



American Guild of Organists

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND THE AMERICAN ORGANIST MAGAZINE

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REORGANIZING THE REGIONS

Recently, the AGO's Long Range Planning Task Force recommended changing the boundaries and reducing the number of AGO regions. There are a number of reasons why this might be beneficial for the organization. Some of the current regions have struggled to find host chapters for conventions every two years. The current nine regions vary widely in terms of the number of members each includes. With the current divisions, the largest region has more than four times as many members as the smallest (roughly 2900 vs. 700). They also represent similarly dramatic differences in the number of medium to large chapters—chapters with the resources to undertake conventions, POEs, etc.

With regions that are more similar in size, these challenges will be lessened. The LRP task force also suggested that the regions not divide states in half. At its meetings in April 2012, the National Council considered several possible plans for redrawing our regional lines to create a map that divides our organizations membership more equally. The Council ultimately approved a plan that reduces the number of regions from nine to seven, while to a significant degree trying to work from existing regional boundaries to the extent that it is reasonable to do so. The resulting regions range in size from about 1700-3200 members—numbers that represent a better critical mass of both members and strong chapters to undertake the routine activities that we expect regions to do.

The most dramatic geographic changes are in the Northeast and the West. Adding New York to the New England states will reflect the reality that recent joint conventions between those regions represents. Making a larger western region will eliminate the separate NW region—the one that, given our current divisions, is far smaller than any of the others. Other regional boundaries are tweaked to lesser degrees, to eliminate the previously mentioned divided states and to attempt to equalize sizes elsewhere, without changing the map more than necessary. Designation of region numbers (e.g. New England as Region I), will also be eliminated, in order to avoid possible confusion between old numbers and new ones. We hope and believe that these new regional divisions will allow the Guild to function better with fewer, but stronger regions.

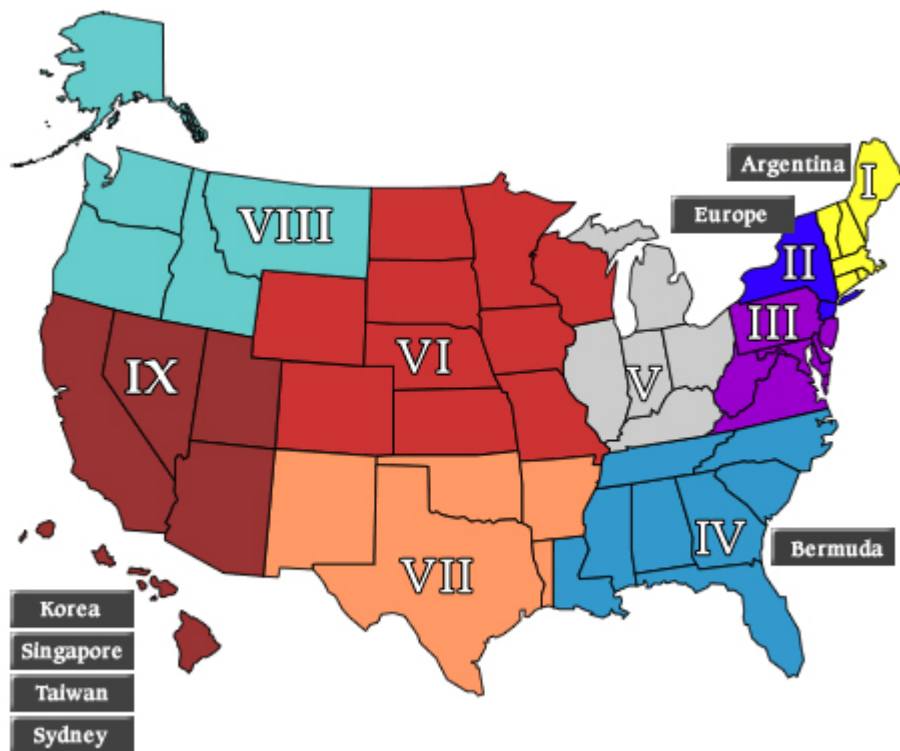
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CURRENT REGIONAL MAP



2014 REORGANIZATION

