



Election Process: Implementation date 1-30-2012

KMFFA Bylaws:

Article IV, D, #8

“Voting shall be accomplished by secret preprinted ballot under the direction of the stewards and at least one senior member”.

Article IV, D, #9

“Absentee ballots may be acquired from and returned to a steward. To be counted, absentee ballots must be in the stewards’ possession before the start of the election”.

Roberts Rules of Order (The Modern Addition 1989) do not address Absentee voting other than to say that *“When bylaws so permit, it is usually by mail vote or by proxy vote. Both of these methods pose problems, and bylaw provisions authorizing them must be very thorough”*

We have obviously encountered these problems at this time (January 2012). To clear up some of the uncertainty the following procedures shall be implemented under the direction of the Parliamentarian and Executive board to insure a fair and clean election process. **This is not** a bylaw amendment merely an Election process directive.

- 1) Absentee ballots acquired from your district’s steward must be filled out in the presents of that Steward (in the presence of, not witnessed by. This will assure your votes anonymity). Each Steward will have ballots for their respective members only. Ex. Station 41 or 16 see the District 1-4 Steward. The member voting must sign the election roster indicating they have been given the opportunity to vote. The vote must be deposited into a locked ballot collection box by the member voting.

- 2) The keys or combination to these boxes shall not be in the presence of the stewards. The Current KMFFA President and Vice President shall be the custodians of the keys or combinations.
- 3) Absentee voting may start two weeks prior to the posted election date. It is the member's responsibility to meet with your Steward (the Steward is not required to go to the member's location to collect a vote).
- 4) Under no circumstances should a steward try to lobby for a member to vote for one candidate over another. They are to be an impartial officer of the election process.
- 5) It is the Steward's responsibility to have the ballot boxes, with absentee ballots inside, at the posted site of the election process at the time the meeting or election's start or the absentee votes will not be counted. A steward may make arrangements with another Steward to transport their collection box but this does not relinquish their responsibility of having the votes on site, on time.
- 6) There will be No Proxy Voting; a signature on the election roster is required. If a steward accepts a proxy vote his ballot box will be considered tampered with and cast out.
- 7) After the election process *"the votes are then collected, counted by the tellers, and the results reported to the Chair, who announces it to the assembly"* (Roberts Rules of Order, the Modern Edition, 1989.)

Teller: Stewards

Chair: President

- 8) In the event the Election is not held at a General assemble the votes should be counted by at least two stewards and one other senior member. The

results should then be handled as directed in #7 above. This announcement may be in any suitable format as to get the information out to the members. This may include but are not limited to: Phone call, Email, text, message page, web site posting, etc.