

Excerpt from “Taking Stock,” in the May issue of Lumber Co-Operator

The three significant changes approved by the NLBMDA Board were:

Creating a one-membership system where a supplier member joins NLBMDA and is also a member of 11 Federated Associations. While the NRLA Board of Directors understood the convenience of associate members writing one check to NLBMDA instead of writing multiple checks to each federated association, the NRLA Board did not support this concept. The NRLA Board felt it was critical for NRLA to maintain relationships with our 230+ associate members and not put the support of this important membership segment into the hands of another entity—one that has stated it is struggling to provide value to its associate members. As a reminder, NRLA associate members pay dues to the NRLA, which includes membership in the 14 NRLA state and local association affiliates. The dues do not include membership with the NLBMDA, which is why the Manufacturers & Services Council exists.

The NLBMDA Board also voted to allow MSCs to partner with NLBMDA to provide education and podcasts to members on subjects including non-legislative or regulatory issues. Dana Schnipper, who serves as NRLA’s representative on the

NLBMDA’s Board, voted against this proposal as the activities are not a part of NLBMDA’s mission, which is solely to provide federal legislative and regulatory services to retail members. NLBMDA views the activities being within their mission because if they are unable to provide value to the MSCs, they may not be able to afford federal legislative and regulatory services.

The third significant initiative approved by the NLBMDA Board was to share NLBMDA’s primary contact list with MSC members. This list includes all NRLA retail members. Dana Schnipper requested that NLBMDA include an opt-in provision, and this amendment was approved. It should be noted that NRLA does not provide its retail membership list to associates or third parties. Although NRLA has shared your information strictly for legislative purposes, once it was provided to NLBMDA, they were permitted to use it as they see fit. Following the disaffiliation, you can expect to receive membership solicitations from NLBMDA.

-- Rita Ferris, NRLA president