

## **Election Process and More**

### **Questions and answers from around the State**

by Frank Pietrowski, LCDC

#### **How can I be on the Board of Directors?**

**Signed Eagar Beaver**

Dear Eagar,

In simple terms, you must be voted on. The following information is in question and answer form. It is also available by reading the by laws of the organization. If there is ever a question, go back to the By laws. We also have a Policies and Procedures manual that is in the works and will be posted on the Website when it is finished. FP

#### **How do I get voted on?**

**Signed Determined to Help**

Dear Determined,

The best way is to get involved, show your interest and asked to be placed on the ballot.

The Ballot is made up from the Nominations committee. Each year the Nominations Committee will recommend that certain persons are placed on the ballot. Other persons can be placed on the ballot by attending the first State BOD meeting in the year and asking for the position (nominating themselves), or being nominated by the "Floor" This requires a supporting person to "Second" the nomination. After the person is "seconded" as a nominee. They can be placed on the ballot. FP

#### **When is the first General Membership meeting of the year?**

**Signed Lost my day timer**

Dear Lost,

This varies from time to time but this information is sent out by mail to all members of record in the first quarter of the year. Make sure you are in good standing and your address of record is correct and you should be able to know the time and location in plenty of time. Another way is to contact the State office and ask for the information or check the web site. FP

#### **What are the qualifications to be on the Board of Directors?**

**Signed Checkin it out**

**Dear Checkin,**

The qualifications to be on the BOD are the you are over the age of 18 and an active member of TAAP. FP

#### **What if the Nominations committee does not nominate me, Can I still be placed on the ballot?**

**Signed not payin attention**

Dear Not,

Yes as mentioned before you can be nominated by the floor and must be seconded. FP

**What is the Nominations committee looking for?**

**Signed, Do you really want me?**

Dear Really,

The nominations committee operates according to the by laws. In the by-laws it says that we should strive for a BOD that is diverse in the area of Gender, Race, Working position, and geographical area. As this is the task of Nominations committee, it should serve up a ballot that best meets those goals. It should keep in mind who will be dropping off the current BOD and the Gender, Race, Working status, and Geographical area of the remaining members of the BOD. FP

**I want to become an officer of the BOD? How do I do this?**

**Signed, Head of the class**

Dear Head,

All officers are voted on from inside the BOD. The first thing is to be elected to the BOD and then once you are on the BOD you are eligible to become an officer of the BOD. FP

**If the nominations committee doesn't approve of me, Do they have the power to exclude me from the ballot?**

**Signed I'm not paranoid**

Dear If you say so,

No, the Nominations committee acts independently, in the best interest of the organization, according to the bylaws. You can only be excluded from the ballot if you do not meet the qualifications for being a BOD member. It is not up to the nominations committee to elect the BOD, It is their role to nominate the best people for the job. As far as elections are concerned, the only ones that can keep you from being elected are the General membership who does the voting. All BOD members are voted on by the general membership. FP

**Are write in nominations allowed?**

**Signed Easier softer way**

Dear EZ

No, you must be on the ballot. FP

**Why is this?**

**Signed EZ**

Dear E,

This is so that there is some guarantee that the BOD members meet the qualifications.

**How do you feel about hanging chads?**

**Signed Anonymous**

Dear Anoy....,

Go back to Florida, lol FP

**What are the duties of the BOD?**

**Signed Ambitious party**

Dear Ambitious,

Good question. The duties of the board are varied depending upon the role they assume and the committee they serve on. FP

**Do all BOD members head up a committee?**

**Signed I just want the title not the work**

Dear Hard worker

No, but all BOD members serve on at least one if not more committees. The BOD is a working board. FP

**My chapter no longer has a BOD Rep because of the transition to the BOD. How can we know what is going on?**

**Signed Feeling excluded**

Dear Feeling,

You are still more than welcome to send your chapter representative to the BOD meeting. almost all of the BOD meeting are open to the public. You are welcome to check the website for this information including the next time for a BOD meeting. It is almost assured that your region will be represented. Your Chapter president should have been given the names of the BOD members each year and what region they are from.

The BOD is no longer made up of Representatives from Chapters. In the old election process, the BOD representative was elected by the members of the chapter to represent the chapter at the State level. The BOD is now made up of BOD representatives elected from the general membership and not the chapters. These members should be diverse in the areas of Gender, Race, Location, and Profession.

**What is a Region?**

**Signed Where am I**

Dear I am,

A Region is simply one of four areas resulting from a geographic split of the State of Texas based upon General Membership and Location of Chapters. Its purpose is to see

that all areas of the State are represented not just the Cities which have large chapters. We recognize that Addiction Professionals in different parts of the State have some similar issues but also that their needs may be very different. When the Nominations Committee makes a choice of persons, they must take the regional location of the person into account. FP

**What purpose do the chapters serve now, since they don't have a vote on the BOD?**  
**Signed Old-timer**

Dear Old-timer,

Don't be silly, Is this a real question? The chapters are the life blood of the organization. Members work with other members at the local chapter level to achieve the goals that the members see are needed at that level. This might be at a conference, doing legislative work, offering peer assistance, writing an article for a newsletter or many other needed activities. If you want to start a Chapter for your area, please contact the State office. In some areas of the State, because of numbers, members choose not to be involved through a chapter, but rather through individual activities on a committee.

Hey Old-timer, please come serve on the advisory committee. We need your thoughts and ideas and most of all your experience. FP

**If Old-timer can serve on a committee without being on the BOD, can I?**  
**Signed Me Too**

Dear Too,

Certainly, we encourage all members to be active in the organization in a way they can best help. If you are ready to assist on a committee on a state level. Please give the committee chair a call. Their number is available through the state office of on the website.

If you are unsure if you want to assist on a state level, please contact you local chapter and see if you can assist at that level. If you have a desire to help, please let someone know. If you don't get a call back contact your local chapter president of the BOD rep from your region. FP

**What are the Committees that I may serve on?**  
**Signed Where do I fit in?**

Dear Where,

Please see the By-laws for a list of all the Committees. There are also Ad hoc committees. They are not listed in the By-laws but are available through the State office. Each committee has a suggested number of persons but this does limit associates working on the committee. Example: Legislative committee: You don't have to be a "listed" member of the committee to contact your legislative representative with issues from the committee. FP

**Each of us**

have certain things we can do to be involved. We all have different areas of expertise and different amount of time we can commit to our activities. TAAP is dedicated to the advancement of chemical dependency issues. (Please see our goals) This is one of the reasons for membership. The Election Process has changed but this does not limit the ability of any member to be involved. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact your State office to see who can best answer your questions. (IE. nominations question to nominations committee chair.) We will continue to work together to meet the needs and concerns of all counselors, educators, and clients. Thank you for your involvement and service. FP