
1999 AMS Elections

Special Section

Dear Colleagues:

Once again members of the Society are invited to vote for candidates for several of the Society's governing bodies. The candidates for election are presented in the material that follows. This information and the official ballot will be sent to you in early September. The choices you make in these elections directly affect the direction that the Society takes. This may not be obvious to the casual member, so let me take a few moments 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 comes through the president's personal interactions, both with members of the Society and outside the organization, for example, in testimony before congressional committees. Indirect influence occurs because the president appoints chairs and members of almost all committees of the Society, including the policy committees. The president sits as a member of all five policy committees, is the chair of the Council's Executive Committee, and serves *ex officio* as a trustee. The president works closely with all officers and administrators of the Society, especially the executive director and the secretary, to insure the orderly transaction of Society business. Finally, the president nominates candidates for the Nominating Committee and the Editorial Boards Committee. As a consequence, the president has a long-term effect on affairs of the Society.

The vice president and the members at large of the Council you select will serve for three years on the Council of the Society. The Council determines membership on the editorial boards of the Society, appoints the treasurers and the members of the Secretariat, nominates candidates for future elections, creates committees, and determines all scientific policy of the Society. Each of these new members of the Council will serve on one of the Society's policy committees.

The trustees, of whom you will be selecting one for a five-year term, have complete fiduciary responsibility for the Society. The person you select will serve as chair of the Board of Trustees during the fourth year of the term. The trustees determine the Society's annual budget, prices of journals, salaries of employees, dues (in cooperation with the Council), registration fees for meetings, and investment policy for the Society's reserves.

The candidates presented to you were suggested to the Council either by the Nominating Committee or by petition from members. While the Council has the final nominating responsibility, the groundwork is done by the Nominating Committee. New members of this committee will be elected by you in the forthcoming election. The candidates were nominated by the current president, Felix E. Browder, and the three elected will serve three-year terms. 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 named 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 by-laws are appointed by the Council, upon recommendation of the Editorial Boards Committee. Associate editors and editors for all other editorial committees are appointed by the president, again upon recommendation of the Editorial Boards Committee.

If past elections are a reliable measure, about 12 percent of you will vote in this election. This is in line with voting patterns in other professional organizations. This is not offered as an excuse for you to throw the ballot in the trash, however; the other officers and members of the

Council join 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 the policy and direction it takes by voting.

Let me urge anyone still reading to consider other ways of participating in Society activities. The Nominating Committee, the Editorial Boards Committee, and the Committee on Committees are always interested in learning of members who are willing to serve the Society in various capacities. Names are always welcome, particularly when accompanied by a few words detailing the person's background and interests. Self-nominations are probably the

most useful. Recommendations can be sent to the secretary (e-mail: secretary@ams.org), who will forward them to the cognizant body.

PLEASE VOTE.

We were not able to include the complete list of candidates and biographical information in the September issue. The complete election information will be mailed to all members with the ballot in September.

—Robert J. Daverman
Secretary

List of Candidates-1999 Election

President

(one to be elected)

Hyman Bass
Daniel W. Stroock

Vice President

(one to be elected)

David Eisenbud
Thomas G. Kurtz

Board of Trustees

(one to be elected)

Eric M. Friedlander
Donald E. McClure

Member at Large of the Council

(five to be elected)

Patricia Bauman
William Fulton
Susan C. Geller
Martin Golubitsky
Ellen E. Kirkman
Jonathan M. Rosenberg
Claude L. Schochet
Ronald J. Stern
Lisa Traynor
William Yslas Velez

Nominating Committee for 2000

(three to be elected)

Curtis D. Bennett
Ruth M. Charney
Ramesh A. Gangolli
Frank Morgan
Donald St. P. Richards

Editorial Boards Committee for 2000

(two to be elected)

Palle E. T. Jorgensen
Gregory F. Lawler
Roger Wiegand

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, 1999, in order for members to receive their ballots well in advance of the November 10, 1999, deadline. A list of members of the Council and Board

of Trustees serving terms during 1999 will appear in the "AMS Officers and Committee Members" section of the October issue of the *Notices* (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, 1999, or who has received a ballot but has accidentally spoiled it may write after that date to the Secretary of the AMS, P. O. 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 airmail. It must be returned in an 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 airmail, the deadline for receipt of ballots will not be extended to accommodate these special cases.

Suggestions for 2000 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, 2000. See the "AMS Officers and Committee Members" section of the October 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, P. O. Box 6248, Providence, RI 02940, to arrive no later than **November 10, 1999**.