

Hello Barry

Thank you for your email to clarify voting for Trustee elections. I will answer in order of your questions below, please see my answers in red, to your questions.

Organizational LM Balloting? Posts or Auxiliaries, how? If by email, what is the source of that contact information? Who representing the unit is authorized to call in and update that information, Commander, Quartermaster, Adjutant??

The National Home will send an email or text depending on what information our database has on file to the "person" or "title" that is registered to that contact info. Anyone can call in that info to be updated. The National Home cannot in any way possibly ever try & manage to keep the correct Commander, Quartermaster and Adjutant as well as the Auxiliary side correct with this info. If a "Post" creates a Life membership for the "Post" then whoever is in charge of reading email or getting the mail for the Post has the authority/obligation to update the National Home of any changes to the account. Again, we could not possibly ever be able to keep every change across the United States current. The "owner" of the account is responsible for updating the account. This is why it is very important to thoroughly understand what it means to open a Life Membership for a "Post" and not tie it to someone's personal email or phone number. Every year, once a year (mid-August to mid-September time frame) we get updated info from the VFW and Auxiliary on the new "leadership lists" for the upcoming year, which we then enter into our database. This info is only good for as long as the information is correct and true. If there is a typo in what we get and we don't know it, then our information becomes "bad" by default. If someone passes away the day after we get the information (drastic, I know) we don't receive updates. So again, the account owner is responsible ultimately for letting us know of changes.

I understand that voting by individual LMs will be strictly by online / email ballot??

This is correct. We fully automated the voting process in 2021/2022 due to the cost of mailing ballots and having an approx. 3% return rate. Yes, you read that correctly, approximately a 3% return rate on voting. All LM accounts that do not have a cell phone number or email address listed do not receive a ballot.

What is the anticipated date ballots will be distributed?

Ballots will go out mid-August and will have a 3 week window to vote, with 2 reminders being sent after the original vote has gone out.

What is the closure date of balloting?

The first/second week in September.

What is the closure date of new Life Memberships to receive a ballot?

Within about a week of when voting starts. After that time, the deadline is enforced, to allow us to be able to send the link and receive the vote in time for the deadline.

If a LM has no email address of record at all, will a paper ballot be mailed?

No paper ballots are mailed to Life Members. All voting is done by Text or email.

if not, will there be any secondary voting process?

There is no secondary voting process. Historically, the National Home would spend over \$10,000 a year to send out ballots. Over a third come back as non-deliverable due to address issues (moved, no such address, refused, bad info, etc) and well over the remaining half of the people do not return the ballots at all. With the continual rise of postage, materials and lack of voting, the electronic vote was a clear game changer.

As always, if there is anything else that I can help clarify or be able to answer, I am happy to help anyway that I can!

Please reach out if any questions at all!

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