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Subject: Clarifying some terms
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NCAR vs NAR Advocates or Liaisons Liaisons or Contacts

Welcome to another edition of "Seedlings", the email communication tool brought to you by the Ikebana Regional Advocates from the North & Central American Region (NCAR).

We have had questions about some terms we use, and to be quite honest, we agree that it can be confusing.

1. What is the difference between NAR and NCAR?
2. Are we Regional Liaisons or Regional Advocates and how is that different from our chapter liaisons?
3. What is a Chapter Contact anyway?

NCAR vs NAR

Until 2017, the Ikebana International North American Region was referred to as NAR. At this time, NAR was combined with the Central Region of Ikebana International to create the NCAR (North & Central American Region). We now refer to ourselves as NCAR. In fact, our website is now identified as

ikebananar.org

Regional Liaisons vs. Regional Advocates

In 2019 at the 18th North & Central American Regional Conference in Dallas, a resolution was passed to expand the NCAR Liaison function from a Communication Chair to an NCAR Liaison Committee with several representatives from all over the region, including the existing Communications Chair (Stephanie English) and an overall Committee Chair.

That committee is now:

[Magdalena Tamura-Reid](#) – At Large & Northwest - Committee Chair

[Elizabeth Biddle](#) – East

[Patricia O'Reilly](#) – West

[Midwest](#) - Open

[Susan Cano](#) – South

[Stephanie English](#) - Communications and Florida

We started as the **Regional Liaison Committee**. However, the term "advocate" seems to better fit our mission of "serving North & Central American Ikebana chapters to expand the Art of Ikebana through communication and action" and advocating for chapters to grow and thrive. We now use Regional Advocates Committee.

What is a Chapter Contact?

For a very long time, when the Communications Chair was communicating with all the chapters (originally via snail mail), a list of chapter presidents and chapter "liaisons" was developed. At that time the chapter liaison, usually the corresponding secretary, was to distribute the information from the "Region" to all the chapter members. Often the liaison did so via a chapter newsletter (originally distributed by mail) or via announcements at a chapter meeting.

Things have changed a lot, primarily through our method of communication.

- Chapters were asked by I.I. Headquarters to establish a chapter email address.
- NAR stopped mailing newsletters over 10 years ago and began

distributing them via email to chapter email addresses.

- Seven years ago, NAR, now NCAR, started a website (ikebananar.org, now ikebanancar.org), thus ending the need for quarterly issued newsletters.
- The website became the conduit for listing the contact information for all chapters and their liaisons (now contacts).
- Since 2014 we began sending emails as needed to all NCAR chapters using their chapter email address and MailChimp software.

Since the term "chapter liaison" was being used, we opted to change the name from "chapter liaison" to "chapter contact" to differentiate it from Regional Advocate Committee.

The person taking the formerly "liaison" responsibility for the chapter has changed too. It no longer needs to be the corresponding secretary. It can be anyone who wants the job of making sure the communications from the NCAR Regional Advocates are shared with all your chapter members. We believe it is important to have at least two people to communicate with in every chapter and that chapters are forwarding these emails to their chapter members.

If you need further clarification, feel free to contact your Regional Advocate. Not sure which region your chapter is in - [click here](#).

Your Regional Advocates

[Magdalena Tamura –Reid](#) – At Large & Northwest & Midwest

[Elizabeth Biddle](#) – East

[Midwest](#) - OPEN

[Patricia O'Reilly](#) – West

[Susan Cano](#) – South

[Stephanie English](#) - Florida

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