
1997 AMS Elections Special Section

Dear Colleagues:

Each year members of the Society are invited to vote for candidates for several of the Society's governing bodies. The candidates for election are presented to the Society in the material that follows. This information, as well as the official ballot, will be sent to you in early September.

The choices you make in the elections directly affect the direction that the Society takes. This may not seem obvious to the casual member. So let me take a few minutes of your time to explain.

The president of the Society (whom you elect every other year) is the most important officer. The president determines, either directly or indirectly, most of the scientific policies of the Society. The direct effect the president has is through personal interactions with members of the Society and outside the organization, for example, in testimony before Congressional committees. Indirect influence occurs because the president appoints the chairs and members of almost all committees of the Society, including the policy committees. The president sits as a member of all the policy committees, is the chair of the Council's Executive Committee, and is *ex officio* a trustee. The president works closely with all officers and administrators of the Society, especially with the executive director and the secretary, to insure the orderly transaction of the business of the Society. Finally, the president also nominates candidates for election to the Editorial Boards Committee and the Nominating Committee. Thus the president also has a long-term effect on the affairs of the Society.

The vice-president and the members-at-large of the Council who will be elected in this election will serve for three years as one third of the elected members on the Council. The Council is responsible for setting all scientific policy of the Society. The Council determines membership on the editorial boards of the Society, makes nominations of candidates for future elections, appoints the treasurers and members of the Secretariat, creates com-

mittees, and determines all scientific policy of the Society. Each of these members of the Council will also serve on a policy committee of the Society.

The trustees, of whom you will be electing one for a five-year term, determine all the fiscal policies of the Society. The Board of Trustees has complete fiduciary responsibility for the Society. The trustees determine the annual budget of the Society, the prices for journals, the salaries of the employees, the dues (in cooperation with the Council), the registration fees for meetings, and the investment policy for the Society's reserves. The person you elect will become the chair of the Board of Trustees in the fourth year of the term.

The candidates presented to you were suggested to the Council by the Nominating Committee or by petition by members. While the Council has the final nominating responsibility, the groundwork is done by the Nominating Committee. Members of this committee are elected by you in this same election. The candidates were nominated by the current president, Arthur Jaffe. The three elected will serve a three-year term. The main work of the Nominating Committee takes place during the Annual Meeting of the Society, during which it has four sessions of face-to-face meetings, each lasting about three hours. The Committee then reports its suggestions to the Council, which makes the final nominations.

The Editorial Boards Committee is responsible for the operation of the editorial boards of the Society. Members are elected for three-year terms from a list of candidates nominated by the president. The Editorial Boards Committee makes recommendations for most of the editorial boards of the Society. Editors of those journals named in the bylaws are appointed by the Council upon recommendation by the Editorial Boards Committee. Associate editors and editors for all other editorial committees are appointed by the president upon recommendation by the Editorial Boards Committee.

If past elections are a measure, then only 12 percent of you will vote in this election. This participation is in line with voting in other professional organizations. But this is not an excuse for you to throw the ballot into the trash. The other officers and members of the Council join with me in urging you to take a few minutes to review the election material, fill out your ballot, and mail it. The Society belongs to its members. You can influence policy and the directions it takes by voting.

If you are still reading this, then I also urge you to consider other ways to participate in the activities of the So-

ciety. The Nominating Committee, the Editorial Boards Committee, and the Committee on Committees are always anxious to learn of members who are willing to serve the Society in various capacities. Names are always welcome (a few added words of recommendation help) and can be sent directly to the secretary.

PLEASE VOTE.

—Robert Fossum
Secretary

List of Candidates-1997 Election

President-Elect

(one to be elected)

Felix Browder
Srinivasa S. R. Varadhan

Vice-President

(one to be elected)

Jennifer Tour Chayes
Efim I. Zelmanov

Member-at-Large of the Council

(five to be elected)

Edward Aboufadel
Alejandro Adem
Ara S. Basmajian
Robert L. Bryant

Jane M. Hawkins
Lisa Claire Jeffrey
Karen H. Parshall
Mary Beth Ruskai*
Michael Starbird
Abigail A. Thompson
Deane Yang

Board of Trustees

(one to be elected)

Roy L. Adler
Frederic Y. M. Wan

Nominating Committee for 1998

(three to be elected)

Michal Misiurewicz

Catherine L. Olsen
Paul Rabinowitz
Elias M. Stein
Clarence Eugene Wayne
Sylvia Wiegand

Editorial Boards Committee for 1998

(two to be elected)

Jay R. Goldman
David Jerison
Abel Klein
Ronald M. Solomon

*Nominated in response to a petition.

Election Information

The ballot for election of officers, members of the Council, a trustee, and committee members will be mailed on or shortly after September 10, 1997, in order for members to receive their ballots well in advance of the November 10, 1997, deadline. A list of members of the Council and Board

of Trustees serving terms during 1997 appears in the "AMS Officers and Committee Members" section of this issue of the *Notices*, pp. 973-983 (and will be mailed with the election material sent to all members in September).

REPLACEMENT BALLOTS

There has been a small but recurring and distressing problem concerning members who state that they have not received ballots in the annual election. It occurs for several reasons, including failure of local delivery systems on university or corporate properties, failure of members to give timely notice of changes of address to the Providence office, failures of postal services, and other human errors.

To help alleviate this problem, the following replacement procedure has been devised: A member who has not received a ballot by October 10, 1997, or who has received a ballot but has accidentally spoiled it, may write after that date to the Secretary of the AMS, Post Office Box 6248, Providence, RI 02940, asking for a second ballot. The request should include the individual's member code and the address to which the replacement ballot should be sent. Immediately upon receipt of the request in the Providence office, a second ballot, which will be indistinguishable from the original, will be sent by first class or air mail. It must be returned in an inner envelope, which will be supplied, on the outside of which is the following statement to be signed by the member:

The ballot in this envelope is the only ballot that I am submitting in this election. I understand that if this statement is not correct then no ballot of mine will be counted.

signature

Although a second ballot will be supplied on request and will be sent by first class or air mail, the deadline for receipt of ballots will not be extended to accommodate these special cases.

SUGGESTIONS FOR 1998 NOMINATIONS

Each year the members of the Society are given the opportunity to propose for nomination the names of those individuals they deem both qualified and responsive to their views and needs as part of the mathematical community. Candidates will be nominated by the Council to fill positions on the Council and Board of Trustees to replace those whose terms expire January 31, 1998. See the "AMS Officers and Committee Members" section of this issue for the list of current members of the Council and Board of Trustees. Members are requested to write their suggestions for such candidates in the appropriate spaces below.

COUNCIL AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vice-President (1)

Members-at-large of the Council (5)

Member of the Board of Trustees (1)

The completed form should be addressed to AMS Nominating Committee, Post Office Box 6248, Providence, RI 02940, to arrive no later than **November 10, 1997**.