

## **CHARTER OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL PLANNING GROUP**

1. **GENERAL:** The Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Group (RPG) is a volunteer body which acts as a voice for the membership (local and student group and action team members, network members, volunteer leaders, and individual members) and as an advisory board to the Regional Office. The RPG helps formulate policies for the region and to craft a regional budget, which reflects these policies. The Regional Office shall consult the RPG on all fundamental policy matters relating to their program, including long-range and annual plans, major policy or program changes or initiatives, program evaluation, and budget planning. The Chair of the Board of Directors shall designate a Director as liaison between the RPG and Board.

2. **FUNCTIONS:** The major functions of the RPG are to (a) help develop the regional work plan; (b) provide advice to the Regional Office, national staff, Board of Directors, and other AIUSA structures on AIUSA's work in the Region; (c) assist in planning the Regional Conference, fall leadership meeting, area meetings, and other volunteer gatherings; (d) promote broad membership education and participation about AIUSA's policy and decision-making process; and (e) keep in touch with, and serve as a voice for, members in the Region.

3. **MEMBERS:** The RPG ordinarily consists of up to seven volunteer members, plus the Regional Director ex officio. About half of RPG members ordinarily should be youth. Members shall serve two-year terms, with approximately half of the terms expiring each year. The RPG shall reflect diversity of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, socioeconomic status, geography, and AIUSA experience.

4. **APPOINTMENTS:** The RPG (except for any members seeking reappointment) shall appoint members to the RPG in accordance with any applicable provisions of the AIUSA Guidelines for Appointment or Removal of Volunteer Leaders. The RPG shall advertise for new members in the Monthly Mailing, the AIUSA web-site, and in email announcements to every group and volunteer leader in the Region. No member shall serve more than six years consecutively or rejoin the RPG less than a year after leaving it.

5. **MEETINGS:** The RPG shall ordinarily meet in person at the fall leadership meeting, the Regional Conference, the Annual General Meeting, and at least one full day meeting per year. In addition, the RPG may meet by conference call as frequently as once a month.

6. **DECISION-MAKING PROCESS:** To make formal decisions on matters relating to AI's Mid-Atlantic Region, the RPG will seek to develop a consensus, and if a consensus is not reached can decide to proceed with a vote or to continue further discussion as needed. In the event of a vote, which can be called and seconded by any member, a minimum number of members (a quorum) will be required, as noted below.

I) Quorum

The presence of not less than 50% of the members shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to make official RPG decisions, as follows.

If 7 members, 4 will be required to constitute a quorum

If 6 members, 4 will be required to constitute a quorum

If 5 members, 3 will be required to constitute a quorum

If 4 members, 3 will be required to constitute a quorum

If 3 members, 3 will be required to constitute a quorum

II) Voting

Two types of voting will be taken: 1) Changes to the RPG decision making process enclosed in this document (referred to from now on as the "Charter"), and 2) Decisions not affecting the RPG Charter. Voting will be based on the following:

A) Changes to the RPG Charter

This Charter may be altered, amended, repealed or added to by an affirmative vote, as follows:

If 7 members, 6 will be required to change the RPG Charter  
If 6 members, 5 will be required to change the RPG Charter  
If 5 members, 5 will be required to change the RPG Charter  
If 4 members, change to the RPG Charter is not possible  
If 3 members, change to the RPG Charter is not possible

B) Decisions not affecting the RPG Charter

Decisions not affecting the RPG Charter will pass by affirmative vote of not less than 50% of the members present, as follows:

Note: Decisions not affecting the RPG Charter may be determined to be of such a nature that members not present will be consulted before action is taken, even if a quorum is present, based on the recommendation and second by any members.

If 7 members present, 4 will be required to pass a vote  
If 6 members present, 4 will be required to pass a vote  
If 5 members present, 3 will be required to pass a vote  
If 4 members present, 3 will be required to pass a vote  
If 3 members present, 3 will be required to pass a vote

7. SUBGROUPS: The RPG may function through sub-groups composed of RPG members and possibly staff and/or other volunteer leaders.

8. OFFICERS: The RPG shall select a chair or co-chairs to serve for one year terms. The Regional Director will serve as secretary of the RPG.

9. CHANGES: The RPG may change this charter, provided that any change to this charter shall cease to be effective unless the following regional conference ratifies the change by resolution.

ADOPTED BY THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 2005