

## **A Proposal to Amend SNAE's Elections**

### **Observations:**

Staff have been extensively polled on COVID-19 policies and Guest of Honor nominations with relatively low turnout (45.9% and 24.2%). This suggests relatively low staff interest in internal affairs.

The Board has proven rather collegiate, voting unanimously on most matters despite its diversity of personal and professional backgrounds. This suggests the current appointment method is producing an effective and diverse Board.

Low turnout runs the risk of a small group of active people changing the whole makeup of the organization; this is particularly dangerous as it opens the organization to infiltration by outside, organized groups.

Incumbent candidates tend to enjoy an advantage in re-elections by default.

SNAE continues to run on minimal manpower and budget; holding an election now could create unnecessary tension and expenses. It is unlikely the election will be both fair and free without adequate staffing and funding to ensure secrecy of ballots.

SNAE Treasurer and LVFC Chair Tanner "Tani" Bates recommends the following amendments to the Election Bylaws to assist the continued healthy function of the organization and its subsidiaries.

### **Amendment:**

Section 6.03.1a will be amended to read "2025" instead of "2024."

Section 6.03.1b will be amended to read "2027" instead of "2026."

Creation of subsection 6.03.2a reading: "A retention election with two choices – "Yes" or "No" - will be held prior to the general election. Incumbent candidates who receive a majority for Yes will not have to compete in the general election for their seat."

Creation of subsection 6.03.2b reading: "All elections – general and retention – will require participation by fifty (50) percent plus one of the eligible voting members to be valid. If turnout falls below this amount, the election's results are void and the status quo continues."

Section 6.03.4 shall be amended to read "the general election shall begin thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting and last until said meeting, unless all Directors had a majority saying Yes in the retention election, in which case the general election is cancelled.

Creation of section 6.03.4a which reads: "Retention elections begin sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting and last until seven (7) days prior to the General Election."

**Summary:**

These amendments will delay scheduled elections by one year, create a retention election to minimize uncontested elections, and create a participation threshold for elections to be binding.