

IV. Organization and Structure

Members. As suggested above, we believe the most appropriate vehicle to accomplish the desired objectives would be a non-profit membership corporation. We conceive of the members of this corporation acting in the same relation to the corporation as an enlightened electorate acts toward a responsible, democratic government.

It will, of course, be necessary to define exactly who shall be members of the corporation. Membership could be available only to natives of the Marianas, or to all resident citizens or to all residents. Because the primary right of a member is to vote on certain important matters, it might be wise to limit membership to adults. In most membership corporations, those eligible for membership must specifically enroll in some manner in order to become members. This has substantial advantages in conducting elections and in allowing the corporation to keep its members informed periodically of the conduct of affairs; accordingly we recommend such a procedure if feasible. The corporation might be able to make efficient use of the existing public election rolls and machinery if membership is simply made available only to those entitled to vote under Section 7 of Department of the Interior Order No. 2918, 1/ i.e., resident citizens 18 years of age or over.

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1/ 34 Fed. Reg. 158 (1969).