OSBA Nomination Committee 2019
Mike Doseck, Nomination Committee Chairperson
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Meeting Minutes
Nov. 11, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Mike Doseck, Michele Colopy, Terry Lieberman-Smith, Peggy Garnes, Ty Shelby (No Greg Bokan)

Meeting called to order: 6:30 p.m.

Agenda

1. Evaluation of the election and ballot counting
2. Campaign language- change to reflect US Law
   a. Nonprofit concerns and endorsement of candidates
3. Absentee ballots—“postmarked by” instead of “received by”
   a. Promotion of absentee ballots for OSBA members volunteering at Conference
4. Does the Committee want to do a separate membership email separate from the newsletter and only to PAID members with just the absentee ballot from the Nominating Cmte. so many weeks prior to the Annual Meeting?
   a. Send a postcard to the mailed members
   b. Schedule would have to be adjusted to send a separate absentee ballot, etc.
   c. This would then create a need for earlier deadlines for other committee activities
5. Mandate that all criteria must be met or they cannot run—denial of background checks for those applicable, refusal to complete fully the Nomination form, refusal to provide a bio, refusal to use the applicable forms, etc. then the individual could not run- and the nominating committee would not accept them as a valid candidate.
6. One membership one vote needs defined in ballot process and governing documents.
7. Budget for Nominating Committee. (see below)
8. Add to SOP the contact info of ballot counters for the Treasurer to reimburse the cost of their lunches (if they pre-ordered lunch at the Conference).

Evaluation of the election and ballot counting
Mike: The election process went smoothly. Reviewing the SOP to date, I have made some changes. Red is the item/words to change, and yellow highlights show the suggested change.
Michele: So the first item to change is the date of this version of the SOP to Nov. 11, 2019.
Mike: Yes. So on page 5 is the first changes. “The absentee ballot must be received by the Monday Thursday preceding the day of the Fall Conference.” I would be changed to Thursday, not Monday.
Peggy: You mean postmarked by that date?
Terry: The ballot will not get there in time to count in with the election.
Mike: no matter the postmark or not, I need to receive it by that Thursday before the Conference and the election.
Michele: This actually allows more time to vote.
Peggy: I heard complaints about the mailing system. Newsletter came late to many people.
Terry: Remember, those who did not have an email did receive a postcard 4 weeks ahead that a ballot was online. Even if those folks who do not read their emails in a timely manner, OSBA cannot be responsible for people not following through.
Peggy: Hard copy of newsletter not received by some members in time.
Terry: Again, a postcard was sent received 4 weeks ahead postcard
Michele: OSBA is not responsible for the timing and distribution of the US mail service. We will discuss this later in the SOP, as we have previously discussed it of possibly taking the ballot printing and notification out of the Newsletter schedule and doing a separate mailing of just the absentee ballot to all members.
Ty: Is there a procedure to stop duplicate voting.
Terry: That is addressed is in SOP.
Michele: Due to social media posts about the OSBA election where one person advised, “vote early vote often,” this committee drafted a process to eliminate duplicate voting. This is defined in the SOP you were emailed.
Mike: I and the ballot counters did void some ballots as they did not follow the directions on the ballot, and some were given to me after the conference which of course were not counted in the ballot count. We cannot control how others
interpret the voting procedures, we can advertise it to vote by absentee ballot but people have to follow the directions.
Michele: page 5 OK to move change to Thursday?
Mike: Yes. page 6 item b—same change move the day to Thursday. c- change to clarify the valid absentee ballots will be brought to the Conference to be counted by the ballot counters.
Terry: OK

Mike page 6 item e- is a new entry to the SOP based on the experience of OSBA volunteers staffing the Conference. Some volunteers could not leave their post and were too busy to vote.

Michele: everyone can read this entry for themselves on page 6 item e.

Mike: “OSBA Board and Committee members who are volunteering at the Conference are encouraged to vote via Absentee Ballot to ensure their vote is cast. During the Conference volunteers will be unable to step away from their post to cast a ballot. To ensure OSBA volunteers are able to vote, the Nominating Committee encourages them to cast an Absentee Ballot.”
Michele: Mike is asking if the committee has any changes to that addition to the SOP to promote absentee ballots to OSBA Board members and committee members who are doing actual work at the Conference.
Mike: any concerns?
None expressed
Mike: page 7 endorsement, Endorsement of fellow Board or Committee members: To protect the OSBA Board from inappropriate campaigning that could challenge our nonprofit status, OSBA and its Board, even individual Board members cannot endorse any other Board member using their official OSBA Board member title as part of any endorsement. The Board should not appear to endorse any specific candidate. That would be inappropriate. This is based on a discussion Michele and I had about maintaining nonprofit status and “promoting a candidate.”
Michele: Per the IRS, OSBA itself cannot endorse a specific candidate and maintain its nonprofit status. OSBA can advocate to the State legislature for example for beekeeping laws, but they cannot endorse a single person. Therefore, it is better to be safe than sorry and not permit any Board or Committee member from using their OSBA title to endorse any candidate. An person can support, as an individual, a candidate but they cannot use their OSBA title. If for example in social media another person points out that an individual is with the OSBA Board, then the OSBA Board member’s post endorsing a candidate should be deleted, as it would appear OSBA has endorsed a candidate.
Mike: any questions?

Ty: not from me.

Mike: page 9. These changes just reflect the real world process, so I put it in writing. I received a typed list from the webmaster with their member number that correlated with their name tag, or to check them off using just their name. It was not possible to give every name tag a number, due to how they pay their dues, the timeframe prior to the conference when the nametags are printed, etc. Then the member’s name gets highlighted once the member has voted. Which protected from duplicate voting addressing Ty’s concern mentioned earlier. Mike added that a double check of the system that the exact name of the member gets checked/highlighted so no one is denied voting. Not sure how the incident did happen that one member did not get to vote as their name was highlighted by mistake.

Michele: when one person got marked off, how many people were validating voters?

Mike: it was Dwight Wilson and me only checking, and I did not stress the highlighting importance strongly enough.

Mike: maybe we should have let him vote. That was our mistake.

Terry: the individual stopped and spoke to me later and asked the system still needs to be refined. He got over it, and we learned it from the problem.

Mike: Thank you Terry.

Michele: Mike, might it be easier to have three people validate voters and set up your lines at your table the way I do registration. Break the alphabet into A-H, I-P, and Q-Z and have three people check in voters that way.

Mike: I would like two tables for more room and yes, three people would be helpful. Breaking up the line into 3, with 3 voter check in stations with three alphabetical categories would be helpful.

Michele: an extra table then we need to advise the conference vendor coordinator.
Mike: the tables need to be near the OSBA table for those folks who pay their dues. That system works.

Michele: So, we have three people at the table to validate voters and distribute ballots. Then we still have 2 people to COUNT the ballots with an alternate in case a ballot counter does not show up. Lunches will be paid to the ballot counters, but not the voter check in volunteers since they are done at 11 a.m. The ballot counters are working over lunch, so we will reimburse their lunch if needed.

Mike: page 10-11 keep the date highlighted to draw attention to the committees’ need to change the date annually on these letters.

Mike: that takes us to page 18.

Peggy: what about the highlighted date on page 12

Mike: That date does not need changed as that is part of the sample biography.

Ty: something to discuss is a yellow mark on the form for the background check.

Terry: I do not see that on my copy of the SOP.

Mike: Neither do I.

Michele: it is not on the copy I emailed. Maybe you are looking at another version?

Mike: page 18 what we meant is that no one counting ballots can be running for an office. That is why the change.

Ty: remove no member of—

Michele: agreed

Ty: take out also

Terry: also still works

Michele: so the final will read . . . No **Ballot Counting volunteers** may also be running for an elected position on the Board of OSBA.
Mike: page 19—better change of words to make sense distinguishing between the committee and the ballot counters. The counters are not part of the nominating committee. They are part of the process, but only at the conference to count the ballots.

Michele: they are there for the end.

Mike: changed “is” to “are” does that make sense? And the last part of 7 it is counters not committee. Bottom on 19 replaced Monday with Thursday. We are just clarifying who the items pertain too.

Mike: Page 20, item D. changes in red replaced with changes in yellow. Mike added the word “from” and eligible OSBA member. . . . on F, changed to counting volunteers, and further down to replace committee with ballot counters. Number 10: If the Nominating Committee chair is running for an office they should not participate in this process of counting. I also instructed the ballot counters to keep the results private until the business meeting.

Mike: page 21 highlight the date, and page 22 just so it will be updated annually. On page 23, highlights to draw attention. Page 25

Terry: Mike you have done a fabulous job.

Mike: Thanks, just doing my job.

Mike: campaign language- we discussed following our country’s campaign process. Michele if you could comment on the discussion we had about this?

Michele: My security background comes to the forefront here, that no one should be shouting anything in a crowd, especially in the current climate. So for safety and fairness OSBA should adopt and adapt the state election process limiting campaigning within a certain distance of the voting booth. So it was adapted to stop any campaigning within the conference building. At last year’s conference we had one person yelling in the vendor area for a write in candidate: it was inappropriate and unfair to other candidates, and to the conference attendees. This in on page 7 under “campaigning”

Adapted from the Ohio Revised Code 3501.35 No loitering or congregating near polling places. No person shall loiter, congregate, or engage in any kind of election campaigning within the area containing the polling place and if the line of electors waiting to vote extends beyond the voting venue, within ten feet of any elector in that line.
Mike: campaigning would be distracting.

Terry: it is in alignment with and keeps the focus on the conference.

Mike: we followed this SOP as best we could this year.

Mike: Agenda item absentee #3 has been addressed

Mike: Item 4 in the agenda-absentee ballot--Does the Committee want to do a separate membership email separate from the newsletter and only to PAID members with just the absentee ballot from the Nominating Cmte. so many weeks prior to the Annual Meeting?
   a. Send a postcard to the mailed members
   b. Schedule would have to be adjusted to send a separate absentee ballot, etc.
   c. This would then create a need for earlier deadlines for other committee activities

Terry: the Nominating Committee 2020 may want to take it on for then, if a committee next year wants to make these changes, they can do that then.

Mike: we can put that on for old business for 2020.

Ty: what is the cost?

Michele: that is in the proposed attached budget

Mike: we can address that in a moment.

Terry: the process if a committee wants to take on a separate mailing it can be a Plan B.

Mike: Agenda item #5- Mandate that all criteria must be met or they cannot run—denial of background checks for those applicable, refusal to complete fully the Nomination form, refusal to provide a bio, refusal to use the applicable forms, etc. then the individual could not run- and the nominating committee would not accept them as a valid candidate.
Terry: absolutely.

Mike: Yes they need to follow the same rules. No exceptions to the rules. It is not fair.

Terry: it is not fair to have incompatible info from the membership to compare.

Mike: Rod’s not wanting to do a background check, he may not be able to fulfill his position.

Terry: there are rules and regulations for our organization, and Board members and candidates must be an example and follow the rules.

Peggy: if two people are running, why should OSBA pay for 2 background checks?

Michele: the insurance company did not charge for background checks.

Peggy: It is in the budget at $100 for each officer.

Michele: It was placed in the budget for budget purposes. And in review the budget line item for background checks should be in the Nominating Committee budget. If 4-H needs to do background checks of 4-H adults, then that committee will need an expense line for background checks.

Mike: using the treasurer post here, it causes confusion if the background check is not done, and/or if they do not pass it then what happens.

Ty: doing background checks is necessary before they get on a ballot.

Michele: move background check amount to the nominating committee budget.

Mike: any further discussion. Ok

Mike: #6- defining voting. Which was covered at the table. And I covered this at the conference. And it was in the slides at the conference as well.

Mike: #7- the budget- I asked Michele what was spent and costs incurred.
Michele: the ballot box supplies are listed and should last a few years. However, if the box is stored badly and gets damaged or rodents decide to move into it, the supplies would need to be replaced. It is best to have it in the budget as a planned expense rather than to have to ask the board for additional money. After talking with Terry, the honey awards should be under the conference budget and should be separate from the nominating committee.

Mike: cost of awards is that a real cost?

Terry: we spent $65 on the beekeeper of the year, but it depends if all three are awarded, and what kind of awards, and which vendor who prints them. But this is a good cushion to include all three.

Mike: The business award we added this year.

Ty: add $50 for the business award cost

Terry: this is an average of awards given, we have never given out all 4 at one time.

Michele: I will add the business award and the $50 to that, and remove the honey judging awards. What about the mileage to recruit for Regional Directors and Reps.

Terry: this should really be the job of the current Regional Directors and Regional Reps. to go to the clubs in their region and get names to Mike as nominees.

Michele: I will leave in this initial mileage just in case there is no Regional Director of Regional Representative in that region.

Mike: I made that trip to their meeting, and I got a name of Patricia, and she will get in touch with me, and I will also contact her to talk to her further about being a Regional Rep.

Peggy: Tim may have her in the membership list.

Mike: I will check on this and get in touch with her.

Ty: she is on Facebook.
Michele: Let’s let Tim help Mike out.

Peggy: does she have a photo of herself.

Terry: let’s do this off line.

Michele: the postcard costs are listed there. Mike did the booklet ballot work well?

Mike: they were fine. I would continue to do it that way.

Terry: If we were to mail a separate mailing and mail the absentee ballot to 1630 people what is the cost, so that needs to be in the budget for 2020. The 2020 committee needs to think about that and add it to the 2020 budget. And the Board could vote money at that time to do that.

Michele: people will want an SASE for their ballots which will add more cost to the budget.

Terry: in Agenda item #4 there will be a need to re-adjust the budget per committee decision if they decide to do a separate mailing of absentee ballots.

Mike: Thank you Terry. Two motions—do we have a motion to approve the SOP as reviewed with appropriate changes

Terry: yes

Ty: yes

Mike: yes

Michele: yes

Peggy: yes

All in favor.

Mike: I will get this together and present it at the Strategic Plan meeting.

Mike: Motion on the budget—
Michele: I make the motion to adjust the budget per our discussion and get the final to Mike.

Terry: I second

Peggy-I want to see the final budget with the changes, so I abstain. All in favor. (Ty, Mike, Michele, Terry in favor of the motion)

Mike: any other business? Hearing none.

Terry: I make the motion to adjourn.

Peggy: I second.

Mike: I appreciate your help, thank you all.

Meeting adjourned: 7:38 p.m.