

March 12, 2007

To: PPOA Board of Directors

Re: Election Committee Recommendations

Overview:

The 2007 Election Committee had the opportunity to review all current election processes and made recommendations for improvements that can be made for future elections. Our election process was significantly improved when Ms. Mary Scott wrote a formalized process that is made available to each Election Committee member for their review and understanding prior to the performance of their designated duties. The PPOA By-Laws and Rules and Regulations govern the election process.

Recommendations by the Election Committee:

1. On the ballot for Board Candidates the wording should be "Vote for up to three Board Candidates".
2. Half of the Election Committee should have experience in the election process and provide a means for rotation into and out of the Committee to involve more of the PPOA members.
3. Use Channel 28 to provide a "clear and concise" presentation on our PPOA voting process including a demonstration on how to complete the election ballot(s) and seal in the proper envelope.
4. At the time of the Nominating Committee process, the Election Committee Chair should also begin interviewing candidates for Election Judges and gain their inputs for ballot counting prior to the Ballots being mailed out.
5. The Election Committee should also be the group that prepares the Ballots to be sent to the membership. The Election Committee Chair should oversee the process.
6. Calculators with "paper producing count tapes" are needed to assure vote count numbers if there is any dispute in the vote counting process.

7. When Judges review questionable ballots, the Senior Judge should note the issue on the ballot envelope and provide brief explanation as to why ballot is not counted.
8. There needs to be a rotation of poll watchers.
9. Provide additional communication through e-Mail blast, Channel 28, and the Columns that the ballots have been mailed out. We can also use our monthly invoice statements to announce in "bold colors" that the ballots are being mailed.
10. The day before the vote count and again on the election day, a later start time can be implemented. As an example, we could have started at 3:00 PM on Friday and 9:00 AM on Saturday. This may vary based on the number of amendments and or other voting issues we may have for the election; however, for this election we certainly could have implemented later starting times.
11. Print simple voting instructions on the envelopes to provide a mechanism for fewer mistakes.
12. Provide a "lock box" at the Post Office for all "mail in" ballots. This provides a mechanism whereby no PPOA staff member has to potentially handle any ballot that may have been sent in incorrectly.
13. Try to shorten the length of the ballot to make it easier to read and understand.
14. The Election Committee counting sheets need to be of a color that is easier to see (no more pink sheets).
15. The question was raised that does the Board have the right to provide a recommendation for "how to vote" on an amendment with no "equal time" for the dissenting vote.

Summary:

By implementing the recommendations as noted above, we can continue to improve the efficiencies of our Election Process. Prior to any implementation of recommended changes, any change(s) must meet the governing PPOA guidelines within our PPOA By-Laws and our PPOA Rules and Regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

M.G. Lewis  
2007 Election Committee Chair