

Council and Council Chairs:

Board Criteria for 2008

The descriptions listed below come from our bylaws. As we continue in the foundational years of Red Lodge, the leadership standards outlined in the bylaws for Board eligibility are not yet realistic because very few of us have the experience asked for. As with last year's process, we continue to hold them as a goal instead of a requirement. Nevertheless, the nature and complexity of the work we are called to dive into during these foundational years makes familiarity with our community and previous participation as Red Lodge Council members and/or in Long Dance leadership roles extremely helpful as we share common language, values, and decision-making experience.

Please note greater flexibility for eligibility this year than listed below.

BOARD COUNCILS

The Board may create and disband Board Councils as needed to attend to the business of the organization. The Chair of each Board Council (not to include adhoc councils) will sit as a member of the Board.

BOARD COUNCIL CHAIRS

Board Council chairs will be selected by the same nominating process used for the Board officers. Duties of the Council chairs include but are not limited to managing the business of their Council, providing liaison between the Board and the Council, reporting Council recommendations to the Board and/or presenting any issue to the Board that needs Board approval such as financial expenditures

CRITERIA FOR BOARD POSITIONS and COUNCIL CHAIRS (except WWLD representatives)

Women who have been Lodge Sister members of WWRL and actively engaged in WWRL leadership activities for at least one year are eligible to serve in these positions. WWRL leadership is defined as serving on a Prior Board, a Board Council or facilitation/co facilitation of at least three offerings produced or sponsored by WWRL. Previous participation in four WWLD gatherings and a minimum of one leadership* role is suggested.

SELECTION FOR BOARD POSITIONS and COUNCIL CHAIRS

The Board will name a Nominating Coordinator by September 1st. The Coordinator may invite others to sit with her on an adhoc council. Through a process of self-selection, stepping up, and invitation, the Nominating Coordinator presents a slate of names for open Board positions to the membership at the Annual Fall Red Lodge Wisdom Council (RLWC) for discussion and review by the community. In the event that more than one person steps up to serve in the same position and discussion between the parties stepping up and the community present at the RLWC does not result in all but one stepping down, the issue will then be taken to the Conflict Evolution Council for mediation with a recommendation provided to the Board. The Board finalizes all positions by heart agreement, and the new Board takes office in January.

BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES

Should a midterm vacancy occur in any Board position except for the WWLD Representative, the Board will consider eligible candidates, self-selected or by nomination, and confirm by heart agreement. In the case of a WWLD vacancy, the current WWLD Facilitator(s) will appoint an eligible candidate and the Board will confirm by heart agreement.

Board Council Members

May be selected by nomination or self-selection process from Lodge Sister or Support Sister Circles and confirmed by heart agreement by that specific Council. Council members make an annual commitment to serve from January to January and make and/or renew their commitment at the annual fall RLWC. Council members may invite consultants from the private sector for sharing advice and/or skills when needed. These consultants may be offered remuneration for their services with Board approval. These consultants would attend Council meetings and/or RLWC on an invitation basis only and would not participate in heart agreements.

COUNCIL SIZE

No less than 3 members including chair. Smaller working groups may be organized within any given Council to gather information and provide services needed. These smaller working groups will be organized by consensus process and self-selection at a Council meeting.

ADHOC COUNCILS

Adhoc councils may be formed and disbanded by the Board and/or Board Councils. Adhoc councils serve a specific, temporary purpose. Adhoc council members are confirmed by the body requesting their formation through heart agreement.

ADVISORY COUNCILS

May be formed by the Board to serve as an adjunct to the Board for information gathering, recommendations on legal or organizational issues, to provide broad perspective and specific skills not found within the membership. Composition and criteria to be determined by the Board or Board Council when the need for such a Council develops. Criteria for serving and composition of Advisory Councils will be determined by the Board through heart agreement. Training or experience in compassionate listening, nonviolent communication, or similar communication models would be of benefit in serving in this group and are highly encouraged but not mandatory.

MENTORING

All board members may serve as mentors with the agreement of the individuals involved and agreement by the Board as a whole. Non board members being mentored will not participate in the heart agreement process of the Board. Mentoring within Board Councils may also be arranged with that Board Council chair.

RED LODGE WISDOM COUNCIL

WWRL Wisdom Council (RLWC) is a community meeting open to any interested WWRL members to address community issues, plan, and organize the work of WWRL. Lodge Sister and Support Sister members may participate in heart agreement decisions at RLWC. RLWC provides the opportunity to get feedback, information, inspiration, ideas, and direction from the WWRL membership to the Board as well as the opportunity for the Board to report on progress, direction, and decisions and to seek help from the membership. Input, including heart agreements, provide advisory recommendations for the WWRL Board to consider in its final decision making authority. RLWC will be called by a Board officer and held at least biannually. Announcements of RLWC will be made to the community at least 30 days in advance. Facilitators for RLWC will be self-selected and agreed upon by the Board. In person attendance for all WWRL members is strongly encouraged; when this is not possible, ideas may be shared in written form. In addition, any member of the Lodge Sister Circle and Support Sister Circle may approach a Board member with a request that a RLWC be held. After discussion and Agreement by the Board a RLWC may be called. The Board officer calling the RLWC will provide at least 30 days notice to the WWRL Community at large

DEFINITIONS

WWRL is Woman's Way Red Lodge

WWLD is Woman's Way Long Dance

RLWC is Red Lodge Wisdom Council

*A leadership role in WWLD is defined as a lodge leader or co leader or facilitator or co facilitator of a WWLD gathering.