

**(as approved by the BOD on October 19,2008)**

## **ARTICLE VI - ELECTION OF STATE OFFICERS**

### **6.1 NOMINATIONS**

Nominations for elected State Executive Officer positions shall be entertained only at the January Board of Directors meeting. Nominations shall be accepted from any member in good standing present at said meeting. Nominations shall be the first item of New Business on the BOD agenda and the floor shall be opened for nominations by the Chair. After all nominations have been received, the Chair shall entertain a motion to close nominations which shall require a 2/3rds majority vote of BOD members present. No one shall be nominated for a State Executive Officer position for which they are not qualified in accordance with the qualifications listed in these By-Laws for the position. The State Secretary shall record the positions open for election as well as the nominees for each position and shall read the list prior to the vote to close the floor to nominations.

### **6.2 STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Nominees shall submit a statement of qualification to the State Office within two weeks of nomination, to be printed in each issue of the State publication prior to ballot mailing.

### **6.3 RUNNING UNOPPOSED**

Should only one person be nominated for office and therefore be running unopposed, the Board of Directors shall reserve the right to elect, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board members present, and to seat the nominee for said office. The seated nominee shall then take office effective at the start of the July BOD. If the current office holder resigns prior to that date, the seated nominee shall assume office effective the date of resignation of the current office holder and shall serve for both the remainder of the previous term as well as the elected/seated term which would have commenced at the July BOD for 2 years.

### **6.4 BALLOTS**

Voting ballots containing the names of all nominees for office shall be mailed by May 1 to each member of record in good standing, as of April 1 of each election year. The State Membership Secretary must issue a ballot to any member who meets these qualifications and gives notice that they have not receive a ballot by May 15.

#### **6.4.1 BALLOT FORMS**

The ballots shall consist of two parts. Part one shall consist of a list of all qualified candidates and shall be considered the official ballot. Part two shall contain the return mailing address of the ABATE Post Office Election Box and shall have space for the member's name, address, and membership number. Members shall clearly mark their choice for each office and mail the ballot back so that it is received in the box prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of June.

## **6.5 TELLER COMMITTEE**

The ballots shall be tallied by a committee of tellers. Said committee shall consist of three Chapter Deputy Coordinators, and the State Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall be the Chair. None of the above Deputy Coordinators shall have a member of their chapter running for office.

The Teller Committee shall acquire a post office box specifically for the purpose of receiving these ballots and it shall be accessible only to the tellers, three (3) of whom must be present to remove the ballots. All ballots shall be removed and the post office box closed the second Saturday of June. The State Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible to ensure that no one other than the members of the Teller Committee are present for the counting of ballots. The Deputy Coordinators shall count the ballots, tally the results, and provide one copy of the written count, signed by the Deputy Coordinators, to the State Sergeant-at-Arms along with a sealed container of the ballot forms counted. The State Sergeant-at-Arms shall then notify the State Secretary of the successful completion of ballot counting as well as the tallied results and follow up by delivering the written count as well as the sealed containers into the custody of the State Secretary. The State Secretary shall then notify the current State Coordinator of the election results by the most expedient means possible so that the State Coordinator may notify all candidates of the results.

## **6.6 IN THE EVENT OF A TIE VOTE**

In the event of a tie vote for any state office, in a regular or special election, at the next regularly scheduled state board meeting, the Board of Directors will conduct a secret ballot vote to determine the new office holder. The State Coordinator or pro-tem if applicable, will vote only to break a tie.

## **6.7 ELECTION RESULTS**

The State Secretary shall send the names of the winners for each elected office for publication in the July State Newsletter. Both parts of the ballots shall be kept in the State Archives until after the next October BOD or until directed by the BOD in the event of any election challenges.

## **6.8 TRANSITION PERIOD**

There shall be a thirty day transition period for new State Officers and the elected officers shall officially assume office at the July Board of Directors' Meeting.

## **6.9 SPECIAL ELECTION PROCEDURES**

Should the unexpired term of the present State Coordinator be greater than nine (9) months, the new State Coordinator shall be elected as follows:

At a duly called special Board Meeting, the Board of Directors shall make a pro-tem appointment for the position; hold nominations for the special election; arrange for

ballots to be mailed out to all members in accordance with regular election procedures; and appoint a special Teller Committee.

All ballots so mailed shall be returned within thirty (30) days of mailing, at which time the Teller Committee shall tally said ballots, in accordance with these Bylaws and as provided under the standard election procedures. The ballot results shall be announced and the duly elected State Coordinator shall immediately assume office, with confirmation at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors' meeting.