Greetings AORE members,

Closing out 2019 and entering 2020 brought a lot of questions and opportunities to the table for AORE. In addition to paying close attention to the changing landscape in which our Association operates, the board also sought additional resources to help us better understand effective non-profit governance. Through this ongoing process, we recognize our potential to better serve our current membership and expand and connect with potential members who can contribute to our mission.

In light of recent conversations with AORE’s legal counsel, Board of Directors, Governance Committee, and National Office staff, we recognize a need to prioritize a comprehensive review and revision of the Association’s bylaws to ensure alignment with Colorado state law (where AORE is incorporated) and current non-profit governance best practices. A cursory review of the bylaws has exposed contradictions, inconsistencies, and ambiguities that complicate decision-making on behalf of the Association.

In order to do this work, the Board of Directors will be establishing a Bylaw Alignment Task Force chaired by a member of the AORE Governance Committee and comprised of current and previous AORE Board Leadership, AORE legal counsel, and one or more individuals who are outside of AORE who have experience/expertise with bylaws—ideally for bylaws of a 501c3 in the state of Colorado. The process of reviewing and revising the bylaws will be facilitated by a non-voting external consultant, Onuka Ibe, from La Piana Consulting, who has worked with the AORE board previously during its strategic planning process.

In its review, the Bylaw Alignment Task Force shall work to ensure the bylaws are in alignment with Colorado State law, best practices for nonprofit governance, AORE’s Mission and Values, and AORE’s Strategic Framework. They will submit a proposal for new or revised bylaws to the AORE Board of Directors in advance of the June Board Retreat.

Once the bylaws are aligned and approved by the board, the board will enact a communication plan with AORE’s membership to inform, educate, and provide opportunities to ask questions prior to bringing the bylaws forward for a vote by the membership.

Currently, the Governance Committee is drafting a proposal for the Board’s consideration regarding next steps regarding a special meeting and voting. I expect to have these options from the committee on March 20th, and the Board will be discussing them on our April 16th Board call. You can expect another membership update on this matter following that meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of the Board, our volunteer leadership, and our National Office staff as we continue to align our governance processes with the goal of extending AORE’s positive impact in the outdoor recreation and education field.

Best,

Kellie Gerbers
Board Chair