



ITEMS OF INTEREST 

Mapping Task Force Report

The Mapping Task Force completed the first phase of its work June 21- June 23, evaluating in detail 83 council realignment proposals. The vast majority of the proposals either agreed with, or made only small adjustments to, the Resource Map. There were 18 areas around the country where council groups could not come to agreement or there were overlapping proposals.

The members of the Task Force along with our two demographers spent two and a half days together using a consensus based decision-making process that was fact based. The criteria ranked by councils were touchstones throughout the process. Every effort was made to be consistent in decision-making across the country.

The demographers were able to provide added expertise that helped drill down information to local, sub-county and even school-district levels. Commuting patterns and identifying “edge” cities, that in the near future will have their own “metro” identity, were just two additional resources that provided valuable information to the decision making. In a few cases, new information as well as additional information provided by councils, resulted in some shifts from previous feedback.

Council groups have been notified of the recommendations and/or have been asked to respond to specific requests from the Task Force. All responses and inquiries regarding the Mapping Task Force are to be directed to Vicki Wright, Project Director, Realignment Strategy by July 24. This will enable us to centralize communication and provide equal access to information for the Task Group members. The Task Force will meet again, during the week of July 24.

GSUSA staff and National Operational Volunteers are available to help council groups needing further assistance in the coming weeks. Requests for assistance should be directed to either your primary consultant or Sheryl Schulte, Director, Council Partnerships.

The National Board Realignment Task Group will meet on July 17 and again on August 12 to review the recommendations from the Mapping Task Group and prepare final recommendations for the August National Board Meeting. The National Board will have a conference call meeting in early August to begin preparations for this important decision making, which takes place in late August.

New Council Realignment Start Dates

Council groups will be notified in mid July of their realignment start date assignment. Every effort will be made to honor each group's first choice. For those councils with October 2006 start dates, Board Chairs and CEOs will be invited to attend one of three realignment training sessions, at no cost to the councils:

October 6-8 – Chicago, IL

October 8 – 10 – Edith Macy Conference Center, Briarcliff Manor, NY

October 26-28 – Dallas, TX

You may want to begin tentative planning for which date works best for your group. It will be helpful for all councils within a new council group to attend the same training. Registration information will be distributed when the start dates are announced. The April 2007 training date will be April 13-15 at the Edith Macy Conference Center.