

CNIA ELECTION PROCEDURES

[redacted 9/93]

The following election procedures were adopted at the CNIA Election Assembly in November 1989 held in Grass Valley (District 20).

[clarified 12/11]

Minor edits were made for clarity. No substantive changes were made.

Nomination

1. There will be one nomination period at the beginning of the election, when the résumé of each nominee will be read and his/her name posted for viewing.
2. All current Area officers and Committee members are eligible to stand without District nomination.
 - a. Area officers and DCMs are eligible to stand.
 - b. Area Appointed Chairs need District nomination.
 - c. See "Eligibility of Nominee" section below.
3. All candidates must submit a written résumé to be read at the Election Assembly by the Election Chair.
4. Each District may submit the name of one additional nominee from that District; accompanied by a résumé. This nominee is eligible to stand for all elected officer positions in CNIA.
5. Prior to the actual voting for each office, all nominees will be given the opportunity to decline to stand for that office.

Eligibility of Nominee. It is recommended that additional nominees from a district be chosen from current or past DCMs, GSRs, and officers or committee members who have served a period of at least two (2) years and have remained active in some service activity during any interim period. It is suggested that the principle of rotation be observed when making selections for nominations.

Eligibility To Vote. It is recommended that eligibility to vote include GSRs, DCMs, and current Elected Officers, with one GSR vote per group.

Election Procedure. It is recommended that the election be conducted in accordance with the "Third Legacy Procedure" as found in the *A.A. Service Manual*.

What Is the 'Third Legacy Procedure'?

1. By "Third Legacy procedure," we mean a special type of electoral procedure for the election of delegates. It is considered to be unique in A.A.
2. All members of the Area Committee are eligible for Delegate; the Chairperson asks whether any are unable to serve, then withdraws those names. Remaining names are posted for viewing. (In rare cases, the meeting, by a majority vote, agrees to accept additional nominations.) All GSRs and Area Committee Members (Officers and DCMs) who are present cast written ballots, one choice to a ballot. The tally for each candidate is posted for viewing.
3. The first candidate to receive **TWO-THIRDS** of the total vote is elected.
4. After the second ballot (assuming no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds on the first ballot), any candidate having less than one-fifth of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except that the **TWO TOP CANDIDATES** must remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and tied second-place candidates remain.)
5. After the third ballot, candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the **TWO TOP CANDIDATES** remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and second-place candidates remain.)
6. A fourth ballot is conducted. After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the chairperson asks for a motion, a second, and a majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot. (If this motion is defeated, balloting is over, and the Chairperson goes to the "hat" immediately. In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and tied second-place candidates remain. If not, the candidate with the smallest total is dropped. If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot will be conducted.)
7. If no election occurs by this time, the Chairperson announces the choice will be made by lot (from the hat). At this point, balloting usually involves only the top two or three candidates. Lots are then drawn by the Chairperson or designee, and the first one "out of the hat" becomes the Delegate. (The *A.A. Service Manual*)

CALIFORNIA NORTHERN INTERIOR AREA

Candidate for General Service Officer

(Includes Delegate, Alt. Delegate, Chairperson,
Alt. Chairperson, Recording Secretary, Registrar and Treasurer)

RÉSUMÉ

Name: _____ Phone No. _____
(First and last, please)

Address: _____ District No. _____

_____ Sobriety Date: _____

CURRENT A.A. ACTIVITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

A.A. BACKGROUND (PAST SERVICE POSITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES including
dates served).

SHORT PERSONAL HISTORY (You may wish to include any special experience that
may pertain to Service Positions.)

Delegate's Corner—Election Time

[The following commentary was prepared by a past Delegate for the 1991 Election Assembly.]

In a very short time we will be gathered together at the election assembly. This assembly will consist of the outgoing and incoming Panel District Committee Members and General Service Representatives. Some of you have either already been elected or are in the process of being elected by the districts and groups.

At this assembly you will have the privilege of carrying out one of your most important responsibilities to the group and district you represent and to A.A. as a whole. That is, to participate in the election of the next Panel's area officers and delegate who will serve CNIA for the next two years.

This is one of the few times we get to take the inventory of others and then act on it. This is basically what you are doing when considering how you will vote. I ask myself the following questions before I vote:

- A. Do they have the leadership qualifications described in Concept IX?
- B. Do they have the time available to give what is necessary to do the job? (All jobs are different, some very demanding.)
- C. What have they demonstrated in the past regarding willingness, dedication, promptness, commitment and reliability?
- D. Do they listen, are they teachable or do they already know everything?
- E. Are they a good example of the A.A. fellowship and sobriety?

As I look back over the last four years and take my own inventory (which I won't publish), I have been one of your elected servants and it has been up to me to learn how to serve through reading, listening, and, of course, sharing. It has been up to the DCMs and GSRs to teach me what the area needs, doesn't need and what it feels. Also, what it likes and what it dislikes.

It takes all of us working together to serve our area and the fellowship as a whole. It takes a commitment to participate.

An assembly would not go well with only half of the area officers present. At the same time, it doesn't go well with only a quarter of the GSRs present, but thank God for those who are present.

The election assembly is the time and place for all Groups and Districts to speak and participate. The choice for leadership for the next two years is theirs.

There is a question I hear frequently: I don't know if I should make myself available for election or not? For me the answer is simple. IF I AM GRATEFUL, I AM AVAILABLE—THE REST CAN BE LEFT UP TO THE FELLOWSHIP AND GOD.

Perspective from a GSR

(The following was written by a GSR and published in a District newsletter just prior to the 1999 Election Assembly. The references to the *Service Manual* are for the latest edition available at that time.)

The Panel 50 Election Assembly is coming in just a few short weeks. It is being hosted by District 33 on Nov. 19-21 in Sonora. What I did not fully realize until I attended the Oct. Area Committee Meeting is that this is traditionally the MAIN FUNCTION of the GSR. Check out your Service Manual, page S45, which states "...the main and almost *only* function of GSRs seemed to be the election of committee members and delegates." Awesome responsibility! Of course, now we do so much more for our groups as well that there is a tendency to forget our original and still most important task: to choose the best qualified trusted servants to serve our area and act as our representative at the General Service Conference.

This is my opinion (and we all know the rest of that line), and I'm taking a risk in voicing it, but I've been a GSR for about a year now and it hurts me when I go to a district meeting of 20 or so groups and only the same hand full of GSRs show up. It pains me even more when I hear our DCM talk about Assemblies, which GSRs are required to attend (or the group should send the Alternate GSR, see your Service Manual), and only one or two GSRs went with her. (I confess, I am guilty of not attending assemblies; I honestly did not appreciate how important attendance is to my position as GSR. Bear with me, I'm getting to that.) Going to the area meetings was suggested when I became GSR but, again, I had no idea of how important that is.

Are you ready? Attendance at both assemblies and area meetings is important because *that is the only way to get to know the area committee members and understand the complexity of their service positions to the group*. See, I thought we'd get a list of the DCMs standing for service positions and a copy of their resumes. WRONG. What I have to base my decision on when I vote next month is what I have *seen and heard* for the last year when I have gone to assemblies (one) and meetings (also only one). IF I had been elected for a full two year term, and IF I had attended all of the 7 other assemblies in that time, and IF I had gone as suggested to at least 2 meetings a year, I would be able to make an *informed decision*.

How many groups out there are in the same boat as my group, with a GSR who means well but really doesn't have a clue as to how important a part of their service to the group going to CNIA functions really is? How many groups out there don't know how important their financial support of their GSR is to helping that GSR attend these functions?

I challenge all the District groups to elect qualified and willing GSRs this fall. I further challenge our groups to pledge financial support, up front, for their GSRs. After all, if we want that link with A.A. as a whole, if we want our group's conscience carried to the

DCM and delegate and on to the Conference and to the A.A. movement, then we need to encourage our GSR.