

*American
Mathematical
Society*

Election of Officers for 2004

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2003 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. This year, for the first time, AMS members will have the opportunity to vote electronically or by paper ballot. The candidates for election and their biographies are presented in the September 2003 issue of the *Notices*. This information and the official ballot will be available to you in early September. Consult the October 2003 *Notices*, From the AMS Secretary section, for the list of current holders of office. Also this year you will be asked to ratify a change to the AMS bylaws, intended to grant flexibility in setting eligibility criteria for life membership in the Society. 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 lines to explain.

The president of the Society (whom you elect every other year) is the most important officer. The president strongly influences, either directly or indirectly, most of the scientific policies of the Society. A direct effect comes through the president's personal interactions both with members of the Society and with outside organizations, for example, in testimony before Congressional committees. In addition, the president sits as member of all five policy committees, is the chair of the Council's Executive Committee, and serves ex-officio as a trustee. Indirect influence occurs as the president appoints chairs and members of almost all committees of the Society, including the policy committees. 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. Consequently, the president also has a long-term effect on Society affairs.

The vice president and the members at large of the AMS Council you select will serve for three years on the Council. That body determines all scientific policy of the Society, creates and oversees numerous committees, appoints the treasurers and members of the Secretariat, makes nominations of candidates for future elections, and determines the chief editors of several key editorial boards. Typically 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. Among other activities the trustees determine the annual budget of the Society, prices of journals, salaries of employees, dues (in cooperation with the Council), registration fees for meetings, and investment policy for the

You should have received either a traditional paper ballot or email with instructions for voting online by September 20. If you have not received this information, please contact the AMS (preferably before October 1) to request a ballot. Send email to ballot@ams.org or call the AMS at 1-800-321-4267 (within the U.S. and Canada) or 401-455-4000 (worldwide) and ask to speak with Member Services.

Society's reserves. The person you select will serve as chair of the Board of Trustees during the fourth year of the term.

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 laid by the Nominating Committee. New members of this committee will be elected in this coming election. The candidates were nominated by the current president, David Eisenbud. 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, as you might suspect, for the staffing 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 almost all editorial boards of the Society. Chief or managing editors of eight specific journals named in the AMS bylaws are officially appointed by the Council, upon recommendation of the Editorial Boards Committee; in virtually all other cases, the editors are appointed by the president, again upon recommendation by the Editorial Boards Committee.

Elections to the Nominating Committee and the Editorial Boards Committee are conducted by the method of approval voting. In the approval voting method, you can vote for as many or as few of the candidates as you wish. The candidates with the greatest number of the votes win the election.

It is suggested that names for write-in votes be given in exactly the form that the names occur in the *Combined Membership List*. Otherwise the identity of the individual for whom the vote is cast may be in doubt and the vote may not be properly credited.

According to the Society's bylaws, amendments to them are recommended by the Council and approved by its members. To gain approval an amendment must have an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those voting in this ballot. The item here, endorsed by both the AMS Committee on the

Profession and the Council, concerns a category of membership called life membership. The current bylaws set forth very explicit regulations for this category, and the officers believe the Society would be better served if more flexibility were permitted so that the Society could find an appealing but cost-effective means of increasing the number of Life Members, which might need to change over the course of years. The bylaws, specifically Article IX, Section 11, must be changed in order to allow this. The Council urges you to vote on the matter and recommends an affirmative vote. If you return a ballot and do not vote on the amendment, the effect is to vote "NO".

As an aside, if you inadvertently spoil your ballot, you may return it to the Secretary, care of the Providence office, and request a new ballot. The September 2003 *Notices* contains instructions about replacement ballots.

If past elections were a reliable measure, about 12 percent of you would vote in this election. However, a prediction of a 12% return could turn out to be far from accurate this year with the introduction of electronic voting. When other professional societies have taken similar steps, the percentage of voters has increased, and the AMS hopes to see a significant increase in returned ballots this year. 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 submit it by some means, either by regular mail or electronically. The Society belongs to its members. You can influence the policy and direction it takes by voting.

Finally, 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 transmitted from the Web (<http://www.ams.org/committee-nominate>, also linked from the AMS website home page via the Secretary's page) or sent directly to the secretary (secretary@ams.org), who will forward them to the cognizant body.

PLEASE VOTE.

—Robert J. Daverman
Secretary

List of Candidates—2003 Election

President

(one to be elected)

James G. Arthur
Donald G. Saari

Vice President

(one to be elected)

Vaughan F. R. Jones
Nolan R. Wallach

Board of Trustees

(one to be elected)

Lenore Blum
Linda Keen

Member at Large of the Council

(five to be elected)

James W. Cannon
Sylvain E. Cappell
Beverly E. J. Diamond
Mark Goresky
Jacques Hurtubise
Kevin P. Knudsen
Michael T. Lacey
Fred Stephen Roberts
Alexandro Uribe

Nominating Committee for 2004

(three to be elected)

Annalisa Crannell
Dennis DeTurck
Arthur M. Jaffe
Robion C. Kirby
Thomas G. Kurtz
Joel H. Spencer

Editorial Boards Committee for 2004

(two to be elected)

David L. Colton
Emma Previato
Daniel Ruberman
Karl Rubin

Election Information

The ballot for election of officers, members of the Council, a trustee, and committee members will be available, either online or by mail, on or shortly after August 25, 2003, in order for members to have the opportunity to vote well in advance of the November 7, 2003, deadline. A list of members of the Council and Board of Trustees serving terms during 2003 will appear in the "AMS Officers and Committee Members" section of the October issue of the *Notices*.

Replacement Ballots

For those who wish to vote by paper ballot, the following replacement procedure has been devised: A member who

has not received a ballot by October 1, 2003, or who has received a ballot but has accidentally spoiled it may write after that date to the Secretary of the AMS, 201 Charles St., Providence, RI 02904-2294, USA, 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. Although a second ballot will be supplied on request and will be sent by first class or airmail, the deadline for receipt of ballots cannot be extended to accommodate these special cases.

Suggestions for 2004 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, 2004. 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, Office of the Secretary, American Mathematical Society, 312D Ayres Hall, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1330, to arrive no later than **November 7, 2003**.

Proposed Amendments to AMS Bylaws

According to the Society's Bylaws, amendments are recommended by the AMS Council and approved by the members. To gain approval an amendment must have an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those voting.

The following proposed amendment was endorsed by the Council upon the recommendation of the AMS Committee on the Profession. It provides much greater flexibility in determining eligibility criteria for life membership; the current section of the Bylaws treating this is quite limiting. The Committee on the Profession, the Council, and the Board of Trustees have shown interest in expanding those eligibility criteria. The Council urges you to vote on the matter and

recommends an affirmative vote; if you return a ballot and do not vote on the amendment, the effect is the same as voting against it.

The complete Bylaws can be viewed at <http://www.ams.org/secretary/bylaws.html>. The Bylaws were published most recently in the November 2001 issue of the *Notices*, pp. 1205-1209.

Current Article IX, Section 11

Any person who has attained the age of 62 and has been a member for at least twenty years may become a life member by making a single payment equal to five times the dues of an ordinary member for the coming year. Insofar as there is more than one level of dues for ordinary membership, it is the highest such dues that shall be used in the calculation, with the exception for members by reciprocity noted in the following paragraph. A life member is subsequently relieved of the obligation of paying dues. The status and privileges are those of ordinary members.

A member of the Society by reciprocity who has reached the age of 62, has been a member for at least 20 years, has been a member by reciprocity for at least 15 of those 20 years and asserts the intention of continuing to be a member by reciprocity may purchase a life membership by a one-time payment of a special rate established by the Council, with the approval of the Trustees.

Proposed Article IX, Section 11

An eligible member may become a life member by making a one-time payment of dues. The criteria for eligibility and the amount of dues shall be established by the Council, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees. A life member is subsequently relieved of the obligation of paying dues. The status and privileges are those of ordinary members.

An eligible member of the Society by reciprocity who asserts the intention of continuing to be a member by reciprocity may purchase a life membership by a one-time payment of dues. The criteria for eligibility and the amount of dues shall be established by the Council, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.