

**London Area Structures and Bylaws Committee**  
**Guidance Nov 24 – New members elections to the London ASC**

Suggested actions the London Area ASC to follow during elections. All comments below are suggestions only and all decisions made by an Area and its members are matter for their own conscience.

**Existing guidance in CA**

The CA World Service Manual does not expressly give guidance on how a committee should elect its members. It does however give some useful comments when groups are electing a GSR, which we feel provide a sound background for us to consider here.

*The GSR position is a very important service position for which a member can be elected. Great care should be taken with this choice; the quality of the District/Area Services and ultimately World Services can only be as good as those choices the individual Groups make. As with the Secretaries, GSR candidates should only accept positions for those Groups that they regularly attend. Regular attendance is to be defined by the groups. They are the ones who will carry the information back to the Group as to what is going on in our Fellowship on a District/ Area level as well as the World level.*

Some key areas the ASC may consider then in light of the above:

- a. All service positions at Area level are important to the fellowship as a whole;
- b. Great care should be taken with this choice, the quality of the Area services can only be as good as the persons we elect.
- c. Fellows should only accept positions in they are able to regularly attend ASC meetings

**Electing Area service positions**

- The conscience of London area is that the following positions must be elected at an Area meeting by way of a simple majority:
  - a. All subcommittee chair positions
  - b. Chair
  - c. Vice Chair
  - d. Secretary
  - e. Charity Trustees
  - f. Vice Treasurer
  - g. Convention Treasurer
- Should a member make it known at a meeting that they are standing for a vacant position, the following procedures are suggested:
  - a. They are seconded;
  - b. The chair reads out role, responsibilities and suggested clean time of the role from the WSM, perhaps sharing this onscreen.
  - c. The candidate gives their CV as to why they would like the role and why they are suitable for the position, including relevant experience.
  - d. The chair invites questions from the voting members in attendance (see below for suggestions).
  - e. Once the chair feels that adequate time has been given, they may ask the candidate if they still wish to stand for election or if they feel further consideration is needed, including perhaps so further research and reflection.
  - f. If they still wish to stand, the chair asks for the candidate to leave the room/zoom.
  - g. Further comments will then be invited from the chair for those who wish to speak for or against the candidate.

- h. The chair calls the vote.
- i. If they are successful, then they are re-admitted to the room.
- j. If they are unsuccessful, they are also re-admitted to the room and the chair may explain, in a kind and loving way, the general reasons why they have not been elected. The chair may also offer to speak to the person outside of the meeting forum to offer guidance and condolences.

### **The role of the electing Area Members**

- Here are some suggestions to help the ASC to discharge its duty to the fellowship in electing members.
  - a. All members should be mindful to ensure that the proper procedure is followed in an election and to raise concerns if feel that this is not the case.
  - b. Members are encouraged to ask the candidate questions (perhaps one per member) to help them demonstrate they understand the role and what is required.
  - c. Members may also seek to understand the relevant experience the person has in CA and if this is compatible with the suggestions in the WSM.
  - d. Specifically (and this will vary with every role), this may cover areas such as clean time, previous service roles, sponsored, sponsoring, worked the 12 steps, availability to attend area, willingness to form a committee, outside experience that may help with the role, knowledge of the traditions and concepts (or willingness to learn)
  - e. When the candidate leaves the room ahead of a vote, members are reminded of the anonymity statement and avoid gossip or personal comments.
  - f. In this time though, members are openly encouraged to air their genuine concerns to the group in a confidential manner.
  - g. It is better to delay a good decision than to rush into a bad one – if members feel that the candidate could benefit from some further research and information into the role, then they should make that known.
  - h. If a person is unsuccessful, caution is needed in informing them and avoiding public embarrassment.