

Region 5 Bylaws Amendment 1

Date: 2020-07-19

MOVE TO AMEND:

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS
Section A. Election of Officers
Paragraph 8.a.

CURRENT WORDING:

8. a. The election shall be by ballot. To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast. If more than one ballot is necessary for any position, on subsequent ballots the name of the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from the ballot, except that the top two candidates must remain.

PROPOSED WORDING:

8. a. The election shall be by written or electronic ballot. To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast. If more than one ballot is necessary for any position, on subsequent ballots the name of the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from the ballot, except that the top two candidates must remain.

SUBMITTED BY:

Contact Name:
Bylaws Committee Kerry Martin
Joel Isenstadt

Phone #:
773-208-0823
614-381-7824

Email Address:
Motherearth305@prodigy.net
R5Secretary@outlook.com

INTENT:

To adjust the Region 5 Bylaws to allow for elections to be held during a virtual Assembly.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Election voting can occur through a multitude of ways, depending on circumstances.

During a Zoom Cloud meeting an online Poll can be used. Zoom polling can be setup to be secret with only the individual host who generated the poll receiving the results. The individual who will be conducting the poll should not be a voting member. Thus, before or during the event a non-voting member could be appointed. During the Zoom meeting, the individual appointed would be made a co-host, thus giving them the ability to conduct polls. The poll would be created by that appointee and then on direction from the Region 5 Chair execute the poll. Results would be reported to the Region 5 Chair via private chat. The Chair would announce the results to the membership or could have the non-voting appointee announce the results. If there is the need for additional voting the appointee could generate a new poll.

Alternately the Region could purchase the services of one of the many online balloting sites. This is very similar to the polling during a Zoom meeting. The members of the Assembly would be directed to the website ballot through a link. Like the Zoom meeting a non-voting member would need to be

appointed to conduct the vote. Election results would be reported to the Region 5 Chair through private chat. The Chair would announce the results to the membership or could have the non-voting appointee announce the results. If there is the need for additional voting the appointee could generate a new ballot on the site.

The election could also be conducted by email. An email address would need to be established for this purpose. Like the Zoom meeting a non-voting member would need to be appointed to conduct the vote. A template email with the choices could be generated and sent to all voting members. They would reply only to the sender with their choice. Election results would be reported to the Region 5 Chair through private chat. The Chair would announce the results to the membership or could have the non-voting appointee announce the results. If there is the need for additional voting the appointee could generate a new email ballot.

All three methods would be secure enough for electronic voting.

COST:

There would be no additional cost for Zoom polling or email. Online balloting services typically cost about \$20.00 per election.

RATIONALE:

If we are to hold elections during a virtual event, then we need to adjust our Bylaws to do it. The Bylaws are currently written to allow ballot and really doesn't define what that means. The term ballot according to the dictionary is a process of voting, in writing and typically in secret. Secret as in voting remains private and secure with nobody but appointed non-voting individuals knowing the details of the vote. Adding "written or electronic" before the word ballots provides the clarity needed to conduct a private and secure election. Technically we could have just added the word "written" since this could be loosely interpreted as any written medium including email. It should be noted that previously in Article III Section C. Paragraph 2 the words "written ballot" are used. By adding "written to Article VI Section A Paragraph 8.a. we are making the Bylaws more consistent. Then by adjusting the verbiage to "written or electronic" we are giving ourselves the flexibility to conduct our elections in person or virtually as we see fit, as long as the voting remains private and secure.

Region 5 Bylaws Amendment 2

Date: 2020-07-19

MOVE TO AMEND:

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

CURRENT WORDING:

- C. The voting membership of Region 5 representing the entire membership of OA in the region shall be called the Region 5 Assembly and shall be comprised of:
1. Duly elected Region 5 representatives or their alternates.
 2. All Region 5 officers, excluding the chair. The chair shall have the ability to vote only when a written ballot is used.

PROPOSED WORDING:

- C. The voting membership of Region 5 representing the entire membership of OA in the region shall be called the Region 5 Assembly and shall be comprised of:
1. Duly elected and registered Region 5 representatives or their alternates.
 2. All Region 5 officers, excluding the chair. The chair shall have the ability to vote only when a written or electronic ballot is used.

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Bylaws Committee Kerry Martin
Joel Isenstadt

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773-208-0823
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R5Secretary@outlook.com

INTENT:

To adjust the Region 5 Bylaws to allow for elections to be held during a virtual Assembly.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Election voting can occur through Zoom polls, online election services, or email.

COST:

There would be no additional cost for Zoom polling or email. Online balloting services typically cost about \$20.00 per election.

RATIONALE:

Adding the 'or electronic' to the wording of paragraph 2 provides enough clarity to be able to conduct the election virtually through a service such as Zoom.

Region 5 Policies Amendment A

Date: 2020-07-19

MOVE TO AMEND:

Article I. REGION 5 GENERAL POLICIES

Section C. Elections

Paragraph 5.

CURRENT WORDING

5. Voting for all officers (and Region Trustee nominees when appropriate) shall take place simultaneously on one printed ballot listing all nominees (with spaces for write-ins when nominations from the floor are necessary).
 - a. Each ballot counts as a single ballot.
 - b. Mark ballot only when instructed by the chair to do so.
 - c. If voting for a candidate, mark the ballot with an "X" next to the candidate's name.
 - d. Do not vote for more candidates than instructed.
 - e. Fold ballot once when finished voting. Give ballot to teller when instructed to do so.
 - f. All ballots collected by the tellers will be counted as votes cast.

PROPOSED WORDING

5. Voting for all officers (and Region Trustee nominees when appropriate) shall take place ~~simultaneously on one printed~~ sequentially or simultaneously (when possible) using a written or electronic ballot listing all nominees ~~(with spaces for write-ins when nominations from the floor are necessary)~~. Mixed balloting is not to be allowed; voting will be conducted either completely by printed ballots or virtually using electronic ballots.
 - a. When holding an election using a printed ballot:
 - ~~a~~i. Each ballot counts as a single ballot.
 - ~~b~~ii. Mark ballot only when instructed by the Region 5 Chair to do so.
 - ~~c~~iii. If voting for a candidate, mark the ballot with an "X" next to the candidate's name.
 - ~~d~~iv. Do not vote for more candidates than instructed.
 - ~~e~~v. Fold ballot once when finished voting. Give ballot to teller when instructed to do so.
 - ~~f~~vi. All ballots collected by the tellers will be counted as votes cast.
 - b. When holding an election using an electronic method:
 - i. A single non-voting teller will be appointed by the Region 5 Chair prior to the election and will be trained to conduct the election during the virtual Assembly.
 - ii. Electronic ballots will be configured to be anonymous and allow only a single choice.
 - iii. The electronic ballot will not be delivered to the voting members until instructed to do so by the Region 5 Chair.
 - iv. The Region 5 Chair will instruct all non-voting participants not to respond to the ballot when presented.
 - v. When voting starts the desired candidate should be selected for each office.
 - vi. Only a maximum of 3 minutes will be allowed for voting when voting during an assembly. The teller will end the voting when instructed or when 5 minutes has elapsed. Results will not be shared with participants. The results will be passed to the Region 5 Chair privately. The Region 5 Chair will announce the results or could have the teller announce the results.

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INTENT:

To provide clear policy on how a written or electronic ballot will be conducted.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Printed ballots will be used during in-person assemblies. Electronic ballots will be used during virtual assemblies.

If the virtual assembly is to be conducted using a virtual meeting, then online polling will be used.

COST:

Printed ballots are marginal, limited to the cost of the paper and ink and time to cut the ballots up. There is no additional cost to electronic ballots unless a separate election service is used.

RATIONALE:

If we must conduct our assembly virtually then our policies and procedures need to provide directions on how we would accomplish this. Our preference is to have our elections conducted in-person using a printed ballot. When we need to conduct elections virtually, we can do so using the tools provided by our virtual meeting service (at this time Zoom Cloud Meetings).

Region 5 Policies Amendment B

Date: 2020-07-19

MOVE TO AMEND:

Article: II. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF REGION 5

Section: B. Duties of the Region 5 Chair

Paragraph 3.

CURRENT WORDING

3. Schedules and Chairs the Summer Board/Committee Conference Call.
 - a. Schedules call to be held no later than the first week of August.
 - b. Provides agenda to include (at the minimum):
 1. Time for questions of all reports
 2. Time for intergroup sharing
 - c. The agenda may also include time for meetings for all Business Committees and Outreach Committee of the Whole.
 - d. Except for Committee business, no motions or official business shall be conducted during this meeting.
 - e. Attendance shall be taken
 - f. Minutes of the call shall be made available on the Region 5 website.

PROPOSED WORDING

3. Schedules and Chairs the Winter and Summer ~~Board/Committee Virtual~~ Conferences ~~Call~~.
 - a. Schedules ~~call~~ each conference to be held ~~no later than the first week of August~~ virtually at the approximate midpoint between the two assemblies not to interfere with any holidays.
 - b. Provides agenda to include (at the minimum):
 1. Time for questions of all reports
 2. Time for intergroup sharing
 - c. The agenda may also include time for meetings for all Business Committees and Outreach Committee of the Whole.
 - d. Except for Committee business, no motions or official business shall be conducted during this meeting.
 - e. Attendance shall be taken
 - f. Minutes of the call shall be made available on the Region 5 website.

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INTENT:

To provide a winter conference call.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Summer Conference is held approximately around a week after the 4th of July which is the mid-point between the Spring and Fall Assemblies. The Winter Conference will be conducted virtually in the same manner as the Summer Conference around a week after New Year's day.

COST:

No cost except for the Online Meeting service.

RATIONALE:

The Summer Conference has been very successful keeping the momentum going with business being conducted by committees. Business has traditionally halted or at least diminished during the Winter holiday season. By adding a Winter Conference, we should be able to get the momentum going again for Region 5 Business in our committees.

Some of the verbiage is being cleaned up also to clarify and match what we are currently doing. We are holding the conference virtually using Zoom Cloud meetings and are not making a call. The Conference should be conducted at the halfway point between the two assemblies as long as it doesn't interfere with any holidays. If we tried to conduct the Winter Conference between Christmas and New Year's Day, we most likely wouldn't get much attendance.