

CO-PRESIDENTS/STEERING COMMITTEE

Some local Leagues choose not to have a single president but rather an alternative to the traditional board structure. Two of these alternatives are co-presidents and a steering committee.

CO-PRESIDENT

Key to the success of co-presidents is a clear chain of command to avoid duplication of effort and responsibilities "falling through the cracks." The division depends on the individuals but needs to be spelled out to avoid confusion between themselves and the rest of the board.

Pluses

- shared responsibility
- efficient use of the talents of two people
- back-up leadership
- incentive for newer members to serve
- leadership development
- opportunity for differing age and/or geographical representation

Pitfalls

- personality conflicts
- uneven division of work
- confusion about the chain of command
- gaps in communication
- duplication of effort
- more time required for coordination
- co-presidents may assume too much responsibility

Possible Alternatives

- one year presidency
- better utilization of vice presidents

STEERING COMMITTEE

Some local Leagues operate with a steering committee in place of the traditional board structure when they cannot get a president and/or board members. The steering committee, with guidance from the membership at the annual meeting, sets only a few priorities and doesn't try to undertake all of the traditional League activities. Some League jobs are done by the steering committee; others are delegated to non-committee members. Often members are willing to take on a job—or part of a job—if they don't have a formidable title and the demands of being a board member. This structure allows flexibility for a League that is experiencing problems and is a temporary arrangement while the League builds membership and leadership.

Below are some sample structures for organizing a board with co-presidents.

SOME ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURES FOR CO-PRESIDENTS

