

Motion to amend the Voting Procedures for Area Elections

Motion

The Panel 72 Report & Charter Committee moves to amend the voting procedures for Area elections in the Northern Illinois Area 20 Service Manual (pages 23-25 of web version 12/2023, pages 32-34 of the printed version 09/2022), for clarification and easier reading, as follows:

- Additions are underlined and bolded, deletions are struck through.
- The Third Legacy Procedure should be copied from the current A.A. Service Manual to be certain it is accurate, and the current diagram should be kept.
- The paragraph on page 25 should be removed entirely.

**all page numbers reference the NIA 20 Service Manual, web version 09/2022.*

Area Elections

Area officers, ~~service standing~~ committee chairpersons, and all their alternates are elected to two-year terms of service that begin in even numbered years. Elections are held during the Fall Assembly of odd numbered years, immediately preceding the end of the current service rotation.

The Area Chairperson shall read the portion of The A.A. Service Manual that is applicable to balloting before balloting begins. The rest of the election proceedings are to be facilitated by the most recent past Delegate. **The past Delegate should review the qualifications for each position before the nomination procedure and election for that position.**

Election of officers, namely the Delegate, Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, and their Alternates, ~~except as noted below~~, shall be in accordance with the Third Legacy procedure as described in The A.A. Service Manual. The order of elections shall be: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson, Secretary, Alternate Secretary, Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer, Registrar, and then Alternate Registrar. ~~Those eligible to stand for Delegate are: Area Officers (except Delegate), Chairpersons of standing service committees, and D.C.M.s. The elected Delegate shall have only one term of service and shall never again be a candidate for the position.~~

- ~~• Candidates who are eligible and willing to stand are asked to identify themselves.~~
- ~~• Nominations of eligible and willing candidates are accepted.~~
- ~~• Candidates present two minutes service histories.~~

Following officer elections, ~~standing~~ service committee chairpersons and their alternates shall be are elected by a modified, ~~either by the Third Legacy procedure,~~ **using show of hands instead of written ballots and simple majority instead of 2/3 majority.** ~~or by any other means chosen by the Assembly during the election proceedings. Nominations from the floor shall be accepted.~~

If there is only one candidate for any position, a vote of YES or NO should occur. Voting for an officer would still be by written ballot and require a 2/3 majority of YES votes. Voting for a service committee chairperson or alternate would still be by show of hands and require a simple majority of YES votes.

Nomination Procedure

- **Candidates who are eligible and willing to stand for a position are asked to identify themselves.**
- **Nominations of eligible and willing candidates are also accepted.**
- **The names of all candidates are posted on a board.**
- **Candidates present two-minute service histories.**

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- After everyone has given their service histories, voting will commence.
- Candidates are asked to leave the room when voting is not by written ballot.

The Third Legacy Election Procedure

Nomination Procedure

- ~~All members of the Area Committee are eligible to become Delegate.~~
- ~~The chairperson asks those eligible to stand up giving everyone in attendance an opportunity to see eligible candidates.~~
- ~~Then the chairperson asks that anyone standing who is unable or unwilling to serve as Delegate be seated.~~
- ~~The remaining names are posted on a blackboard.~~
- ~~The chairperson then asks for nominations from the floor.~~

Voting Procedure

1. The names of eligible candidates are posted on a board. All voting members of the Area Assembly cast written ballots, one choice to a ballot. The tally for each candidate is posted on the board.
 - The first candidate to receive TWO-THIRDS of the total vote is elected.
2. Withdrawals start after the second ballot. If any candidate has less than *one-fifth* of the total vote, his or her name is automatically withdrawn — except that the top two candidates must remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
3. After the third ballot, candidates with less than *one-third* of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the two top candidates remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
4. After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the candidate with the *smallest* total is automatically withdrawn, except that the top two candidates remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied second-place candidates remain.)
 - At this point, the chairperson asks for a motion, second, and a simple majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot.
 - If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and the choice is made by lot — “going to the hat” — immediately.
 - If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot is conducted.
5. If after the fifth ballot no election occurs, the chairperson announces that the choice will be made by lot (from the hat). At this point, the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for first place, all tied first place candidates remain. In case there are no ties for first place, the top candidate and any tied second-place candidates remain.
6. Lots are then drawn by the teller, and the first one “out of the hat” is the delegate (or other officer).

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Background

1. Clarify in paragraph one and four that “standing committee chairpersons” is “service committee chairpersons.” In our Service Manual, standing committees include both service committees and administrative committees, the latter of which are appointed not elected.
2. Clarify at the start of the second paragraph that “Chairperson” is “Area Chairperson.”
3. Add a sentence to the end of the second paragraph reading: “The past Delegate should review the qualifications for each position before the nomination procedure and election for that position.”
4. The words “except as noted below” should be removed from paragraph three, where it states that “election of officers [...], *except as noted below*, shall be in accordance with the Third Legacy procedure...” On page 25, after the third legacy voting diagram, there is a paragraph that finally lists the exception: “for election of officers and alternates, [...] voting is by Third Legacy **but by a show of hands**.” The Third Legacy Procedure from the current A.A. Service Manual calls for **written ballots**. The election of all officers should be by Third Legacy procedure without exception, that is, by written ballot.
5. Move the following sentence from the end of paragraph three to the Delegate qualifications on page 30 of the web version/page 41 of the printed version: “The elected Delegate shall have only one term of service and shall never again be a candidate for the position.”
6. Paragraph four covers the elections of service committee chairs, being “either by the Third Legacy procedure or by any other means chosen by the Assembly...” There is another procedure for committee chairs listed in the paragraph on page 25. It states that “the procedure for committee chairs and alternates is the same except voting is simple majority,” and the phrase “is the same” refers to “Third Legacy but by a show of hands” prior in the paragraph.

We should use the intended method from page 25 by specifying in paragraph four that “elections shall be by a modified Third Legacy procedure, using show of hands instead of written ballots and simple majority instead of 2/3 majority.”

Other minor changes are shown in the body of the motion.

7. Currently, there is no procedure covering what to do when there is only one candidate. This became an issue at the Fall 2023 elections. We propose adding the following: “If there is only one candidate for any position, a vote of YES or NO should occur. Voting for an officer would still be by written ballot and require a 2/3 majority of YES votes. Voting for a service committee chairperson or alternate would still be by show of hands and require a simple majority of YES votes.”
8. There are two statements regarding those eligible to stand for Delegate. One says “Area Officers (except Delegate), Chairpersons of standing service committees, and D.C.M.s.” and the other says, “All members of the Area Committee are eligible to become Delegate.” The second statement would include service committee chair alternates, appointed committee

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chairs, and alternate DCMs. There are also two different nominating procedures lists. One list says, “Nominations of eligible and willing candidates are accepted,” and the other list says that “all eligible able, and willing candidates are to be considered.”

The nomination procedure for all other positions is not clearly stated. Some of it has to be inferred from the procedures for Delegate, and some of it is spelled out in that paragraph on page 25 that gets lost.

We should combine all statements regarding nominations and eligibility for all positions into the following, making one clear set of guidelines for all positions:

Nomination Procedure

- Candidates who are eligible and willing to stand for a position are asked to identify themselves.
- Nominations of eligible and willing candidates are also accepted.
- The names of all candidates are posted on a board.
- Candidates present two-minute service histories.
- After everyone has given their service histories, voting will commence.
- Candidates are asked to leave the room when voting is not by written ballot.

9. The *Third Legacy Election Procedure* is copied from page 119 of the current A.A. Service Manual to ensure that it is accurate. The flow chart should remain intact.

10. The paragraph on page 25 should be removed entirely, as it has been incorporated elsewhere.

References

NIA 20 Service Manual

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-20-Service-Manual-web-202312.pdf>, pages 23-25 (pages 32-34 of the printed version 09/2022)

The A.A. Service Manual

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf, page 119 (page 110 in print)

Follow Up Action Required

Update the NIA 20 Service Manual with the approved changes on the pages referenced.

Move the following sentence to the Delegate qualifications on page 30 of the web version/page 41 of the print version: “The elected Delegate shall have only one term of service and shall never again be a candidate for the position.”

Respectfully submitted

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Report & Charter Committee

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