



Opening Comments

This edition of *Realignment News* focuses on the Board Chairs & CEOs Work Session in Orlando. Here at GSUSA boxes are being packed, materials are in the final stages of preparation, and we are poised for a productive time together.

The feature article this week is on early adopters. We also have a short list of reminders and a small number of Q&A's that focus on the Orlando meeting.

Note that *Realignment News* will take a break the week following the Board Chairs & CEOs meeting and will next appear in your e-mail boxes on March 13.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ➤

Early Adopters

GSUSA received submissions from 17 council groups interested in being early adopters. Seven of them, representing 25 councils, submitted maps that were closely aligned with the Resource Map developed by the GSUSA demographer team, and had the full support of all the councils included in the submission.

These seven groups, which have been included in early adopter groupings, are listed as New Council 1, New Council 2, etc. No special meaning should be attributed to the definition of the area or the order of the listing.

New Council 1 – Connecticut – 5 Councils

Connecticut Trails, Connecticut Valley, Housatonic, Northwestern Connecticut, Southwestern Connecticut

New Council 2– Eastern New York – 4 Councils

Adirondack, Hudson Valley, Mohawk Pathways, North Country

New Council 3 – Eastern Pennsylvania – 3 Councils

Freedom Valley, Great Valley, Southeastern Pennsylvania

New Council 4 – Central Pennsylvania – 4 Councils

Hemlock, Penn Laurel, Penns Woods, Scranton Pocono

New Council 5– Eastern South Carolina – 2 Councils

Carolina Low Country, Pee Dee Area

New Council 6 – Remainder of South Carolina – 3 Councils

Congaree, Old 96, Piedmont Area

New Council 7 – Eastern Iowa/Western Illinois – 4 Councils

Conestoga, Little Cloud, Mississippi Valley, Shining Trails

Additional early adopters will have an opportunity to declare themselves on site in Orlando. This will be possible only if there is full agreement from all councils involved and close alignment between the proposed map and the resource map presented by the demographers. If you are interested please contact Vicki Wright or Jan Verhage in Orlando.

Last Minute Reminders for Orlando

- The Girl Scout organization is being profiled in a PBS broadcast documentary that will focus on companies that have gone from “Good to Great” using Jim Collins’ philosophy. A crew will be on site in Orlando to begin background filming for this television special.
- Business casual is the dress code. Uniforms are always appropriate but not required at this event.
- There won’t be a lot of free time in Orlando, but Tuesday night is “open.” If you don’t have plans to continue meeting with colleagues, you may want to enjoy some of the fun that Orlando has to offer.



1. What will early adopter groups do in Orlando when other councils are meeting in state/regional groups to discuss realignment options? Answer: Board Chairs and CEOs from councils who are early adopters will meet separately. They will take part in a detailed review of the step-by-step process for realignment and will develop individualized calendars for moving forward.

2. Is it too late for me to be an early adopter? Answer: As mentioned above, there will be an additional opportunity for early adopters to step forward in Orlando. In order to step forward all councils must agree—and the proposed map must be closely aligned to the resource map presented by the demographer team.

3. By now you have seen the resource map that is proposed by the demographers—and you have seen maps that some councils chose to submit even though they didn’t want to be early adopters. Can you give us any hints? Answer: Remembering that the demographers’ map is a resource map, I can tell you that their presentation will give us all a lot to think about. Their map was developed using the criteria that councils prioritized. Maps submitted by councils were not used. As you would expect, there is alignment in some areas and not in others. The resource map will open new possibilities for us to ponder when we meet in our state/regional groups.

4. My neighboring council submitted a map that included our jurisdiction without our permission, and I am worried that the demographers used that map in developing their proposal. Can you clarify? Answer: With the exception of early adopter councils where all parties agreed to the jurisdictional proposal, no maps were shared with the GSUSA demographer team.

5. Do we have to submit a request in advance if we would like a facilitator to meet with our group in Orlando? Answer: No. There will be facilitators in all breakout rooms to work with all groups.

6. Will we be getting a new monograph to guide us through this process? Answer: The Council Realignment Guidebook will be introduced in Orlando. This loose-leaf notebook will provide the direction councils will need to get started. The format will allow the addition of subsequent material in the weeks ahead.

7. We have already submitted draft maps to GSUSA. Will you have them on site in Orlando, or should we bring our own copies? Answer: Please bring your own copies. GSUSA has received presentations and background information from many councils and will not be transporting all those files to Orlando.

8. Can we request that the demographers come to our state/regional meeting for some individual consultation? Answer: The GSUSA demographer team will be visiting multiple state/regional groups during the breakout sessions. They will be available to answer some questions but will not be able to provide individualized consultation.
