



2020 Potomac Division



Elections Report

With the Covid-19 virus affecting the ability to have an Annual Meeting and an Elections Meeting, the Board of Directors is providing the following information to allow the membership to see the process used for the 2020 BOD elections.

Under the existing Potomac Division Bylaws, Article XIII, Terms of Office, Nominations, and Elections, Section 2 there shall be five members of the Board of Directors (BOD). Two members are to be elected in even-numbered years and three are to be elected in odd-numbered years. As 2020 is an even number year two of the Board of Directors positions needed to be filled due to the term of office expiring.

In accordance with the Bylaws, Superintendent Martin Brechbiel appointed a Nominations Committee consisting of Division Clerk Nick Kalis and member John Paganoni with John Paganoni as Chair of the Committee.

In preparation for the 2020 Election Meeting, the Nominating Committee reviewed the Division membership roll and solicited candidates from the membership. A list of proposed candidates and validated member that agreed to run for office was provided by the Election Committee to the Board of Directors.

Using the March membership extract data received from the Mid-Eastern Region, the most currently available, a list of Potomac Division members in good standing was created which contained the member's name, e-mail address, and home address.

An official ballot was prepared and sent to those Potomac Division members who the Division does not have e-mail addresses for via U. S. Mail to conform with Region requirements of both notifying and offering the option to vote to all Division members. Each ballot had a unique number and no two ballots had the same number. No record was kept of what ballot number was sent to which member. In the mailing, the recipients were advised to return the ballot to the Election Chair. Those ballots included provision for accepting the revised Bylaws for the Division.

In mid-March it was determined that the mini-Con and associated meetings scheduled for April 4, 2020, would have to be cancelled due to the Executive Orders from the Governors of Maryland and Virginia, as well as the Mayor of Washington D.C.. With this cancellation, the BOD began the process of exploring options for the 2020 election as it was originally to take place at the Annual meeting. After considering options and considerable scrutiny of the current Bylaws in consultation with the Region, the BOD opted to move forward with the elections by sending ballots to all of remaining members of the Division who had not been sent ballots with the recipients being directed to return their ballots to the Election Chair. Again, the ballots were assigned a unique number; no two ballots had the same number and no record was kept as to what number ballot was sent to a member. The deadline for voting was extended to midnight Saturday, April 11th due to the short amount of time to make this notification. Also due to a

Bylaw requirement voting for the revised Bylaws was removed from these ballots. That will be re-visited at a future meeting at a time and place to be determined.

The Election Committee developed a procedure for the receipt and counting of the ballots returned to the Election Chair. The procedure was as follows:

1. An official ballot box was created and as the ballots came in they were logged as received, date stamped, and put directly in the ballot box by the Election Chair. The ballots were not opened at this time.
2. After the midnight, April 11th, deadline for voting passed, the Election Chair conducted a recount all of the envelopes containing ballots that were in the Ballot Box and recorded same. The ballot box was opened by a “disinterested” third party and the ballots were handed to the Election Chair by that party.
3. Each envelope was then opened, in the presence of the “disinterested” third party to be sure all the ballots in envelopes were accounted for and included. This was done in case someone sent an envelope without a ballot or sent 2 ballots in the same envelope.
4. A tabulation sheet to record the votes for each candidate was prepared and the Election Chair called off each vote for the “disinterested” party to record the votes.
5. The Election Chair and the “disinterested” party then confirmed the voting to assure an accurate count had been made of the votes for each candidate.
6. A second recount was performed to assure voting record accuracy.
7. The tabulation sheet was kept by the Election Chair and not made public to anyone but himself.
8. The ballots were then placed in a sealed envelope and forwarded to Division Clerk via USPS priority mail on April 13th. The tabulation sheet was not forwarded to Nick to prevent him from knowing the unofficial voting results and to assure an independent accounting.
9. Upon receipt, the Division clerk opened the envelope, removed ballots and counted the votes for each candidate using the same tabulation method used by the Election Chair. Again, the voting count was not shared.
10. After completion the ballots were sent to the Senior Assistant Superintendent by the Division Clerk for a third count on April 15th.
11. Upon receipt, the Senior Assistant Superintendent opened the envelope and counted the votes for each candidate and made a tabulation of the votes. After his tabulation he compared the counts by the Election Chair and Clerk and found that all three counts were identical and the official voting results were determined.
12. After the count, the ballots were sent back to the Election Chair on April 18th where they will be held in his possession until such time the Board of Directors provides him direction as to their final disposition.

The official vote count was as follows:

Ernie Little - 55 votes.

Jerry Stanley - 44 votes.

Bill Lyders - 40 votes.

By vote, the elected candidates were Ernie Little, an incumbent, and Jerry Stanley.

Superintendent Martin Brechbiel notified the three candidates of the election results via telephone on April 20, 2020.

The results of the 2020 elections were posted on the Potomac Division website on April 20, 2020.

The New Board of Directors held a video conference on April 26, 2020, to determine who would occupy each of the five Board of Director Positions in accordance with the Potomac Division Bylaw. The results of this meeting were:

Superintendent: Martin Brechbiel

Senior Assistant Superintendent: Andrew Dodge

Assistant Superintendent: Ernie Little

Clerk: Nick Kalis

Paymaster: Jerry Stanley