December 9, 2022

Regarding the 2023 ballot, Penny Smelser started an email communication with the Executive Board of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association on December 9, 2022 at 9:53am.

The board members included in the email communication were past president Tim DuBois, president Wes Robertson, president elect Carla Caulkins, interim vice president Addie Weddle, interim first vice president Lisa Wagonbrenner, sustaining member representative Kurt Vandock, secretary/treasurer Jay Kiser, and MAMCA Representative Jeff Hottenstein.

During the December 5, 2022 board meeting, the board suggested that Tim DuBois (nominations chair) add at least one additional candidate to his ballot that has extensive VMCA experience. Tim made these changes and sent the new ballot to Penny Smelser.

Penny sent an email to the VMCA board on 12/9/2022 discussing the possible ways VMCA members can vote using the website balloteer.com (the website VMCA has been using for several years).

Penny’s email communication stated:

Hello All,

After doing further research, I am going to recommend using the Single Transferable Vote - Droop quota election option. It’s an established commonly used form of ranked voting. Basically is works like this, a quota is set for a minimum number of votes a candidate must get to be elected, when they reach that quota any additional votes they received are transferred to the candidate who got the most 2 choice votes and so on until you have enough candidates to fill the empty positions. The website should do the quota setting, counting and vote transferring for us, so we don’t have to worry about performing all the calculations correctly. Here is the link to the election, please look it over and let me know if the instructions are clear and if we need any changes.

<https://www.balloteer.com/bp/nph-bstart?&eid=0501248498556386>

There was discussion of using the ranking system and how it may work. Tim suggested that we make an official vote on the ballot itself before discussing the voting. He made some edits to the ballot and sent the final copy in an email on December 14, 2022 at 8:54am. Carla Caulkins made a motion, seconded by Tim DuBois, to accept the nominations (on the ballot). There was no more discussion, all in favor (Addie, Carla, Lisa, and Tim), none opposed. Motion carried 12/15/2022 at 8:52am.

After more research on the voting website, Penny emailed the board a revised communication:

Good Morning All,

I have an update on the election. I believe it will be best to revert to our typical election voting system of having members vote for one candidate with the highest vote getter filling President Elect and so forth. The ranked voting system is designed to elect multiple candidates to the same level of office, meaning there is not a first, second, third, etc. The system eliminates the lowest vote getter and anyone who voted for the lowest vote getter, now there 2nd choice candidate gets their vote. The results are a candidate is either elected or excluded, there is no hierarchy. I can not see individual ballots.

I recommend using our normal voting process to simplify the process and avoid confusion. Please let me know if you agree so I can make the changes and get the voting information out to the membership.

Tim said, “...with the time remaining before the annual meeting, we need to move fast. I say we table a different voting system until next year, and go with the old.” Tim DuBois made a motion, seconded by Carla Caulkins, to move forward using the old way of voting in order to fulfill notification to our membership. During discussion and voting, Carla and Lisa voted aye and Jay voted nay. Jay said, “We have never had 4 nominations for 3 positions like this. There are so many ways the old style of voting can fall short here… I think we should find new software or go back to paper ballots for this year’s election, whichever is the best way for ranked voting.” Carla said, “I think this matter needs to be discussed in a meeting, not over email. We need to come up with something for voting. I agree with Jay that with one vote we run into one person possibly getting all the votes. I really don't know a solution for this though.” Penny and Tim talked about options with paper ballots and/or voting through email. On 12/29/2022 at 2:46pm, Tim rescinded his motion.

Subject is tabled until the board meeting on January 3, 2023. No more communication took place through email as of 12/30/2022 at 9:26am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Kiser

Secretary/Treasurer VMCA