

Questions and Answers

Ad Hoc Election Process Committee (EPC)

EPC Committee Ponders Changes

The Election Process Committee (EPC) ponders the changes that would be needed to the governing documents to implement a general election whereby each member has a vote. Share your opinions with the committee on the EPC committee page at www.dkg.org.

1. Member: “What are the advantages of having general elections in which every member is offered the opportunity to vote?”

EPC: There are a number of advantages of holding a general election – a one-member-one-vote election for Society leaders. These advantages include:

- A general election would offer every member the opportunity to participate directly by casting her individual ballot.
- This would meet members’ expressed desires to be more involved in nominating and electing Society leaders.
- This would be an opportunity to include more participation of members at the international level.
- Members who vote in the election may have a greater connection to the Society, thus becoming more involved at the chapter and state organization levels.

You can very likely think of other advantages to changing our nominations and elections processes. Share your thoughts with the Ad Hoc Election Process Committee members.

2. Member: “How will members know about the candidates for office if they never attend international conventions?”

EPC: The Nominations Committee would present information about ALL the nominees and their qualifications in the *DKG NEWS* and on the Society website. This is the way that the information is currently made available to members. Each member receives the *DKG NEWS* and would have access to the website.

3. Member: “Why would members who do not attend state or international meetings be interested in voting for officers, administrative board members and members of elected committees?”

EPC: Members who pay dues might expect to be able to have their voices heard and their votes counted in electing the leadership of the Society. Each member who reads the documents and checks out information on the website might also expect that she can cast her vote for officers for her region, area, and the Society in general.

4. Member: “If we used an electronic voting process, what would prevent a member from voting more than once?”

EPC: Electronic elections, those that are conducted by utilizing the internet to cast ballots, are very secure. Each member voting would utilize two specific pieces of data to log into a secure website and receive her personal ballot, depending on the DKG region and area in

which she is a member. Vendors of election services provide a unique and secure password for each voter, and we expect DKG elections would use this same process. Each member would use her membership ID number as the other login information. Your membership ID number may be found on your membership card you are given each year when you pay your dues, or your chapter president or treasurer can give you your number. The number is also located on your address label on the *DKG NEWS*. Vendors of election services utilize security measures to insure that each member can vote only once – after your ballot is cast it is tabulated, and there is no way you can vote again!

5. Member: “I don’t have email or use a computer very well. Would this prevent me from voting for officers, administrative board members and members of elected committees?”

EPC: If general elections are held, members who do not have email or use computers will not be prevented from voting for officers, administrative board members, and members of elected committees. They will be able to vote via paper ballot. Instructions will be provided on how to receive a paper ballot.

6. Member: “What are the disadvantages of having general elections in which every member is offered the opportunity to vote?”

EPC: As with any change in the way the Society conducts activities, there are disadvantages that must be weighed against the many advantages of new ways of doing things. Some disadvantages of conducting general elections in which every member has the opportunity to vote include:

- General elections conducted as online voting (electronic elections) would cost significantly more than our current election method in which the state presidents cast ballots for all members in the state organization at convention.
- The average voter participation in electronic elections of organizations the size of DKG is approximately 12%. This means that a significant amount of money would be spent for a small percentage of voters.
- The nominations processes would change; deadlines would be different.
- It is possible that members who would vote will not know the candidates, not be informed voters even though information would be published.
- It may be difficult for members to cope with the change in our nominations and elections processes.
- It may be a more cumbersome election process to manage than our current system.

Members should weigh the possible disadvantages against the possible advantages for the Society and all concerned before reaching a conclusion.

7. Member: “Would one member/one vote election process, encourage campaigning for office?”

EPC: Yes, it might encourage campaigning for office. Currently that also happens with letters and emails supporting candidates sent to members and state organization presidents. Might campaigning encourage more participation by members in the work of the Society? Would this be a way to energize members?

8. Member: “Will all motions requiring a vote of the members be handled by electronic voting? If so, will international conventions have any business to conduct?”

EPC: The present proposal only refers to the election of members of the Administrative Board and members of elected committees. Therefore at the present time other motions and actions of business now conducted at international conventions would continue to be voted by the members attending the convention.

9. Member: “What are the current duties of the International Nomination Committee? “

EPC: The specific duties of the Nominations Committee are to:

- solicit nominees by print and electronic means for the positions to be filled at the subsequent international convention.
- present in election years the report of nominees for publication no later than the January/February issue of the *DKG News* and published on the Society website. The report shall contain the name of at least one (1) nominee for each of the following:
 - president
 - first vice-president
 - second vice-president
 - regional directors, one from each of the respective regions
 - one (1) member-at-large
 - area representatives, one from each of the respective areas
 - vacancies occurring on elected committees—finance and nominations
 - trustees of The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation
 - as specified by the bylaws of said Foundation.
- present its report of nominees for elective positions of the Society to the international convention. Nominations may be made from the floor. Regional and area nominations must be made by members from the region or area involved.
- present its report of nominees for trustees of The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation to the international Executive Board. Nominations may be made from the floor.
- follow the eligibility, qualifications, and guidelines for selecting nominees. [SR 8.082]

10. Member: “How might the duties of the International Nominations Committee change with one member/one vote?”

EPC: The essential difference will be the final product of the Nominations Committee.

The final product of the **present** Nominations Committee is a ballot consisting of nominees **chosen by the committee** plus any nominees resulting from nominations from the floor.

The final product of the Nominations Committee for a general election is a ballot consisting of **all proposed nominees that were vetted by the committee and found to satisfy the stated criteria for nominees**. Note ... the committee **does not** choose the nominees.

11. Member: “Why would there be no nominations from the floor?”

EPC: All nominees, who have been vetted and found to satisfy the criteria for the position for which they are nominated, will be listed on the ballot; thus, there is no requirement for nominations from the floor.

12. Member: “What criteria might the International Nominations Committee use to vet candidates for elected officers, administrative board members and members of elected committees?”

EPC: All candidates who met the criteria would be placed on the ballot. The criteria could be presented in a Yes or No checklist which could include the following items for all nominees.

- Permission of candidate
- Supported by a chapter, state organization or five members (new)
- Submission of official recommendation form
- Nominated for only one position (new)
- Ability to communicate in English
- Time for Society work
- Participated in at least one international convention or regional conference
- Demonstrated organizational ability and experience

Presidential Candidates

- Served as state organization president
- Have international committee experience
- Served on the Administrative Board

Vice-Presidents

- Served as state organization president
- Have international committee experience

Regional Directors

- Served as state organization president
- Be knowledgeable about their regions
- Able to represent the included state organizations
- Have international committee experience

Area Representatives

- Membership in their area
- Served as state organization president
- Able to represent the countries of the area

Members-At-Large

- International committee experience

Members of Elected Committees

- Chapter and state experience in area for which they are nominated

Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation Trustees

- Chapter and state experience in the area for which they are nominated