

CHAPTER 4: NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND INSTALLATIONS

**NOTE: UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER
APPLY TO ALL GOVERNANCE LEVELS IN FORESTERS.**

26. METHODS OF HOLDING ELECTIONS

- A. A Branch or Regional Assembly may hold elections either at a regular meeting or at a meeting called for this purpose, provided that, at the Regional level, members are given at least 90 days notice of the election and, at the Branch level, members are given 60 days notice of the election. Elections for the Board of Directors take place at the regular meetings of the International Assembly.
- B. Only voting members who are present at the meeting may cast a ballot. The use of proxies is not allowed.
- C. On approval of a new Branch Charter by the Board of Directors, the Regional Council may appoint and install the first slate of Branch Officers.

27. NOMINATING CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

- A. Each Regional Council will appoint a nominating committee to identify candidates for election to office. The nominating committee should be made up of members who are not themselves seeking election.
- B. At least 90 days before the date of a meeting of the Regional Assembly at which an election will be held, the nominating committee will circulate a written notice to members within its jurisdiction, inviting them to propose candidates for election and specifying a date by which nominations should be submitted.
- C. Members running for office at the Regional level must make their nominations in writing, and submit them to the nominating committee, accompanied by a short description of the candidate's background and qualifications, and written permission from the candidate to let his or her name stand for election. When the nomination date has passed, the committee will circulate a list of candidates to all members with entitlement to vote.
- D. Each Branch should establish a process to recruit eligible candidates for election 90 days before the date of an election. Branches may appoint a nominating

committee or the Branch Executive Officers may conduct the nominating or recruitment process themselves.

- E. At least 60 days before the date of an election, the nominating committee or Branch Executive must circulate a written notice to members within its jurisdiction, inviting them to stand as candidates for election and specifying the date by which members should indicate their interest and the manner for notifying the nominating committee or Branch Executive.
- F. The Branch nominating committee or Branch Executive will circulate, to voting members in attendance at the meeting at which an election will be held, the names of all candidates seeking election.
- G. All candidates eligible to seek office will be named on the ballot. Eligibility to seek office will be determined by the provisions of sections 4, 16, 38, and 71. The nominating committee may recommend a preferred candidate or group of candidates, but is not required to do so. Any such recommendation must be accompanied by the nominating committee's reasons for making a recommendation.

- H. At least one year before the opening of an International Assembly meeting, the Board of Directors will appoint a nominating committee to identify and recommend candidates for election to the Board of Directors. This committee will specify and publish the qualifications required of nominees to the Board. These qualifications will include the skills and experience needed to fulfill the Board's corporate governance responsibilities. The committee will publish this information for all Foresters members, inviting nominations for the Board and specifying a date by which nominations should be submitted. All nominations must be submitted to the nominating committee in writing, accompanied by:
- i. a short description of the candidate's background;
 - ii. a statement indicating how the candidate meets the qualifications identified by the committee;
 - iii. written permission from the candidate to let his or her name stand for election.

Following a selection process approved by the Board, the nominating committee will recommend those candidates most suitable for election to the Board of Directors. The Board will circulate this list to the members of the International Assembly at least 30 days before the meeting opens.

- I. For elections at Branches, Regional Assemblies, and the International Assembly, nominations from the floor will be permitted. At Regional Assemblies and the International Assembly, nominations from the floor must be accompanied by a written nomination.
- J. Every candidate must be a voting member of the Branch, Regional Assembly or International Assembly at which he or she seeks to stand for election.

28. PRESIDING OFFICER FOR ELECTIONS

- A. The presiding officer for Branch Officer elections will be named by the Regional Council after consultation with the Branch.
- B. The presiding officer for elections at Regional Assemblies will be named by the International Fraternal President after consultation with the Regional Council.
- C. The presiding officer for elections at the International Assembly will be named by the International Fraternal President after consultation with the Board of Directors.
- D. The presiding officer will not be seeking election personally in the election over which he or she has been asked to preside.

29. ELECTION VOTING PROCEDURE

- A. Voting at elections will be by secret ballot, unless a candidate is unopposed. Unopposed candidates will be elected by acclamation.
- B. Elections will begin with the office of highest rank and continue in descending order until all positions have been filled. At the International Assembly, election of the International Fraternal Vice President will be held after the election of the Board of Directors from among the newly elected Directors.
- C. Ballots will be counted by at least three members acting as Tellers. Tellers, who will not be seeking office themselves, are appointed by the presiding officer.
- D. Tellers will count the number of legal ballots cast for each candidate and the number of spoiled ballots, and report these numbers in writing to the presiding officer.
- E. Except in the event of a tie between two or more leading candidates, the candidate receiving the most votes will be declared the winner. If two or more leading candidates for office receive equal numbers of votes, a new ballot will be taken to break the tie. Only the candidates who are tied for the lead will be on the second ballot.
- F. If two-fifths of the voting members present or any of the candidates seeking the office for which voting has taken place demand a recount of the ballots before the election for the next office begins, the Tellers will recount the ballots in the presence of those members or candidates who demanded the recount. The result of the recount will be considered final.
- G. After the election and any recount, the Tellers will seal the ballots and deliver them to the presiding officer, who will destroy them immediately after the meeting is adjourned.

30. TERMS OF OFFICE AND INSTALLATIONS

- A. All Branch, Regional Assembly, and International Assembly officers serve from the date they are elected or appointed and installed until their successors are elected and installed.
- B. All delegates to the Regional Assemblies and elected representatives to the International Assembly serve from the date they are elected until their successors are elected.

- C. Officers of the Branch will be installed at or within 45 days of the meeting at which they are elected. Officers of the Regional Assembly and International Assembly will be installed at the meeting at which they are elected.
- D. Elected officers of the Branch may be installed by members of the Regional Council within whose jurisdiction the Branch is located, by members of the International Assembly, or by the Past Branch President if so appointed by Regional Council.
- E. Elected officers of the Regional Assembly and officers appointed by resolution may be installed by the International Fraternal President or his or her designate.
- F. Officers of the International Assembly may be installed by the outgoing International Fraternal President or, if the presiding International Fraternal President is continuing in office, the most recent past International Fraternal President or an outgoing member of the Board of Directors.