

3 Motions (sponsored by Jeff French):

The following changes are recommended to the Election bylaws. Note: The latest motions (approved in 2016) are included below these 3 motions (since they aren't currently available online).

1. Remove the distribution of Officer Paper Ballots language from the by-laws and simply state that a paper ballot, instead of an electronic ballot will only be distributed to a member upon request. The request must be made by July 1st of the Election year.

Reason: Elections are now electronic at TCA. Two years ago, we started using electronic ballots. The time and cost savings are substantial. 2016 was a transition year, we allowed both ... if we use email addresses, members received an electronic ballot. If not, they received a paper ballot. For both 2017 and 2018 we stated the requirement of requesting paper ballots. Last year there were 2 paper ballots requested and distributed. Neither were returned. This year there was 1 request (with a second possible). The member that did make the request had not renewed their membership by the time ballots were created (no paper ballots were created, so the electronic creation completion was used as the measurement), so was ineligible to vote. We can keep the request for a paper ballot option in place, but even the requirement to include return envelopes, etc. no longer really makes since ... because the electronic election service can also be used to distribute paper ballots. I'll explain in more detail if needed.

Impact: Minimal impact, plus it simplifies the Election by-laws.

2. Remove the requirement of Tournament Bid Elections to be by Paper Ballot only.

Reason: there is no reason they can't be electronic if desired ... if there aren't over 20 voters, ElectionBuddy.com elections can be created for free. Not saying they *have to be* just saying they *can be* electronic.

Impact: None. But provides options that weren't available before.

3. Add a requirement that memberships are "In good standing" *before* ballots are distributed.

Also, I suggest that we also include a date of July 1st. So that there is time before the email list is provided to the election administrator to notify members of the requirement, and that the Treasurer has time to update the email list before distributing to the election administrator. Note: This date WILL NOT be applicable to members that were accidentally left of the original email list distribution and should have received a ballot. Those conditions can be handled satisfactorily by the electronic election service in that additional email addresses can be added after the election has started and ballots will be distributed soon-there-after.

I don't believe most of this addition is any different than the original Paper Ballot requirement of a member having to be 'in good standing' in order to receive a ballot. I would say it was a little vague in that a specific date wasn't specified and a member had to be in "good standing at the time the ballots were created". But, since it was only specified in the Paper Ballot section, it's just a clarification for Electronic ballots.

Reason: Administration of Electronic Elections *could* allow the administrator to taint the election *if* the administrator had access to results before the election was completed. It shouldn't be up to the election administrator to guarantee that he can't see this information (or if the service doesn't have the option to hide the results to *not take a peek*). Instead we should not allow new ballots to be added to the election after the ballots are distributed. **Scenario:** We had both contested President & VP elections this year. I, even as election administrator, get to choose, just like all voting members do. Let's say I really didn't want Eddie or Tom (or Forrest or Tanis) to win. I *took a peek* and found that my choice wasn't winning. I could call up my chosen candidate(s) and say "Hey, you are losing ... get some more members and get them to vote". I would never ... and any Election Administrator that did should never run an election again ... but let's make sure that scenario can't happen. The WORST that could happen if this was part of the rules (and frankly, I apply it anyhow) is that I call up my candidate(s) of choice and say ... "Hey, you are losing, call up your voters and make sure they have voted" ... any frankly, candidates should be doing that anyhow.

Impact: Protects TCA Election integrity.

Below this are the recommended changes to the Election bylaws. New additions are highlighted in **Bold font**, recommended deletions are ~~struck out~~.

Article V: OFFICERS Section 3. Election.

A. Voter requirements

- i. Members under the age of 17 **and/or not residents of Texas** are not allowed to vote.
- ii. Members must be "in good standing" on July 1st of the TCA Election year.

B. Election of the officers of the Association, as well as tournament bids on official TCA events, shall be by ballot.

C. Officer ballots are ~~can be either paper or~~ electronic. Tournament bids **can be electronic or** ~~are only paper ballots.~~

D. Officer Ballots shall be prepared by the Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, listing the nominations for each officer post.

~~i. Sufficient copies of the paper ballot shall be published in order that each voting member, in good standing, and has not provided an email address during membership sign up or renewal. The Secretary may mail a copy of the paper ballot or have a copy of the paper ballot included with the July/August issue of Texas Knights. A pre-addressed envelope shall be included with the paper ballots.~~

~~a. Each paper officer ballot must include a unique identifier.~~

- ~~b. The unique identifier will be used during tallying to guarantee that multiple ballots with the same identifier are not present.~~
- ~~c. If duplicate identifiers are found during the tallying process. All ballots with duplicate identifiers will be ignored (not counted during the tallying process).~~

~~ii.~~ For each voting member, in good standing **and a resident of Texas**, that has provided an email address ~~during membership sign-up or renewal~~, an email containing a unique link to an electronic ballot will be provided for voting in an officer election. For family memberships, emails containing a unique link to an electronic ballot will be provided for each voting member. Multiple emails can be provided to a single email address or single emails can be provided for each family member to unique email addresses. ~~Note: The online service requirements indicate the requirement of not allowing duplicate votes. So, the duplicate identifier requirement is not necessary for electronic ballots.~~ **A paper ballot can be requested by a voting member and will be provided instead of an electronic ballot. The request must be made by July 1st.**

~~iii. Even if members provide email addresses during membership sign-up or renewal, they can indicate that they prefer paper ballots instead of electronic ballots, and in such cases, paper officer ballots will be provided instead of access to electronic ballots.~~

E. ~~The President shall appoint a special committee to tally the Officer votes. This committee shall be made up of at least one Board member and one voting member.~~ **Electronic officer ballot detailed results shall be the tally of the ballots.**

- ~~i. Officer ballots shall be tallied during a public meeting during the Southwest Open.~~
- ~~ii. Paper officer ballots shall be tallied and will not be opened before the tally is performed.~~
- ~~iii. Electronic officer ballot results shall be added to the paper officer ballot tally.~~
- ~~iv. The combination of the paper officer ballot counts for each nominee and the electronic officer ballot results for each nominee will be considered the final officer ballot total for each nominee.~~
- v. The nominee having a plurality shall be declared the winner of each office. ~~The committee chairperson will present the election results to the President prior to or during the first part of the Annual Meeting. The committee chairperson~~ **The Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary**, will announce the election results at the appropriate time during the Annual Meeting.

F. An online service will be used for electronic ballots in officer elections. Note: ElectionBuddy.com has been found through testing to meet all of the below requirements. In addition, it is very reasonably priced.

- i. The online service must provide the ability to define one or more candidates for each office being considered for re-election.
- ii. The online service must provide the ability to allow write-ins of candidates for each office being considered for re-election.
- iii. The online service must provide the ability for only a single selection of a candidate for each office being considered for re-election.
- iv. The online service must provide the ability to include a one or more question survey on the ballot.

- v. The online service must provide the ability to upload a list of email addresses to send links to unique ballots to each member and be able to actually distribute the emails to members with the links to the ballots.
- vi. The online service must NOT allow multiple votes by a single member and only a defined number of votes for family members (predetermined and based on members of the family that can vote).
- vii. The online service must allow the setup of a Start Date/Time and End Date/Time of an election. In addition, the online service must NOT allow voting after the End Date/Time of an election.
- viii. The online service must provide detailed results of the election at the conclusion of the election.

Two Motions (sponsored by Jim Hollingsworth):

Added:

Article V: OFFICERS

Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

B. Vice-President

The Vice-President shall be the Bylaws Committee Chair.

Revised:

Article VII: COMMITTEES

Section 4. Bylaws Committee

A. The Bylaws Committee shall be a standing committee consisting of three to five voting Members appointed by the President, except for the Chairman, who will be the **Vice-President**.

The Bylaws currently read:

A. The Bylaws Committee shall be a standing committee consisting of three to five voting Members appointed by the President, except for the Chairman, who will be the Immediate Past-President.

Comments:

Current TCA Bylaws are five years out of date. The Immediate Past President is not accountable to anyone for getting this important job done. However, the Vice President is up for election every year and is accountable to the TCA voters.

Motion (sponsored by Jeff French and Jim Hollingsworth):

Appended:

Article V: OFFICERS

Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

E. Editor of Texas Knights

1a. Effective January 1, 2019 Texas Knights will be published online only with access limited to current TCA members with valid email addresses. In special circumstances, such as allowing Chess Journalists of America (CJA) judges to evaluate Texas Knights for annual awards, the TCA Webmaster may create temporary passwords to accommodate those needs.

Comments. If approved this will:

- Reduce TCA operational costs by approximately \$5,400 annually.
- Provide funding for other priorities as determined by TCA Officers.
 - Stipends of \$100 to \$200 to Texas Delegates to the US Open.
 - Stipends for TCA members representing Texas at National and International competitions.
 - Promotional materials for fundraising and recruiting.
- Increase revenue because TCA members will renew quickly so they can enjoy Texas Knights.

**TK has 224 Subscriptions and
Renewal Value of \$2,312.50**

**Texas Knights Costs
\$5,400 annually**

Type	TCA Members	Renewals Value	FY	Issue	Cost
Totals	224	\$2,312.50	FY16	Total	\$5,330.09
Regular	101	\$1,010.00	2015	09-10	\$899.64
Family	43	\$750.00	2015	11-12	\$762.19
Patron	11	\$275.00	2016	01-02	\$941.49
Junior	26	\$195.00	2016	03-04	\$966.22
Club	3	\$75.00	2016	05-06	\$890.95
Student	1	\$7.50	2016	07-08	\$869.60
Lifetime Regular	29	\$0.00			
Lifetime Patron	9	\$0.00			
Complimentary	1	\$0.00			
			FY17	Total	\$5,417.68
			2016	09-10	\$919.60
			2016	11-12	\$883.09
			2017	01-02	\$886.00
			2017	03-04	\$945.36
			2017	05-06	\$897.87
			2017	07-08	\$885.76
			FY17	Total	\$4,840.65
			2017	09-10	\$891.37
			2017	11-12	\$897.29
			2018	01-02	\$1,065.41
			2018	03-04	\$997.03
			2018	05-06	\$989.55
			2018	07-08	

Motion (sponsored by Jeff French and Jim Hollingsworth):

Amended:

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Voting Membership Categories

B. Deleted.

Comments.

If the online Texas Knights advance motion is approved, this paragraph will be unnecessary. As Regular Non-subscriber memberships expire, the affected members will renew at the regular \$10 rate.

The Bylaws currently read:

B. Regular Non-subscriber: Any Texas resident may become a Regular Non-subscribing Member of the Association upon payment of \$5.00 for one year. This class of membership does not receive Texas Knights but may participate in TCA tournaments and vote in TCA elections, and does not exclude juniors aged 16 (as of September 1st) or under.

Impact of this Advance Motion: \$405.00 (81 x \$5 increase)

**TCA Membership Types
and Renewal Value**

Type	Members	Value
Total	354	\$ 2,878.50
Regular	101	\$ 1,010.00
Family	43	\$ 750.00
No Magazine	81	\$405.00
Patron	11	\$ 275.00
Junior	26	\$ 195.00
Junior Online	29	\$ 87.00
Club	3	\$ 75.00
Student Online	18	\$ 54.00
Patron Online	1	\$ 15.00
Student	1	\$ 7.50
No Magazine 0	1	\$ 5.00
Lifetime Regular	29	\$ -
Lifetime Patron	9	\$ -
Complimentary	1	\$ -

Motion (sponsored by Jeff French and Jim Hollingsworth):

Amended:

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Voting Membership Categories

I. Blind Membership. A blind person may become a Special Member of the Association upon payment of \$5.00 for one year.

Comments.

If the online Texas Knights advance motion is approved, this paragraph will be consistent with the new policy. As Blind memberships expire, the affected members will renew at the regular \$5 rate.

The Bylaws currently read:

I. Blind Membership. A blind person may become a Special Member of the Association upon payment of \$2.00 for one year without the magazine, or \$5.00 for one year with the magazine.

Impact of this Advance Motion: Zero (TCA has had zero blind members for at least five years).

**TCA Membership Types
and Renewal Value**

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Club	3	\$ 75.00
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Patron Online	1	\$ 15.00
Student	1	\$ 7.50
No Magazine 0	1	\$ 5.00
Lifetime Regular	29	\$ -
Lifetime Patron	9	\$ -
Complimentary	1	\$ -

Motion (sponsored by Jeff French and Jim Hollingsworth):

Resolved:

If the Online Texas Knights Advance Motion is approved, all references to any dual category memberships and pricing that indicate a member can be an online only member will be purged from the Bylaws. All TCA current members with a valid email address will have online access to Texas Knights.

Impact of this Advance Motion: Simplicity.

Motion (sponsored by Jeff French):

Remove the requirement of publishing the financial statement in Texas Knights or *Optionally*: Allow the Editor to only include a link to the online report rather than publishing the whole report in Texas Knights (as has been done in the July-Aug 2018 issue).

Reason: The Treasurer's Report is now a spreadsheet that is viewable online at any time by anyone (much like the Bidding Spreadsheet). This is especially relevant if the motion to only distribute Texas Knights online is approved (publishing in two different online locations is redundant and unnecessary).

Article V: OFFICERS Section 5: Duties and Responsibilities of Officers E. Editor of Texas Knights

~~5. The Editor shall publish the financial statement provided by the Treasurer at the annual membership meeting in the next issue of Texas Knights.~~ Or optionally: **The Editor shall publish a link to the financial statement hosted at <https://TexasChess.org/Treasurer>.**

Impact: Minimal, please frees up a page for other things in Texas Knights.

Motion (sponsored by Jeff French):

There is a specification that indicates candidates get ½ page free for candidate statements in the July-August 2018 issue of *Texas Knights* (I don't think it's in the bylaws, because I couldn't find it).

Let's change it to a free Ballot Profile on the TCA Election ballot.

Reason: It doesn't cost us anything extra to include the Ballot Profiles (using ElectionBuddy.com). In addition, if the motion to only distribute Texas Knights online is approved, those that don't have internet access won't see the candidate statements in Texas Knights, and would only see the Ballot Profiles.

Impact: Frees up space in Texas Knights for other things. Simplifies Candidates' advertising options.