

To the membership of the LEC,

Here is an explanation of what shall be proposed at Netopolis Sipo Schipinachk's next lodge annual business meeting which will be held August 13th. The proposed amendment falls under Article 6, Section 12, Subsection C. The original language is stated below, and has some struck language, which can be identified with a line through the middle of the wording. For example, ~~Officers will be elected by a simple majority.~~ However, most of the language in the original text is not struck, and therefore will remain in this subsection whether the proposed amendment is passed or not. Below the original language is the amendment that will be voted on at the next lodge wide business meeting. Any language that is to be changed/ added to the subsection is underlined. This language is what will be voted on during this meeting, and any text without any strikethroughs and underlines will remain the same as the original language.

Here is the original language, and proposed language to the amendment.

### Original Language

---

#### (C) Election

~~Officers will be elected by a simple majority (50% plus 1 vote).~~

~~Active youth Arrowmen will vote by secret ballot.~~

All Active registered youth members present at the time of election casts a ballot for one candidate each round of voting. A candidate wins the election upon receiving a majority of all ballots cast (50% plus 1). Should no candidate receive a majority, a runoff election is in order.

The candidates with the largest plurality of votes will advance to the runoff election ballot. Only half the number of candidates on the previous ballot may advance to the runoff election. If the halved number is not a whole number, the election facilitators must round the number up to the nearest integer (3 candidates must proceed to a runoff if 5 candidates are listed for that position).

The above runoff process will repeat until a singular candidate receives a majority.

### Proposed Language

---

### (C) Elections

Officers will be elected by Chapter representation. Each Chapter may split their votes however they see fit, so long as their vote does not exceed 10, and/or the number of representatives they bring to the election (whichever is least).

Chapters will vote based on who their members support after caucusing for maximum time of 5 minutes.

Youth Arrowmen in the Chapters, who are active in the Lodge (defined as Section 2, Subsection A of the Netopolis Sipo Schipinachk Lodge Governing Rules) and present will decide how to cast the Chapter's vote(s), and will vote by secret ballot.

If a voting member in a chapter decides to leave during the election of one or more of the officers, his vote shall be abstained for the remainder of his absence.

Officers will be elected by a majority vote based on each Chapter's ballots (50% plus 1 vote).

A candidate wins the election upon receiving a majority of all ballots cast (50% plus 1). Should no candidate receive a majority, a runoff election is in order.

The candidates with the largest plurality of votes will advance to the runoff election ballot. Only half the number of candidates on the previous ballot may advance to the runoff election. If the halved number is not a whole number, the election facilitators must round the number up to the nearest integer (3 candidates must proceed to a runoff if 5 candidates are listed for that position). The above runoff process will repeat until a singular candidate receives a majority.

The reason we are choosing to propose this amendment is to create a fair, and balanced system for the candidates that seek to run for office positions in the lodge. For the past several years, it has been very difficult for a member of a smaller chapter to obtain any position of office within the lodge. Highly qualified candidates from smaller chapters run for office each year, and almost always there are members of much larger chapters who run for each position as well. No matter how qualified/unqualified the candidate is, the vote always swings towards the member of a much larger chapter. The reason behind this is clear, the chapters with more members in their districts (usually) have a greater number of registered OA members. This

means they typically bring much more members to the lodge annual business meeting, and therefore can swing the vote in their favor. Currently, 2-3 chapter's bringing over 50% of the attendance at the lodge wide business meeting. This means that the one of the candidates from a larger chapter only has to somehow secure 2 other chapter's votes in order to win the election, assuming one of these chapter members has his own chapters votes secured. This leaves the candidates from smaller chapter's to somehow secure 10-12 chapter's votes in order to compete with someone from a larger chapter. Is this fair for the candidates from smaller chapter's? How much extra effort do these candidates need to put in compared to a candidate from a large chapter?

This change could increase the attendance of smaller chapter's greatly, giving them another reason to attend the banquet, for their vote will have more of an effect than before. If we can increase a chapter's attendance from 1-2 members into 8-10 members at our business meeting, this can significantly improve the lodge's JTE statistics, and increase fellowship at our banquets and other lodge events. This is a plan that has worked for the national, regional, and section levels of OA, and has worked for many other larger lodges like us. Seeing the positive effects that this has brought to these levels of leadership in our nation, we should use a similar method in order to benefit our lodge leadership. In order to pass this amendment to the Governing Rules, there needs to be a 50%+1 vote from the attending membership, NOT a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote as it typically would be in most organizations. This means ALL registered youth members under the age of 21 will vote for this change, and not just the chapter chiefs. With this amendment change, we will increase competition to those who have little to deal with, and therefore increase the leadership quality you will see in years to come for Netopalis. We hope you will explain the purpose of this change to your fellow chapter members, and to see as many of your chapter members at banquet as possible!

Yours in Brotherhood,

Cole Maguire