

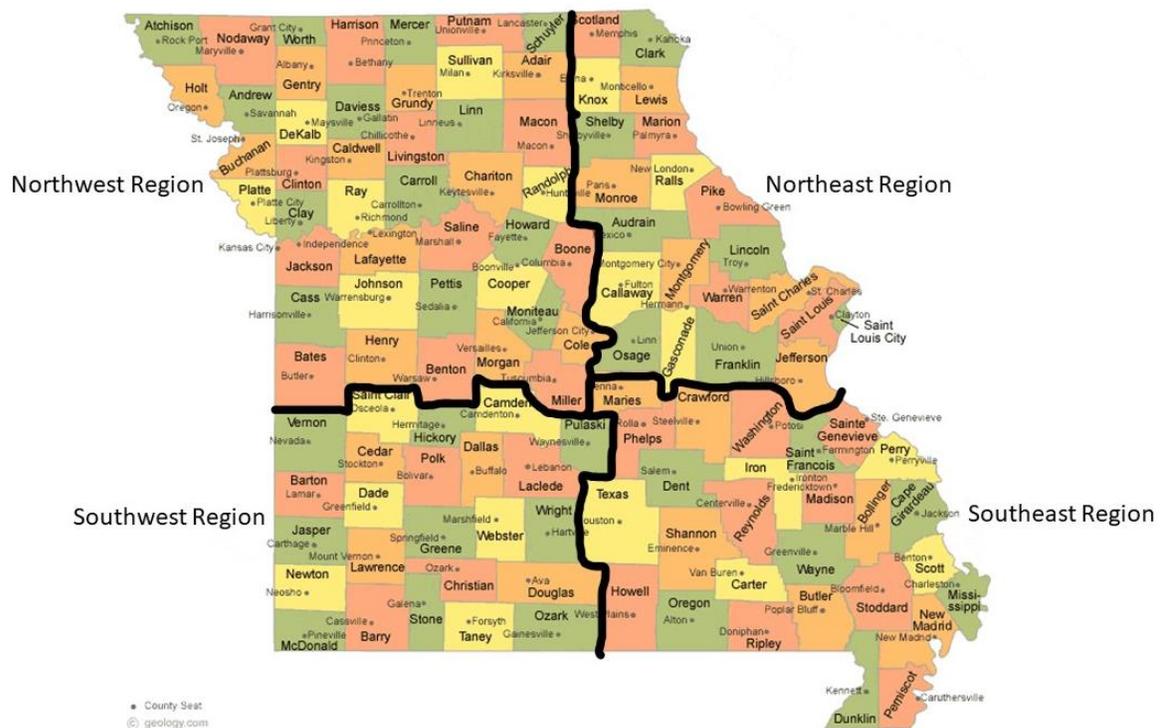
January 31, 2019

Dear MOAND Members,

I am pleased to inform you about some exciting changes coming to the Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the district affiliates. For many years, the district affiliates in our state have served the professional needs of our members through networking and continuing education opportunities. Over the decades, countless members have taken on leadership roles at the district level, allowing them to gain valuable leadership experience and make a positive impact on the value of membership in their districts.

Today, we know that our members have many more options for networking and continuing education than they used to, and that participation at the district level has changed. In recent years, many districts have seen a decline in membership and in the willingness of members to take on leadership roles. These changes make it difficult for districts to function as they used to. Over the past few years, MOAND has learned more about the challenges faced by many of our state's district affiliates and over the past year and a half, we began to explore what other states have done to address similar concerns. We learned that shifting from a district model to a regional model has helped several states to improve the value of Academy membership at the local level. **In a regional model, members still enjoy programming locally, while governance occurs at the state level.** After surveying MOAND members and individual district members regarding a potential transition from districts to regions, we found that the vast majority of members are in favor of this shift.

On September 17, 2018, after many months of consultation with district leadership, the MOAND Board voted in favor of shifting from a district model to a regional model. The Board feels that a regional model will benefit more of our 1400+ members than the district model currently does. After gathering input from current district leaders and members and analyzing how MOAND members are distributed geographically throughout the state, the Board voted on November 12, 2018, to approve a four-region structure, which will consist of the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast regions.



In order to continue moving forward with the transition to regions, amendments to the MOAND bylaws governing the composition of the MOAND Board of Directors must be approved by a vote of the Board. Prior to this vote, there is a mandatory 30-day period during which members are invited to submit comments on the proposed bylaw amendments. Please take time to review the proposed bylaw amendments posted on the MOAND website, and [submit your comments here](#) by March, 2, 2019.

Following the mandatory 30-day comment period, comments from members will be considered prior to a vote by the Board of Directors to approve the proposed amendments.

Once the amendments to the MOAND bylaws are approved by the Board, the MOAND Nominating Committee will present a ballot for the March election that includes candidates for a new **Regional Director** position. Starting June 1, 2019, each of the regions will have a **Regional Director** – an elected, voting member of the MOAND Board who will function as both a leader in his/her region and a liaison between his/her region and the MOAND Board. In addition, a **Continuing Education Chair** will be added to the Board. This appointed, non-voting Board member will provide organizational, logistical, and administrative support to the Regional Directors in planning and executing statewide programming. **If you are interested in serving on the MOAND Board starting in June 2019, [please contact any member of the Board or the MOAND Executive Director](#).** A list of **Frequently Asked Questions** that provides further explanation of the districts-to-regions transition can be found on the MOAND website.

MOAND is dedicated to making this a smooth and successful transition for our members and as we move forward we will continue to share progress reports through our website and monthly e-newsletter. I would like to thank the MOAND Board of Directors for their time, dedication, and thoughtful consideration in this matter, as well as all MOAND members who answered surveys and shared their ideas and input through their district leaders. The Board feels that the shift to regions will allow MOAND to build on its rich history by providing members with valuable benefits in new ways and we look forward to the future of our organization with optimism and enthusiasm.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Collier, MS, RD, LD
President, Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics