

# ACBL Unit 114 Election Procedures for Area Representatives

## Introduction / Overview

The Unit is responsible for all elections for Area Representatives. Area Representative terms shall be as provided by the ByLaws with the supervision of the Board. Candidates for Area Representative positions are self-nominated. Self-nomination requires that the member provide a request in writing to the Unit Secretary for the position desired. If the number of members nominated in any area is larger than the number of open positions, there will be an election in that area. If any area has nominations equal to or less than the number of representatives for the area, the nominees are elected.

## Areas and Number of Representatives

The areas and number of Representatives for each area is determined by the Board. The current map showing the areas as of March 2008 is attached as a graph titled "Unit 114 Election Areas". The formula used to determine this allocation was: One Area Representative per every 200 members, or fraction thereof, for each area

This procedure is effective for terms that begin at the 2008 Annual Meeting. Elections of Area Representatives shall be held on the following basis.

<u>Terms beginning in even years</u>	<u>Number</u>
Northwest (Rome/Peachtree City)	2
Northeast (Athens/Gainesville)	2
Metro Atlanta (7 County area)	4
North Central (Covington/Conyers)	1
South Central (Macon/Warner Robbins)	2
South (Columbus/Valdosta)	1
<u>Terms beginning in odd years</u>	
Metro Atlanta (7 County area)	5

## Elections Committee Chairman

The Elections Committee Chairman ("Chair") has the primary responsibility for supervising elections. The Chair is appointed by the President with approval of the Board. The Chair shall appoint, subject to approval by the President, an Election Monitor ("EM") for each contested election. EM's shall ensure that proper voting procedures are followed to establish the voting site, voter eligibility and voting times.

When area elections are scheduled, the Chair shall provide notice of elections in the "District Seven News" in sufficient time to allow for self nomination by members. A copy of the notice of elections will be sent to all ACBL clubs. The Unit web site carries the notice and will also provide updates of the status and results of elections. Nominations will be open until thirty days before the scheduled election. Nominations not received by that date will be voided.

### **Election Monitor Responsibilities**

The Monitor, after discussion with bridge volunteers in the area, shall determine the site and date for the election. A Unit sectional or area regional is the preferred site. The election site need not be in the contested area if another location best serves the members. For example, voting may be at a sectional in a nearby area, especially if there are no sectionals in the contested area. If there is no appropriate site for the election, it may be done exclusively by mail.

Thirty days prior to an election, the EM(s) shall send notice of election to clubs in the contested area(s) and to the Webmaster for posting on the Unit website. The notice shall include: The date of the election, the physical location, the hours the polls are open and provisions for absentee ballots. As soon as practical after the election, but leaving sufficient time for receipt of ballots mailed on or before the election date, the EM shall inform the President, Chair, Webmaster and area clubs as to the winner(s) of the election.

### **Conflict Resolution**

All conflicts should be resolved by emphasizing the spirit of the election process rather than strict construction of these procedures.

If any member has an objection or concern, that member should contact the EM for resolution, who alone makes any required determination(s). The member may appeal the EM's decision to the Board if s/he believes that determination was not made in accordance with these procedures, the Unit bylaws, and/or the Board's most recent determination of geographical areas and number of Area Representatives. Notice should be sent to the Secretary including the specifics of the complaint. The Secretary shall include this as new business for the next Board meeting. The protesting member shall be allowed time to present his/her position to the Board; the President may limit the time allowed for such explanation. The Board shall then vote on the matter. Any decision of the Board shall be final.

Prior to a vote by the Board, the decision of the EM shall be used to conduct Unit business, including the seating of members on the Board.