

Continental European Region Voting Procedures for Election of Officers

The following outlines how CER chooses and elects its Officers.

Nominations

- 1) Open **positions are advertised at least three months in advance** on the CER website www.alcoholics-anonymous.eu, and announced at assemblies.
- 2) Elections for the position takes place at the assembly at which the outgoing officer is rotating out of their position.
 - Consideration may be given to elect members six months in advance for positions that are part of the Steering Committee and that require an extensive handover (e.g. Treasurer, Secretary) (*Assembly Decision June 2019, see Digest of Decision #463*).
 - When a position becomes vacant at an assembly (due to resignation or an officer rotating from one position into another, e.g. an Alternate Delegate is elected at Delegate or the Vice-Chair is elected as Chair), elections for the position are held at the following assembly.
- 3) Any interested member is strongly encouraged to **submit their nomination for an open service position via the online form well in advance of the assembly**. The nomination is sent to the CER Secretary and the CER RECLO.
 - It is the responsibility of the Steering Committee to make sure that **candidates put forward for elections meet the basic eligibility criteria for the role** (length of sobriety, place of residency).
 - Any member serving at CER ought to reside within the Continental European Region and ideally belong to an Intergroup/group that is active in CER. Exceptions are made for members where there is no active Intergroup or group and who reside in Continental Europe.
- 4) A member may also be nominated from the floor during a CER assembly.

Elections

- 1) Prior to the election candidates ought to introduce themselves to the assembly and give a brief overview of their service resume. Introductions are usually held on the first day of the assembly or prior to the lunch break for one-day online assemblies.
 - Where there are **concerns about a candidate's eligibility**, such as length of sobriety and place of residence, the **candidate should be asked directly and given the opportunity to respond to concerns**.

- Assembly members may also ask candidates other questions that pertain to their ability to fulfil the responsibility of the role.
- 2) Prior to the election, once the candidates are sent out of the room, the chair will ask if anyone wishes to bring **any additional information about a candidate** to the attention of the assembly that was not discussed during the nomination and introduction process. If something is raised, the Chair will get a sense of the room and may decide to **ask the candidate in question to come back into the room and respond to whatever information has been shared** with the assembly. The Chair will make sure to protect the anonymity of the member who brought the information forward.
 - 3) During this process, or at any other time, **personal endorsements or disapproval of candidates** directly addressed to the assembly are **strongly discouraged**. (*Tradition 12: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.*)
 - 4) Elections are held anonymously using the **Third-Legacy procedure**. During elections the candidates will be asked to leave the room. If candidates are voting members of the assembly, they may also cast their vote.
 - To ensure anonymous voting in online meetings, elections shall be held using polls. (In order for co-hosts to vote in a poll, the host needs to first revoke co-hosting rights.)
 - 5) Once a 2/3 majority has been reached (either resulting in the election of a candidate or in the non-election of a candidate) or a candidate has been drawn from the hat, the **results of the elections are final**. In case no one has been elected for a position, that position remains vacant until elections are held again at the next assembly. **No re-votes will be taken**, and no new nominees can be introduced at this point.
 - 6) After the election the Secretary will announce the election result, and the candidates will be asked back into the room and are informed of the result.
 - 7) When a new Officer has been elected, the Secretary will send the Officer a welcome email, letting them know all important information, dates for the upcoming assemblies, and provide them with the GSO registration form as well as help the Officer get access to AA Mail.