

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Voting by acclamation was approved in 2010. *If a Chapter's current bylaws states "by written ballot", then they need to vote in that manner. They may want to change their bylaws using the Law book for proper wording.*

Law Book, Section 80, 81, 84-85 pg. 49-50; Section 91pgs 51-52

BOI: pg 72-74

General Instructions for Election of Officers:

- Election of Officers must follow Bylaws Governing Subordinate Chapters (Section 80, 81, 84-85 pgs. 49-50 and Section 91pgs 51-52)
- Elections out of time require a dispensation from the Grand Secretary.
- Elections are held under New Business.
- Electioneering by a candidate and or someone for candidates is illegal.
- The Chapter must vote according to their Bylaws.
- If the Chapter bylaws say by written ballot, then it must be by written ballot, until the bylaws are changed.
 - Be prepared and have pencils and paper for written ballots on the Secretary's desk.
 - Appoint a Teller Committee prior to the meeting and have them prepared to count the written ballots.

Elected Officers:

- The elected officers of a Chapter shall consist of Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Associate Patron, Secretary, Treasurer, Conductress and Associate Conductress.
- The annual election of officers must be made at the stated meeting in November. If the stated meeting falls on the date of a General Election (or for another allowed reason), the Chapter may by a majority vote at a previous stated meeting, change the date (by dispensation) of their November stated meeting and therefore their election to another date not more than seven (7) days before or after their regular November stated meeting date. Time may not be dispensed. Elections other than at the November stated meeting must comply with a special dispensation out of time, granted by the Grand Secretary.
- A member may be elected to an office, although absent from the meeting, when the election is held. Be thoughtful and respect your members. Do not use their absence to create an awkward situation.

The following instructions are for those Chapters whose bylaws do not state that elections must be “by written ballot”:

- If there is **not** more than one such nomination from the floor for an office, the election **may be made by acclamation**.
- If there is **more than one** nomination for an office, then election **must be** made by written ballot.
- Be prepared and have pencils and paper for written ballots on the Secretary’s desk.
- Appoint a Teller Committee prior to the meeting and have them prepared to count the written ballots.

Procedure for Election by Acclamation:

- Worthy Matron says: **“We are now ready for the election of Officers.”**
- The WM may ask the Worthy Patron to preside.
 - A. The presiding officer says: “Are there nominations for the office of Worthy Matron?”
 - B. A member may then rise and say, **“I nominate Sister _____ for the office of Worthy Matron.”** (It does not require a second.)
 - C. The Presiding officer says, **“Are there any other nominations?”** If none heard, she/he says: **“Hearing no further nominations, I declare the nominations closed.”**
 - D. The Presiding Officer then says, **“Sister _____, you have been elected to the office of Worthy Matron. Do you accept?”**
 - E. The member accepts, and the Presiding Officer says: **“I declare Sister _____ elected to the office of Worthy Matron by acclamation.”**
- **Election proceeds in the same manner for all other elected officers.**
- **The Chapter Secretary records each election in the minutes.**
- If there is more than one nomination for an office, then election **must be** made by written ballot. (Instructions in next section)
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Procedure for Election by Written Ballot:

If a Chapter’s bylaws do state that elections must be “by written ballot”, then election **must** be made by written ballot.

General Instructions are the same as previously defined.

- The Presiding Officer gives any necessary instructions on the ballot.
- Tellers and the Secretary should tally ballots with one reading ballot out loud. There must be a majority vote for election. If there is not a majority, another ballot must be taken.
- When a majority ballot has been reached, the presiding officer says: **“Sister _____, you have been elected to the office of Worthy Matron. Do you accept?”** If the member accepts, the Presiding Officer says: **“I declare Sister _____, elected to the office of Worthy Matron.”**
- **Election proceeds in the same manner for all other elected officers.**
- **The Chapter Secretary records each election in the minutes.**