

Parliamentarian Bulletin – February, 2021

I hope all of you are doing well. This has been a very difficult time for everyone and I know we are all getting tired and frustrated. The new variants of the virus are scary and many of us are anxious for the vaccine.

Some auxiliaries have been able to meet others have not. What can we do???

According to the National Auxiliary, Locals may have elections by mail if they are able. Below please see the instructions from National on how to conduct an election:

AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary

“We waited together...

Now let's work together”

March 17, 2020

FROM: Heidi Dineen-Serpis, National Parliamentarian

SUBJECT: Coronavirus and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Meetings

As you know we are in uncharted waters. Robert's Rules doesn't address pandemics and meetings. The following are suggestions. **Please note** these are not definitive answers, as we cannot provide definitive answers.

According to Robert's Rules of Order; A Special Meeting is a separate session held at a time different from that of any regular meeting and convened only to consider one or more items of business specified in the call of the meeting. **Notice** of the time, place, and exact purpose of the meeting **must be mailed to all members** within a reasonable number of days in advance. The reason for special meetings is to deal with important matters that may arise between regular meetings and that urgently require action by the society before the next regular meeting.

All Local Bylaws must authorize the calling of special meetings. If Auxiliaries do not have this it is recommended to **add a standing rule: In the event of a state of emergency, the Local president may call for a special meeting and voting may be done by mail or email.**

For a vote by mail:

If the vote is not secret: a printed ballot containing a space for the voter's signature, a specifically recognized, self-addressed stamped envelope with the name and address of the secretary (or person who will count the ballots). If the qualifications of the nominee may not be widely known to the membership, it is permitted to allow each nominee to furnish a brief factual statement of her services and qualifications, provided that all nominees are accorded equal opportunity and space. Electronic mail and other means of electronic communities can be tailored to comply with these requirements.

If the vote is to be secret: an inner return envelope with space for the voters' signature placed on its face instead of the ballot should be sent to the voter with the ballot, in addition to the self-addressed outer return envelope described above. The ballot sent to the voter should be pre-folded a sufficient number of times so that when returned marked and refolded in the same manner and sealed in the inner envelope-there will be no chance of accidental observance of the member's vote by the teller who removes the ballot from the inner envelope. In other words, you are sending back an envelope with your ballot and a signature page inside another envelope to the person collecting the ballots.

Efforts to conduct the deliberate process by postal or electronic mail- are not recommended- must be expressly authorized in the Bylaws and should be supported by special rules as appropriate. Based on this note found in Robert's Rules, it is recommended once auxiliaries can have their annual meetings that the above standing rule be added to all Local and Department Bylaws.

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Remember that elections and installation of officers must be held by April 30th 2021. and revalidations sent to the Department by May 5th. Any past local president or Department officer may install the local officers.

If you have any questions regarding any of these or any other concern please call me or e-mail me at:

kdgmo2@gmail.com or 586-598-8285 - home or 586-876-1827 cell

Please leave a message if I do not answer immediately and I will call you back as soon as possible.

Yours in AMVETS Auxiliary,

Maureen Jackson, Department Parliamentarian

ARE OUR BY-LAWS DUE????

In the Fall I included a list of all Auxiliaries who had By-Laws due for the next year! Since the auxiliaries have not been able to meet since last year in March I know that most of you have not been able to meet concerning your by-laws and Standing Rules.

For this reason I am requesting that those auxiliaries who have by-laws due, submit your current by-laws with new current dates. Then when you are able to meet to discuss your by-laws and standing rules if there are any changes, you can send in the new ones.

Please contact me for any questions you may have about auxiliary!

Maureen Jackson, Department Parliamentarian

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