

SPECIAL SECTION



2006 American Mathematical Society Election

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2006 AMS Elections

Special Section

List of Candidates–2006 Election

Vice President (one to be elected)

Robert L. Bryant
Sylvia M. Wiegand

Board of Trustees (one to be elected)

Henry B. Laufer
Carol Saunders Wood

Member at Large of the Council (five to be elected)

Rodrigo Bañuelos
Robert L. Devaney
Detlef Gromoll
Gregory F. Lawler
Frank S. Quinn
David J. Saltman
Martin G. Scharlemann
Marjorie Senechal
Katherine St. John
Francis Edward Su

Nominating Committee (three to be elected)

Thomas C. Hales
Roger Howe
David Manderscheid
John E. McCarthy
Hema Srinivasan
William Yslas Vélez

Editorial Boards Committee (two to be elected)

Eric Bedford
Niky Kamran
Peter Kuchment
Irena Swanson

Ballots

AMS members will receive by September 20 either a traditional paper ballot or email with instructions for voting online. If you do not receive this information by that date, please contact the AMS (preferably before October 1) to request a ballot. Send email to ballot@ams.org or call the AMS at 800-321-4267 (within the U.S. or Canada) or 401-455-4000 (worldwide) and ask to speak with Member Services. The deadline for receipt of ballots is November 3, 2006.

Write-in Votes

It is suggested that names for write-in votes be given in exactly the form that the name occurs in the *Combined Membership List* (www.ams.org/cm1). Otherwise the identity of the individual for whom the vote is cast may be in doubt and the vote may not be properly credited.

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 September 20, 2006, or who has received a ballot but has accidentally spoiled it, may write to ballot@ams.org or Secretary of the AMS, 201 Charles Street, 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.

Biographies of Candidates

The next several pages contain biographical information about all candidates. All candidates were given the opportunity to provide a statement of not more than 200 words to appear at the end of their biographical information.

Description of Offices

The **vice president** and the **members at large of the AMS Council** 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 also will serve on one of the Society's five policy committees.

The **Board of Trustees**, of whom you will be electing one member for a five-year term, has 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 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 for vice president, members at large, and

trustee 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**. The candidates for election to the Nominating Committee were nominated by the current president, James G. Arthur. 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 spring Council, which makes the final nominations.

The **Editorial Boards Committee** is responsible 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 seven 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.

Proposal for an AMS Fellows Program

The April 2006 Council directed that the following question be put to the membership on the 2006 election ballot:

The possibility of initiating an AMS Fellows Program has been discussed for many years. The following specific proposal has been placed on the ballot for the vote of the membership. If 2/3 of the voting members approve, the AMS will begin to initiate this program.

Members will be asked to approve or disapprove this question.

Proposal for a Fellows Program of the AMS

The Goals of the Fellows Program are:

- To create an enlarged class of mathematicians recognized by their peers as distinguished for their contributions to the profession.
- To honor not only the extraordinary but also the excellent.
- To lift the morale of the profession by providing an honor more accessible than those currently available.
- To make mathematicians more competitive for awards, promotions, and honors when they are being compared with colleagues from other disciplines.

- To support the advancement of more mathematicians in leadership positions in their own institutions and in the broader society.

I. Program (steady-state)

A. The Fellows Program of the American Mathematical Society recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions to the creation, exposition, advancement, communication, and utilization of mathematics.

B. The responsibilities of the Fellows are:

- To take part in the election of new Fellows,
- To present a “public face” of excellence in mathematics, and
- To advise the president and/or the Council on public matters when requested.

C. All AMS members are eligible to be elected Fellows.

D. The target number of Fellows will be determined by the AMS Council as a percentage of the number of eligible members.¹ The target percentage will be revisited by the Council at least once every ten years and may be increased or decreased in light of the history of the nomination and election process. The intended size of each year’s class of new Fellows should be set with this target size in mind.

E. Following an election process (see below), individuals are invited to become Fellows. They may decline and they may also resign as Fellows at any time.

F. Each year all Fellows are invited to a reception at the AMS annual meeting, and the new Fellows are introduced at this reception, followed by a press release. New Fellows receive a certificate and their names are listed on the AMS website. The names of new Fellows are also included in the *Notices*.

G. If they are not already Fellows, the AMS president and secretary are made Fellows when they take office.

II. Election Process

A. New Fellows are elected each year after a nomination process. Eligible voters consist of current Fellows who are also members of the Society. Both the election and the nomination process are carried out under the direction of the secretary with help from the AMS staff.

B. The Election Committee will consist of nine members of the AMS who are also Fellows, each serving a three-year term, and with three new members appointed each year. The AMS president, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Council, nominates the new members of the Election Committee in November of each year. At the same time, the president nominates a continuing member of the Election Committee to serve as chair. The president’s choices are approved by Council at its January meeting.

¹ *This proposal’s recommendation to Council is 5% of eligible members. At present there are about 30,000 eligible members so the number of Fellows would be about 1,500.*

C. The Election Committee accepts nominations for Fellows between February 1 and March 31 each year. Nominations are made by members of the AMS. A member can nominate no more than 4 nominees a year.

D. To be eligible for nomination to Fellowship, an individual must be an AMS member for the year in which he or she is nominated as well as for the prior year.

E. A nominator must supply a package with the following information on the nominee:

1. A curriculum vitae *of no more than five pages*.
2. A citation of fifty words or less explaining the person's accomplishments.
3. A statement of cause of 500 words or less explaining why the individual meets the criteria of Fellowship.
4. The signatures of the nominator and three additional AMS members who support the nomination, with at least two of these individuals current Fellows.

F. A person can be nominated no more than 3 times in a 5-year period.

G. Each year the January Council provides a guideline for the number of nominations to appear on the ballot. The Election Committee assembles the ballot from the nominations bearing in mind this guideline, diversity of every kind, and the quality and quantity of the external nominations. The Election Committee has the discretion to make nominations itself to fulfill the general goals of the Fellowship.

H. The ballot is available electronically (only) and voting is conducted throughout the month of September each year. The curriculum vitae and citation for each candidate will be available to all eligible voters. Election is by plurality with the top one-half of the candidates elected. In case of a tie, more than one-half of the candidates may be elected.

I. Those nominees elected are invited by the president to become new Fellows of the AMS as of January 1 of the following year.

III. Initial Implementation

A. In the initial year of the program, all eligible AMS members who have done one or more of the following are invited to become AMS Fellows.²

1. Given an invited AMS address (including at Joint Meetings).
2. Been awarded an AMS prize.
3. Given an invited address at an ICM (International Congress of Mathematicians).

B. An additional 50 Fellows are selected by a committee appointed by the president with the advice of the Executive Committee of the Council. Particular attention will be paid to selecting AMS members recognized for their contributions to education and service to the profession.

C. For the initial “seed pool” of Fellows there is no length of AMS membership required. Any person who falls into

one of the three categories above, and who is an AMS member during the year in which this program is initiated will be invited to become a Fellow.

D. At least ten (10), but no more than fifty (50), new Fellows are elected each year until the total number of Fellows reaches 95% of the targeted size of the Fellowship.³

A Note from AMS Secretary Robert J. Daverman

The choices you make in these elections directly affect the direction the Society takes. If the past election serves as a reliable measure, about 14 percent of you will vote in the coming election, which is comparable with voter participation in other professional organizations which allow an online voting option. This is not mentioned as encouragement for you to throw the ballot in the trash; instead, the other officers and Council members join me in urging you to take a few minutes to review the election material, fill out your ballot, and submit it. The Society belongs to its members. You can influence the policy and direction it takes by voting.

Also, let me urge you 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 through an online form (www.ams.org/committee-nominate) or sent directly to the secretary (secretary@ams.org) or Office of the Secretary, American Mathematical Society, 312D Ayres Hall, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1330.

PLEASE VOTE.

²The seeding process described in III.A would produce offers of Fellows status to more than 800 current AMS members. The group of Invited Speakers also includes approximately 400 additional individuals who are not currently AMS members.

³If 1,000 Fellows are named through the initial seeding, then we estimate that a steady state of 1,500 would be achieved in approximately 10-20 years under the enclosed plan.