

New Process and Timeline Proposal for State Membership Nominations 2021

Purpose

A switching in the order of our process for candidate selection allows the invitation of a new candidate after member approval **rather than** recruiting potential members and then determining their eligibility or approval.

Rationale

- Allow more time for total process to take place before submitting our approved candidates at the National level
- Avoids awkwardness of asking a candidate complete the process only to be not voted through
- Avoids awkwardness of the sponsor having to tell candidates they were not voted through
- Lessens or eliminates the perception in the public and within the chapter that membership is based on “who you know” or the practice of bringing friends into the organization instead of seeking the best, most worthy candidates
- Maintains/improves the rigor of membership into the organization
- Improves transparency of the membership process

Timeline

November – Fall Meeting (at NCMEA Conference) - Sponsors put forth (IN PERSON) potential candidates to the membership, selecting candidates based on our criteria of MPA Ratings and district/state service. The sponsor **must be present** at the meeting to submit their potential candidate.

Before the Meeting, the **sponsor** should complete the following steps and submit all requested paperwork to the state chair (no later than three days prior to meeting) for presentation to the membership:

1. Complete the NEW Sponsor Form for their candidate, including 1. ratings for all ensembles attending MPA in their previous five years of participation, and 2. service contributions, including amount of time in each role, at the district and/or state level.
2. Contact District MPA Chair to confirm five-year ratings record as needed.
3. Contact District/NCBA Chair to confirm candidate service as needed.
4. Secure three letters of recommendation from active chapter members for the candidate.

*Candidates who do not attend MPA due to maternity leave can use a six year window but should attend MPA five times in those six years.

During the meeting, the following will take place:

1. The sponsor presents the candidate to the membership, referencing the NEW Sponsor Form for consideration (provided by state chair).
2. The sponsor presents letters of recommendation. The authors of those recommendation are given the opportunity to speak about the candidate in addition if they so choose.
3. Members in attendance ask questions about the candidate as needed.
4. Members in attendance will vote to place candidates on the ballot. Candidates will only be placed on the ballot with a unanimous vote (as is our current process).

Note: If a potential sponsor thinks of a great candidate during the meeting, or a sponsor is unable to turn in the required paperwork, that sponsor will have an opportunity to present that candidate the following year.

Second- Ballot Candidates - Potential candidates who are not selected during the first round based purely on MPA/service concerns can be considered for a second ballot vote once their concerns have been remedied. They would be presented on a second ballot, but would only require the 2/3 vote (as our process currently observes). Anyone who has not had time to remedy their MPA/service record in time before the next Spring Meeting can be tabled until a later time. Sponsors will not have to present again (in keeping with our current process), but may do so if they wish to provide an update from the previous application.

December 15 – Electronic Ballot is released only with candidates who were approved at the Fall Meeting and any Second Ballot candidates, and voting begins.

January 31 – Voting will close.

February 10 – Deadline for state chair to notify sponsor if candidate is accepted by ballot. Candidates are invited **only after** approved by membership for consideration. Invitation should be extended as soon as possible following notification.

March 1 – Deadline for Candidates to complete new application form and send to State Secretary (mekelrogers@earthlink.net) to review and process.

March 15 – final paperwork, completed by Mekel, due at the National Level.

Things to consider before presenting a potential candidate:

Candidates are asked for MPA records to provide a tangible measure of **success** comparable from state to state. We seek to advocate through the voices and deeds of our strongest teachers (Master Teachers). The other, and equally important, component of membership, however, is the proof of long-term service.

We cannot expect a member to advocate on behalf of ASBDA if they are not already demonstrating advocacy of the profession through participation and true service at the local, district, and state level. Therefore, it is the belief of the state membership that candidates should demonstrate regular attendance at NCMEA, NCBA, and district and local meetings and events. It is also the belief of our membership that once candidates gain membership, they be expected to participate in state level ASBDA meetings on a regular basis as well as Regional and National Conventions at least once every four years. If a sponsor does not have confidence that their candidate will follow through with these expectations, this candidate may not be ready for membership. These points should be strongly considered before the candidate's name is put forth to the chapter for membership.

It is recommended that candidates have been teaching at their current school for a minimum of five years before consideration. While unique situations do occur, this should be taken into consideration as a general policy.

Responsibilities of the Sponsor

The role of the Sponsor is one of the most vital in our organization and one that should not be casually undertaken. The process of serving as a Sponsor includes identifying Master Teachers, presenting them to the membership as candidates, and **continuing the relationship** through mentorship once candidates become new members. In improving the process of nomination, the responsibility of the Sponsor is now more defined and involved, but anyone wishing to take on the role should be willing to take on these responsibilities as well. Sponsors will be expected to

- Confirm MPA record (more Superiors than Excellent ratings, and nothing lower than an Excellent in the previous five years of attendance)
- Confirm that candidate service aligns with the requirements listed on the application
- Confirm that letters of recommendation are secured by members "in good standing"
- Prepare and submit all paperwork on time (see timeline)
- Contact and assist candidates that are approved by the membership
- Assist approved candidates in their portion of the application process
- Mentor new member, particularly in the first few years of membership
- Foster active participation in the organization through meeting

attendance at the state, regional, and National level.

NOTE: It is recommended that members wishing to **sponsor** a candidate should hold membership in ASBDA for **at least three years**, attend state meetings, and attend at least one Regional and National Convention to have a better perspective of how the organization works at all levels.