

Florida North - AREA 9 Election Procedures

These Election Procedures are provided for clarification of Election Procedures in Florida North, to increase unity of purpose as we transition from one Panel to the next, and to provide stability for members who are interested in serving the Area as a whole. The spiritual principles in the Concepts including good personal leadership, participation and responsibility are the foundation of this document.

- I. The Florida North Area (FL-N) requires all members of the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) be participating members at the group and/or district level.

II. Candidates

Florida North (FL-N) members hold only one Area position at a time. Thus if you are a voting member of the Al-Anon World Service Committee (AWSC) panel: District Representative (DR), District Information Service Liaison (DISL), Coordinator, or Officer you may not stand for, or accept, a second position on the AWSC panel. If you accept a position mid-Panel, you will be asked to relinquish the first position.

III. It is the Group Conscience of the Florida North Area that members who hold a position on the Area World Service Committee agree to the following statements:

1. I am not a former or current member of Alcoholics Anonymous
2. I have not previously served a full three-year term in the position for which I am now standing
3. I have the ability to access and the willingness to use electronic communication and media
4. I have read the corresponding job description/guidelines and agree to fulfill the responsibilities
5. I am willing to read and use the service manual regularly. From the Service Manual Title Page, "Every Al-Anon and Alateen member is encouraged to actively use and study this Manual." Service Manual Title page.
6. I attend Al-Anon meetings regularly.
7. I have served three years as a Group Representative (GR) in Florida North (FL-N) Area, or service of equivalent experience in this Area.

IV. Specific position eligibility:

A. **Delegate-** Eligible candidates are defined as:

All voting members of the current AWSC Panel who have actively participated in and served a full three year term in Florida North (FL-N), have served three years as a Group Representative in Area 9, and are not a current or former members of AA are eligible to stand for Delegate.

B. Alternate Delegate-Eligible candidates are defined as:

Members that have not served a full three-year term as Delegate

All voting members of the current AWSC Panel who have actively participated in and served a full three year term in Florida North (FL-N), have served three years as a Group Representative in Area 9, and are not a current or former members of AA are eligible to stand for Alternate Delegate.

C. Chairperson- Eligible candidates defined as:

All voting members of the current AWSC Panel who have actively participated in and served a full three year term in Florida North (FL-N), have served three years as a Group Representative in Area 9 and are not a current or former members of AA are eligible to stand for Chairperson.

D. Secretary- Eligible candidates defined as:

All voting members of the current AWSC Panel who have actively participated in and served a three-year term in Florida North (FL-N), or former voting members of AWSC who have not served at the Area for one three-year panel, who have served three years as a Group Representative in Area 9 and are not a current or former members of AA are eligible to stand for Secretary.

E. Treasurer- Eligible candidates are defined as:

All voting members of the current AWSC Panel who have actively participated in and served a full three-year term in Florida North (FL-N), or former voting members of AWSC who have not served at the Area for one three-year panel, who have served three years as a Group Representative, and are not a current or former members of AA are eligible to stand for Treasurer.

To avoid possible conflict Area Treasurer candidates should not concurrently hold any other Treasurer positions in the District or Area above the group level.

F. Coordinators

Area Alateen Process Person

Alateen

Archives

Group Records

Literature

Public Outreach

Spanish Liaison

Technology

Eligible Coordinator candidates are defined as:

1. Members of Florida North who meet the criteria in Section **III**, and are willing to serve on behalf of the Area as a whole.
2. Members of Florida North who have served three years as a Group Representative in Area 9 and who are not current or former members of AA are eligible to stand for a Coordinator position
3. The Alateen Coordinator and the Alateen Area Process Person (AAPP) candidates must be a currently registered AMIAS in good standing with the Florida North Area.
4. The Spanish Liaison Coordinator candidate must be bilingual in Spanish and English.

Eligible Assembly Voters Defined

Group Representatives (GR's) elect their Area Officers and Coordinators and name their Delegate. When a GR and/or Alternate GR are unable to attend Assembly the Group may elect or appoint a temporary GR to vote. An Al Anon or Alateen member who is also a member or past member of A.A. is not eligible to serve as a Temporary GR.(SM p. 149)

Each District Representative (DR) or Alternate District Representative (ADR) will announce to the Secretary the number of eligible voters from the District.

Two Thirds Majority Defined

Two Thirds majority refers to two-thirds of the total number of votes cast. Abstentions do not count as votes cast.

Required Resources and Process

Staff:

Non-voting members to serve as ballot distributors.

Equipment:

Display board or projector

Ballots and writing implements

Blank copies of Trusted Servant Profiles

Process:

Ballots are distributed to voters for each vote taken

Names of all candidates written on the board or equivalent

Votes will be tallied beside each candidate's name

Any unreadable name on a ballot will not be counted as a vote cast

Election Procedures for Officers

Chairperson/Acting Chairperson begins the election and asks all eligible candidates who

are able to serve to please stand with eyes closed. Those willing to serve to please remain standing now for the specified office (i.e. Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary & Treasurer)

If the Chairperson/Acting Chairperson is a candidate the Delegate chairs the election.

If the Delegate is not present or is a candidate, the first of the following who is not a candidate chairs the election:

- a. Alternate Delegate
- b. Secretary
- c. Treasurer

Names of all willing and eligible candidates for the specified office are written on the display board or equivalent.

Candidates are asked to line up at the microphone and read from their “Trusted Servant Profile” starting at “My Home Group.”

The blank profiles are available on the website and blank copies will be available before and during elections.

Candidates are asked to vacate the room after they have read their profile until voting is completed.

After voting the first round the Chairperson may take the vote numbers to the candidates in the event a candidate wishes to withdraw their name.

Group Representatives (GR’s) vote on the selected ballots (if paper, fold the ballot in half) Any unreadable ballot will be discarded.

Election Procedures for Coordinators

A. The current District Representative (DR) will place a ballot with each interested and eligible candidate’s name, address, phone number, district number and desired position in the appropriate container(s). In the absence of a District Representative (DR), another elected person from that district may place the ballots in the appropriate container(s).

Prior to drawing, a non-voting member will ensure there are no duplicate entries in each container. The North Florida (FL-N) Area Secretary will collect all ballots at the end of the Assembly and destroy them as appropriate.

B. An incoming Area World Service Committee Coordinator (AWSCC) and one alternate will be drawn by lot by the current Florida North (FL-N) Area Chairperson before the closing session on Saturday. All Coordinator positions will be drawn first, and then all Alternate Coordinator positions will be drawn.

After each Coordinator name is chosen, the selected Coordinator will go to the microphone and read their Trusted Servant Profile.

C. If you are chosen for a Coordinator position and your name is in another lot, it will be disqualified and you will retain the first position you are chosen for. One individual will not occupy more than one Coordinator position.

D. Any vacated coordinator position will be offered to the alternate previously drawn.

E. Any vacated Coordinator position(s) where an alternate is not available will be filled by the same means as above at the next North Florida (FL-N) Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting or Assembly.

Balloting Procedures for Officers

On any ballot, a candidate who receives two-thirds of the votes cast is elected. If there is only one candidate a “yes” or “no” is written/selected on the ballot. Two-thirds majority is needed to be elected.

If there are only two candidates and a two-thirds majority of votes cast is not reached on the first ballot:

1. A second ballot is taken and a two-thirds majority of votes cast is still needed to win.
2. If a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is not obtained on the second ballot the presiding officer will draw a name to fill the position. “...Two-thirds vote or by lot greatly reduces political friction...” Service Manual p. 195

If there are more than two candidates and a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is not obtained on the first ballot the Chairperson may suggest that candidates may wish to withdraw their names:

3. A second ballot is taken and a two-thirds majority of votes cast is still needed to win.
4. The Chairman may privately ask the candidates if anyone is interested in withdrawing.
5. If a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is not obtained on the second ballot the presiding officer will draw a name to fill the position. “...Two-thirds vote or by lot greatly reduces political friction...” Service Manual p. 195

Vacated Positions

In the event any Officer or Coordinator is unable to attend two consecutive Area meetings AWSC or Assembly or is not fulfilling the requirements of the position their position shall be deemed vacated.

If the position of Delegate becomes vacant the Alternate Delegate will assume the position of Delegate.

If any Officer or Coordinator position other than Delegate becomes vacant during the term of the current panel the current election procedures will be followed.

If any position is vacated during the term of the current panel the materials of that vacated position are returned to Florida North. The materials of each vacated position shall be placed in labeled containers by the Archives Coordinator or Area Chairperson or appointed interim replacement who will be responsible for bringing the materials to each Area meeting.