



VOTING CHOICES

Newly Revised Oklahoma (Area 57) Modified Form of the 3rd Legacy Voting Procedure

I.1 PURPOSE:

To provide the Area Assembly an election procedure shorter than the Third Legacy Procedure outlined in the **A.A. Service Manual**, yet retain the principle of "two-thirds vote or lot".

I.2 ELECTION PROCEDURE

- The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.
- After the first ballot, any candidate with less than one-fifth of the total vote is withdrawn – automatically, except that the top two candidates remain. (If there is a tie for second place, the top candidate and the tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
- After the second ballot, candidates with less than one-third of the total vote are withdrawn automatically, except the top two candidates remain. (If there is a tie for second place, the top candidate and the tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
- If after the third ballot, no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the chairperson announces that the choice will be made by lot (from the hat). At this point, the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for first place, all tied first place candidates remain. In case there are not ties for first place, the top candidate and any tied second-place candidates remain.
- Lots are then drawn and the first one "out of the hat" is elected.

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3rd Legacy Voting Procedures

A.A.'s Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure, used primarily for the election of delegates and regional and at-large trustees. It is considered to be unique to A.A., and at first glance, appears to introduce a strong element of chance into a matter that should depend solely on the judgment of the majority. In practice, however, it has proved highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. The railroading of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, since voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. More importantly, a second-place candidate who may be extremely well qualified but without early popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting, rather than withdraw.

Third Legacy Procedures is as follows:

- The names of eligible candidates are posted on a board. All voting members (of the area of Conference body) cast written ballots, one choice to a ballot. The tally for each candidate is posted on the board.
- The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.
- Withdrawals start after the second ballot. If any candidate has less than one-fifth of the total vote, his or her name is automatically withdrawn - except that the top two candidates must remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
- After the third ballot, candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the two top candidates remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
- After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn, except that the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied second-place candidates remain. At this point the Chairperson asks for a motion, second and a simple majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot. If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and the choice is made by lot - "going to the hat" - immediately. If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot is conducted.
- If after the fifth ballot no election occurs, the Chairperson announces that the choice will be made by lot (from the hat). At this point, the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for first place, all tied first place candidates remain. In case there are no ties for first place, the top candidate and any tied second-place candidates remain.
- Lots are then drawn by the teller, and the first one "**out of the hat**" is the delegate (or trustee or other officer).

Reprinted with permission from the A.A. Service Manual, pages s20 & s21. Note: The 1980 General Service Conference approved the change from optional to automatic withdrawal of candidates.

**Rule 62: Don't take yourself
too damn seriously!**