The US is organized into 11 geographic regions to facilitate transplantation. In each region, a Regional Councillor, an Associate Regional Councillor, and a UNOS Regional Administrator work together to coordinate regional activities. Each region is represented by the Councillor on the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors and there is a regional representative on most of the standing OPTN committees. Regional meeting information is posted to the Regions section on the UNOS Transplant Pro website.

Regional Meeting Overview

- Public comment periods offer an opportunity to provide feedback on proposed changes to OPTN policies (OPTN public comment)
- Meetings are held twice each year during the spring (Jan-March) and fall (Aug-Oct) public comment periods
- The meeting agenda is divided into two sections: discussion and non-discussion (ND) policy proposals*
- Discussion policy proposals are presented and discussed at the regional meeting
- ND policy proposals are not discussed at the regional meeting

*All policy proposals – discussion and ND – are presented during national webinars held during the public comment period.

Regional Meeting Agenda

The regional meeting is chaired by the Regional Councillor. A typical meeting includes the following components:

- Regional update presented by the Regional Councillor
- UNOS update presented by a UNOS executive or President/VP of OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors
- OPTN committee updates presented by Regional Representatives of OPTN committees
- Policy proposals presented by Regional Representatives from the sponsoring committees followed by discussion and voting (discussion items only)

Voting

Regional meeting votes are advisory and help the Regional Councillor represent the viewpoints of the region to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors on each policy proposal.

- Each organization receives one vote, but anyone may voice feedback or ask questions. When the Councillor calls for a vote, members will be asked to indicate support, opposition, or abstention.
- Anyone may propose an amendment to a proposal which may be voted on with the proposal, or can be voted on separate from the proposal as written; there may be a call to vote on amended proposals.
- Regional Administrators announce vote tallies and take notes on the feedback voiced by meeting attendees to create written comments that express the sentiments of the region.
- Regional comments on proposals are posted to the OPTN website in the public comment section* and shared with the sponsoring committee for each proposal and the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors for consideration.

*Members and general public are encouraged to post individual comments on the OPTN website in the public comment section.

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