regional Board of Directors shall be the current officers of the Corporation (Chairperson, Co-Chair or Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer), the current Chairperson or Center delegate of each current center, and up to (5) representatives for Regional members not at Centers. Non-voting members shall be the regional representatives of Subud Enterprises Services, Subud Youth Association, Subud International Cultural Association, Susila Dharma, the Regional Housing Subcommittee, and the Regional Congress Chair.

2. Summary: This proposal addresses the need for the bylaws to further define the selection process, term of position, voting privileges, and any additional important functions and responsibilities of the newly created (early 2025) positions of up to 5 for Regional Board “members-at-large” meant to represent regional members not associated with any functioning Subud center.

3. Statement of need: The Regional Board voting membership as currently defined in our bylaws, (see Section V. A) is composed of “...current officers of the Corporation (Chairperson, Co-Chair or Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer), the current Chairperson or Center delegate of each current center, and up to (5) representatives for Regional members not at Centers.”

- a) As the bylaws currently stand, there is little or no definition of the 5 Regional members designated as Regional representatives not associated with centers, or member-at-large. It is important to further define:
- i. Requirements for candidates for the position;
 - ii. The process of appointment or selection of candidates;
 - iii. How are candidates approved (by testing, vote, both, other?)
 - iv. Time or term of service for those approved to serve in this position [lifetime membership as regional council member?].

Each of these 5 members currently have the same voting privilege as each of the regional committee members and center chairs. It is therefore important these positions be carefully considered and fully defined. All other members of the board (except committee treasurer and secretary, chosen by the regional chair) have been tested or voted upon by a majority of those they represent; they have clear terms of office and responsibilities.

Methodology:

I've chosen to address this after participating in regional board or council meetings and realizing the need for these definitions to help all board members function more smoothly with common understanding of the parameters of their responsibilities and positions. If future members-at-large are to be chosen, there needs to be a clear process so that anyone interested may participate as outlined by a process clearly stated in the bylaws.

It is my hope that a functioning bylaw working committee will take up this proposal, consult with the regional committee and those participating in regional board meetings, and formulate clear guidelines to be submitted to the membership for approval as additions to the bylaws.