Opening Plenary
Elections Committee Report

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Elections Committee Chairman
I. RESEARCH AND INPUT TO ESTABLISH NEW PROCEDURES FOR 1ST VIRTUAL CONVENTION

• As a result of the NBA hosting its first virtual convention, the Elections Committee (EC) had to revamp the NBA elections procedures, which involved meeting and obtaining input from:
  • NBA President Alfreda Robinson;
  • NBA Staff and NBA members;
  • NBA General Counsel Taa Grays;
  • Election vendor, John Bodin of Elections Trust;
  • NBA Secretary Ashley Upkins & NBA VP for Regions & Affiliates Lonita Baker;
  • Chair of NBA Nominations Committee Kim Kendrick; and
  • Current and former members of the NBA EC.
II. DRAFTED AND OBTAINED INPUT ON NEW ELECTION PROCEDURES

• After consultation, the EC determined that it is impractical to qualify NBA members to vote on same day of NBA election, as is traditionally done at in-person NBA Conventions.

• Therefore, the EC established deadline of 7/15/20 for NBA members and affiliate chapters to qualify to vote at NBA election.

• For qualified members to become eligible voters:
  • Pay annual NBA dues.
  • Pay full access fee of $250 to attend NBA Virtual Convention.

• For Affiliate Chapters to qualify to vote:
  • Pay designated NBA affiliate chapter dues.
  • Compete certification designating the appropriate number of chapter officers and chapter members that are current members of the NBA.
  • NBA Secretary Upkins’ certification.
III. NOTICE OF NEW PROCEDURES

To Notify the NBA membership of the new elections procedures, the EC:

- Drafted Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ);
- Placed the FAQs on the NBA website;
- Sent multiple emails to NBA members about the new election FAQs;
- Distributed FAQs to the NBA Nominations Committee, which distributed them to 2020 candidates for NBA office;
- Provided the FAQs to NBA General Counsel Taa Grays;
- Provided the FAQs to the NBA Board of Governors; and
- Sent a reminder email to NBA affiliates that, in order to be eligible to vote, they must demonstrate in their certification form that they have the required number of chapter officers and chapter members that are current members of the NBA.
- Election Trust mailed and emailed pin numbers to eligible voters.
IV. A LOOK TO THE FUTURE....

• In addition to preparing for the current NBA election, the NBA Elections Committee established the following subcommittees to consider and recommend changes to make the NBA election process even better:

  • Virtual Voting Subcommittee was chaired by Terrance Evans and examined how the NBA can potentially use virtual voting at future, in-person NBA Conventions;
  • FAQ Subcommittee was chaired by Sheryl Wood, who drafted the FAQs and examined how we can continue to improve the NBA election process;
  • Voter Eligibility Subcommittee was chair by Judge Lyle and I, and we sought to determine how we can enact procedures to avoid confusion and prevent future disputes about member and/or chapter eligibility.
  • Certification Subcommittee worked closely with NBA Secretary Upkins to examine the certification process and how it can be improved.

• Thank you to a great and dedicated EC. We enjoyed serving the NBA!