Proposed Bylaws Changes – December 2017 Ballot

The ANNA Board of Directors recommends that ANNA’s Constitution and Bylaws be amended to reduce the election period from 30 days to 14 days; and to clarify the voting process for future amendments to the bylaws. The changes highlighted in yellow and blue will be submitted to ANNA members for a vote on the December 2017 ballot.

Proposed amendments:

ARTICLE IV. Officers; Section B. Election of Officers

Current bylaw says:
The Nominations Committee will submit a slate of candidates for each office annually. At least 30 days prior to the closing date established by the Board of Directors, each member in good standing at that time will receive a ballot.

Each ballot must be returned and counted according to policy. The plurality of those voting will decide the election. An independent agent designated by the Board of Directors will officially oversee the results of the election and notify the appropriate person or persons of the results, in accordance with established policy and procedure. In case of a tie, the election will be decided by lot as determined by the Board of Directors.

Proposed changes (yellow is new copy; blue is copy to be deleted):
The Leadership Committee will submit a slate of candidates for each office annually, on a date established by the Board of Directors. The slate of candidates shall be submitted to the membership at least 30 days prior to the closing ballot distribution date established by the Board of Directors. Each member in good standing at that time will receive a ballot.

Each ballot must be returned within fourteen (14) days of the ballot distribution date and counted according to policy. The plurality of those voting will decide the election. Ballots not received within fourteen (14) days of the ballot distribution shall not be counted. An independent agent designated by the Board of Directors will officially oversee the results of the election; certify the results; and notify the appropriate person or persons of the results, in accordance with established policy and procedure. In case of a tie, the election winner will be decided by lot as determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Rationale:
Currently, the elections are held open for 30 days from the time the ballots are distributed. Since ANNA’s elections occur in early December, the ballots are open for a 30-day period that encompasses religious and national holidays. Years ago, when ballots were mailed via US Post Office, 30 days was a reasonable timeframe. However, today elections are conducted electronically and voting is accomplished instantly and easily. By having the ballots open for 14 days, it provides members with adequate time to vote and also enables the results to be shared in a more timely manner.

Clarification is also suggested about what to do in the case of a tie. The current wording, “decided by lot,” for how to determine the winner if/when there is a tie is unclear. The new wording, “determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors,” removes the ambiguity for how to settle a tie.
ARTICLE XI. Amendment of the Constitution/Bylaws; Section A. Membership Vote

Current bylaw says:
The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of ballots returned by the membership. The voting process will follow the same rules for the election of officers (ARTICLE IV, Section B) except that amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed independently of the election as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

Proposed change:
The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of ballots returned by the membership. Any proposed amendment of the Bylaws must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors prior to submission to the general membership. At least thirty (30) days written notice shall be given to the membership of the intention to amend the Bylaws. The voting process will follow the same rules for the election of officers (ARTICLE IV, Section B) except that amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed independently of the election as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors at any time.

Rationale:
The proposed change will clarify and strengthen the process for how amendments may be made to the bylaws. The Board must approve of a proposed amendment prior to the amendment being voted on by members.