

## **Evolving Principles for State Affiliation Agreements**

1. NaCCRA seeks to advance the quality of life for older Americans and to promote and improve congregate living and continuing care.
2. Any individual who supports NaCCRA's mission may become a NaCCRA member upon application and payment of such dues as the Board determines.
3. NaCCRA is committed to working in partnership with other organizations that support its mission.
4. The loyalty and focus of NaCCRA Board members and Officers, while acting in those capacities, is to the national organization before, and above, any loyalty to the state or community organization with which they may also be affiliated. Though less binding, the loyalty of NaCCRA Committee members should likewise be to the welfare of the whole and not favor local interests to the detriment of the national organization.

### **Premises**

1. For NaCCRA to thrive and to gain political influence it must be a numerically strong organization, nationwide, of individual members committed to ameliorating the challenges of aging.
2. It is unreasonable to ask people to write two checks for memberships in separate organizations, one at the state level, and one for national matters; joint memberships are needed.

3. Unfortunately, past arrangements with flat dues for state and community organizations have led to the false impression that such payments conveyed individual membership privileges. Such flat dues arrangements should be phased out though state and community organizations are encouraged to continue to contribute collectively toward NaCCRA's mission.
4. The broadest range of NaCCRA services, and the greatest value from NaCCRA affiliation, will be available to those state and community organizations that operate as intrinsic chapters within NaCCRA with reduced commitment and benefits for those more loosely connected to NaCCRA depending on the degree of affiliation and coordination relative to independent, uncoordinated activities.

## **Principles**

1. Whether membership collection and administration is by the national organization, or is at the state level and handled centrally by a national administration within NaCCRA, the amount per member per year for central operations should be uniform for all states for equal services. Allowances can be made for states that use fewer or more central services.
2. Flat dues for state and community organizations can be phased out by allowing states and communities to use their collective dues to provide memberships for designated individuals until such time as there are sufficient members from that state or community to make the flat dues no longer necessary. Collective memberships are best phased out as we move toward an organization(s) of individuals.

3. In a quest for better value, extensive use can be made of electronic dissemination of information, including explicitly NaCCRA's existing LifeLine newsletter. A paid subscription option, in addition to dues, can be offered to those members who still prefer to receive a personal, mailed, printed copy of the newsletter. Some communities may elect to print the newsletter locally for distribution through in-house mail boxes.

## **Approaches**

1. Centralized administration by NaCCRA with state and community chapters as an intrinsic part of NaCCRA with some states and communities continuing to have their own 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(3) organization during a transition period and, thereafter, for certain needs.
2. Decentralized, independent state organizations, with NaCCRA confined to those matters that the state organizations authorize and agree to fund.
3. Centralized NaCCRA in affiliation with independent state organizations which then have an "Inclusion Option," which they can exercise when they are ready, to become more closely affiliated with NaCCRA.
4. Care must be taken to preserve NaCCRA's integrity as an organization and to avoid any semblance of money laundering. This is not a concern for those state and community organizations that operate as NaCCRA chapters under the NaCCRA corporate umbrella. Independent organizations, though, may wish to evolve to be able to better benefit from the NaCCRA affiliation, including progressively closer affiliation and coordination between and among the NaCCRA affiliated network.

## Questions

1. Should NaCCRA be a centralized national umbrella for resident advocacy or should the state organizations dominate with NaCCRA an adjunct to the states?
2. Should NaCCRA-facilitated administrative services, i.e. services under NaCCRA's contract with Partners in Association Management, be available to state and community organizations that are not affiliated with NaCCRA for joint dues collection?
3. Should the funding for NaCCRA be flat rate from the states, with small states paying the same as large states, or should it be per member per year or per member per month?
4. Should state organizations be allowed to benefit from tax deductible donations made to NaCCRA, recognizing its 501(c)(3) status, or should each state stand on its own for dues supplementation or sponsorships?
5. What constraints, if any, should apply to state's use of NaCCRA generated funding in light of NaCCRA's 501(c)(3) status?