



Society of American Foresters

Chapter Reconfiguration

September 2018





Introduction

The WI Society of American Foresters (SAF) State Executive Committee has taken up the task of examining the geographic configuration and number of state chapters to determine if an alternative exists that would enhance SAF's ability to be more robust and better serve its members and Wisconsin's forestry community.

➤ May 2018 White Paper along with WI SAF Member Survey

Background

- Wisconsin is currently served by 6 WI SAF Chapters and 2 student chapters.
- Each Chapter needs to have at least one meeting per year to retain authorization and be governed by officers:
 - Chair
 - Chair-Elect
 - Secretary & Treasurer
 - Note: This can be the same person



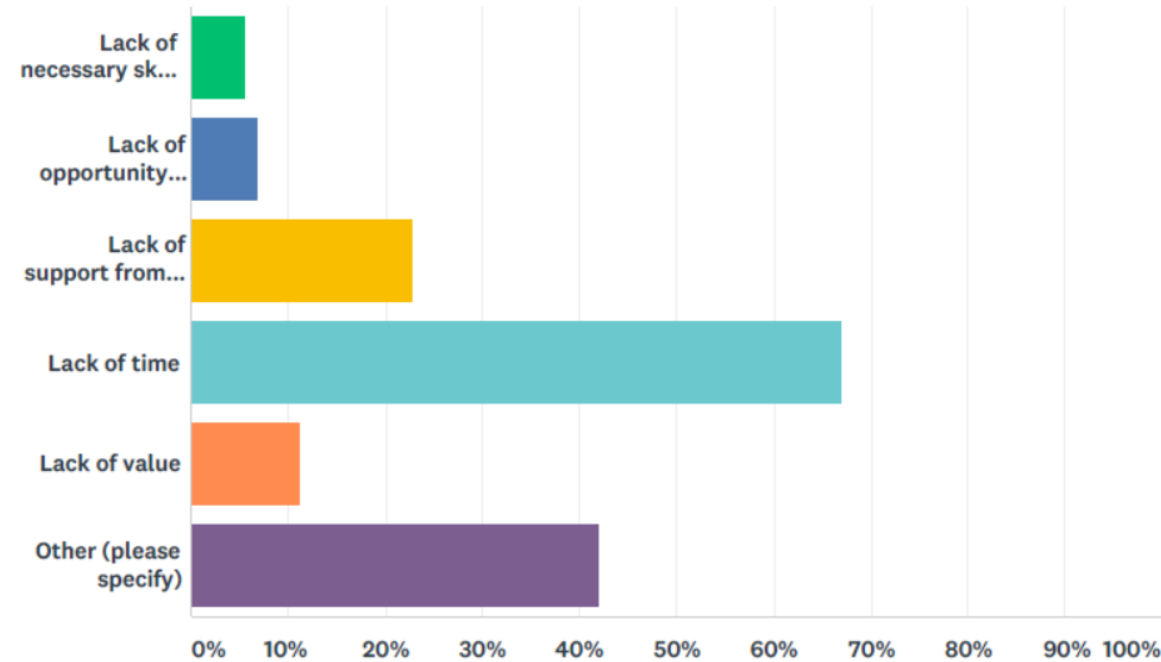
Wisconsin SAF Chapter Map

Challenge

Q5 Which of the following do you consider as impediments to serving in a WI SAF leadership/officer role? Select all that apply.

Answered: 88 Skipped: 8

- Recruiting members to fill WI SAF Chapter officer positions has been very difficult.
 - Positions can remain vacant for extended periods.
 - NE Chapter is w/o officers and has not had a meeting in 3 years.
 - Officers stay in positions past their initial commitment.
- Due to open positions and struggling Chapters, local WI SAF activities are limited, and member enthusiasm can suffer.
- The causes for our challenges are likely numerous but not unique to WI SAF.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Lack of necessary skill sets (e.g., I need more leadership skills first.)	5.68%	5
Lack of opportunity (e.g., I'd like to but am not sure how to get involved.)	6.82%	6
Lack of support from my employer	22.73%	20
Lack of time	67.05%	59
Lack of value	11.36%	10
Other (please specify)	42.05%	37

How do we solve this?

Considerations and Guiding Principles

- An important SAF value is the connection provided to others in the forestry community.
- SAF officer positions provide valuable leadership experience and chapters offer perhaps more attainable opportunities to a greater number of individuals as opposed to state level positions.
- SAF members value staying abreast of local relevant topics.
- Local events minimize travel time and expenses.
- Relevance and opportunities for young professionals need to be emphasized.
- WI SAF needs to do more; the status quo is not desirable.
- Chapter treasuries need to be considered and availability of funds for local use retained.



In summary, any new configuration should retain and /or enhance:

- Local relevance for members
- SAF members and forestry community interaction
- Opportunities for members to foster leadership skills
- Increased activity level



Survey

- In May 2018, an email survey polled 248 WI SAF members to determine if a reduction in the number of chapters was advisable and to examine the causes behind the lack of new leadership.
 - 96 members responded. The membership survey and comments indicted a number of reasons WI SAF has failed to attract new leaders.
 - 49% of those responding to the survey, are currently in a SAF leadership position or have held a position in the past.
 - A majority, 56% (49 respondents out of 88 that answered the question) of those responding, would reduce the number of chapters.
 - Note: 37% wanted to retain six chapters.
 - 6 Respondents would prefer to increase the number of chapters
- <https://www.wisaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/SAF-Chap-reconfi.-results-charts-only.pdf>

[View this email in your browser](#)



WI SAF Members:

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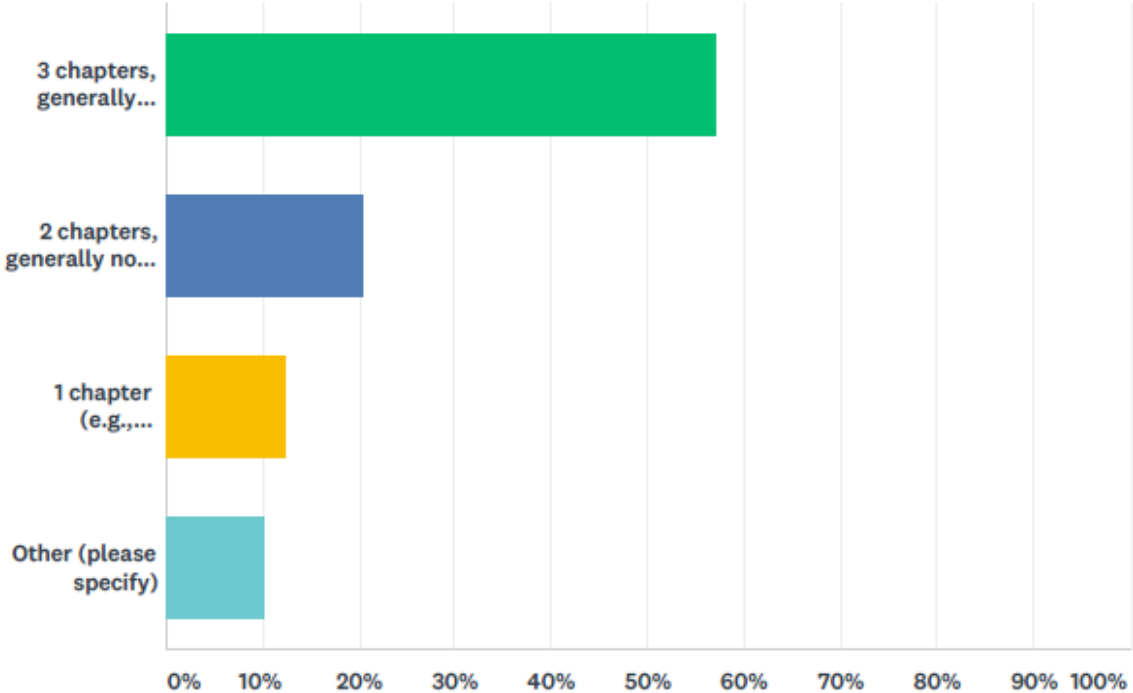
The Committee is asking for your feedback on membership activity, the geographic configuration, and the number of state chapters in Wisconsin. For more information, please see the [attached white paper](#).

To provide your feedback, please complete the following online [survey](#) no later than Friday, May 18th. It will take less than 10 minutes. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WISAF>

Thank you for your feedback and for your support of WI SAF.

Q9 If you prefer to decrease the number of WI SAF chapters, which configuration would you prefer?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
3 chapters, generally north, central, and south	57.14%	28
2 chapters, generally north and south	20.41%	10
1 chapter (e.g., Eliminate regional chapters and operate solely as a state level unit)	12.24%	6
Other (please specify)	10.20%	5
TOTAL		49

WI SAF Chapter Consolidation Committee Recommendations

1. Reduce the number of chapters from six to two (North and South).
 - a. Chapter boundaries to be determined.
2. Chapter officers; Chair and Chair elect required only.
3. Move all chapter treasuries to state level.
4. Both chapter chair and chair elect are positions on the WI SAF executive committee and must serve on the state Program Committee.
 - a. Two (2) year term for the chair and chair elect, with possible renewal by Executive Committee action.
 - b. Chair elect candidate to be sought from alternating areas within a chapter if possible.



WI SAF Chapter Consolidation Committee Recommendations

5. Statewide meeting and conference will alternate between the two chapters.
6. Chapters must hold at least one-chapter meeting per year. (current by law requirement) with additional meetings/ field day as desired.
7. Expand the duties of the Program Committee in the development and planning of all state and chapter meetings.
 - a. Recruit chapter members to assist Program Committee with meetings.
8. Executive Committee will meet quarterly on standing dates in Stevens Point/Wausau or conference call. Program Committee may have additional meetings as needed.
9. Executive Committee creates formal Nominating Committee to recruit officers and state committee members.



Next steps....

- Member Vote

