

August 21, 2013

To : FRRS Board of Directors
c/o Eugene Vicknair

From : 2013 FRRS Election Co-chairs

Subject: Possible election procedure changes.

The 2013 FRRS election co-chairs would like to respectively submit the following election procedural changes for consideration.

1. In the case of a white ballot (nominees = open positions) at the end of the nomination period (Jan), the membership would be given an opportunity during the period set aside for candidate validation/statement submission (Feb) to petition the BOD to run as a write in candidate. If no member petitions are submitted/validated then a white ballot would be declared and the election, and associated costs, would be avoided. This procedural change would preserve a members right to run as a write in while giving the organization the flexibility to avoid holding an unnecessary election and incurring associated costs. This change would only be for white ballot situations and not apply to write-ins during a normal election.
2. In the case during a normal election where a ballot has a write in candidate that is not in good standing or otherwise qualified, the ballot would not be counted. One of the qualifications for a director is to be a member in good standing. This change would treat ballots with an invalid write in as a procedural violation in the same manner as failure to place the ballot in the inner envelope or voting for too many candidates. This change would eliminate the need to account for unqualified write-ins such as Rail Rat, Mickey Mouse, etc. Language would be added to the election information that ballots with a write-in for an unqualified member will not be counted as well as the procedure for verifying a member's standing. It is believed this change would elevate the decorum of the elections and eliminate accounting for otherwise unqualified write-ins.