Area Chair 2018-2019 Election Process

**Vince Socci, IEEE R1 Past Director**

**4/30/2017**

The Area Chair shall provide an informal and direct communication link between the Director and the Sections, Society Chapters, Councils, Subsections and members.

IEEE R1 Area Chair elections must be held to determine area chairs for the 2018-2019 term. It is the responsibility of the present R1 Director-Elect to ensure that area chairs are elected prior to the start of the term. Section Chairs of each area have the opportunity to elect their own Area Chair.

**A. MGA-approved 2014 Region 1 Bylaws, Section 1.2.3 states:**

**1.2.3** The Areas will contain the following Sections:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AREA** | **SECTION ID** | SECTION | Established |
| **Central** | 01 | Berkshire | 3/25/1904 |
|  | 19 | Mid‑Hudson | 6/1/1960 |
|  | 21 | Mohawk Valley | 11/11/1953 |
|  | 35 | Schenectady | 1/26/1903 |
|  | 37 | Springfield | 6/29/1922 |
|  | 41 | Green Mountain | 4/1/1960 |
| **Northeastern** | 05 | Boston | 2/13/1903 |
|  | 17 | Maine | 6/30/1955 |
|  | 23 | New Hampshire | 9/3/1953 |
|  | 31 | Providence | 3/12/1920 |
|  | 43 | Worcester County | 2/18/1920 |
| **Southern** | 09 | Connecticut | 4/16/1921 |
|  | 15 | Long Island | 5/6/1952 |
|  | 25 | New York | 12/10/1919 |
|  | 27 | North Jersey | 5/5/1954 |
|  | 29 | Princeton-Central Jersey | 7/1/1947 |
|  | 45 | New Jersey Coast | 3/20/1965 |
| **Western** | 03 | Binghamton | 3/7/1952 |
|  | 07 | Buffalo | 2/10/1925 |
|  | 13 | Ithaca | 10/15/1902 |
|  | 33 | Rochester | 10/9/1914 |
|  | 39 | Syracuse | 8/13/1920 |
|  |  |  |  |

**B. The MGA-approved 2014 Region 1 Bylaws, Section 5 states:**

**5.0 AREA CHAIRS**

**5.1 DUTIES**

* + 1. The Area Chair shall provide an informal and direct communication link between the Region Director and the Sections, Society Chapters, Councils, Subsections and members.
		2. The Area Chair will promote exchange of information and ideas among the Sections within an Area.

5.1.3 At the Executive Committee level, the Area Chairs will represent the interests of the Sections in their Areas. They will also act as the representatives of the Region Director at the local Area level in matters delegated to them by the Region Director.

## **5.2 SELECTION**

**5.2.1 Qualifications**

 Area Chairs must be members of a Section in the Area that they represent, and may not serve more than two consecutive two-year terms in that position. They must hold IEEE Member or higher grade.

**5.2.2 Election/Appointment Process**

 The Section Chairs of each Area will elect, by August 31 of odd numbered years, the Area Chair who will serve in that capacity for a term of two years. Per the Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Operations Manual: no more than two consecutive terms can be served by any Chair. The current Area Chair shall serve as the N&A Chair for the Area Chair election. In cases where the Area Chair still has eligibility, and is a candidate in the Area chair elections, then the Region 1 Past Director shall designate an N&A Chair for that Area Chair election. Elections shall be held during BoG executive session (See Section 2.5) In the event of a tie during the voting for Area Chair, the vote shall be retaken dropping out any candidates not in a tied position. If that has not broken the tie, the N&A Chair for the Area Chair election shall have the tie breaking vote. If the N&A chair does not present at least two candidates by August 31 of an odd numbered year, then the Region 1 Past Director will, no later than October 31 of that odd numbered year, name the Area Chair for the following two-year term of office. This process will also apply to Region 1 Council Chair elections.

**C. Area Chair Election Procedures for the 2018-2019 Term of Office**

1. Other than the Central Area Chair, all other incumbent 2016-2017 Area Chairs are eligible for re-election to a second term and may be nominated or submit self-nominations if desired.

2. Should the Sections in an Area decide to hold their election at a time and place OTHER THAN the Region 1 Annual Meeting on 10 June 2017 - subject to the time line of Bylaw Section 5.2.2, above – they must agree to do so unanimously and inform the Past Director of their desired timeline and election process for approval by, and possible oversight of, the Past Director or an appointed referee. This notification should occur no later than 17 May 2017. Should the elected area chair not be identified to the director elect by the end of August, the Director Elect will appoint an area chair.

3. The Past Director shall assemble a group of Region leadership, including the Central Area Chair, and representatives of the various areas in the Region to act as an Area Chair Election Nominations Committee. The Past Director shall also determine, in advance, an individual outside of the specific Area that shall oversee the actual election of the various Area Chairs should the sections in an Area decide to hold those elections during lunch at the Annual Region Board of Governors Meeting to be held on 10 June 2017 (e.g., someone from the Central Area may NOT oversee the Central Area election).

4. There shall be a Region-wide eNotice “Call for Area Chair Nominations” that shall have a date-specific deadline of Wednesday 17 May 2017 for nominations and self-nominations. Those nominations will go to the Past Director along with an appropriate IEEE bio and position statement. The Nominations Committee shall vet any and all nominations and prepare a slate for the Section Chairs of at least two (2) and no more than three (3) candidates for each Area Chair election not later than Wednesday 24 May 2017. All nominees shall be notified whether or not they will be included on the Nominations Committee ballot.

5. Individuals that were nominated, *but NOT selected* by the Nominations Committee, may petition the Section Chairs in their Area to be included on the ballot. They would need to obtain email signatures of not less than four (4) of the Section Chairs in their Area by Friday 2 June 2017 to be added to the ballot. Not later than 5 June 2017 the Nominations Committee will issue the formal ballots and bio/position statements to the Sections in each Area with copies to the Director and Director-Elect.

6. The elections and candidate presentations shall be accomplished, in Executive Session, and moderated by the Past Director’s chosen ‘referee.’

7. Area Chair candidates will not be covered for their travel to the BoG meeting unless already there in some other capacity. They shall be offered five (5) minutes to present either (a) in person, (b) via phone, or (c) via a Section Chair ‘champion’ - their views on their candidacy followed by two (2) minutes of questioning by the Section Chair/Proxy immediately prior to the election.

8. The referee shall give secret ballots to each Section Chair/Proxy and then collect the results.

9. The referee shall then take the ‘sealed ballots’ to the Pas Director and Director-Elect and they will act as election tellers for that Area Chair election.

10. Per Bylaw Section 5.2.2., above, in the event of a tie during the voting for Area Chair, the vote shall be retaken dropping out any candidates not in a tied position. If that has not broken the tie, the N&A Chair for the Area Chair election (in consultation with the Director-Elect, shall have the tie breaking vote. The actual count and/or tie breaking vote shall be held confidential. ONLY the final result of the election shall be presented to the Past Director.

11. At the resumption of the Region Board Meeting, the Past Director shall inform the body of the results of any Area Chair elections completed at that point.

12. The METSAC Council Chair shall also be selected following the above procedures. Should the Southern Area Sections choose, unanimously, to hold their election of the 2018-2019 METSAC Chair at another time and venue it, too, must adhere to the timelines of Bylaw Section 5.22 per the Region Bylaws.

**D. Section Chair Election Procedures for 2017**

1. The Section Secretary of any Section whose Officers have a two-year term of office and whose officers are mid-term, shall notify the Past Director that the Section will NOT hold Officer elections for 2018 not later than 10 June 2017.

2. Any incumbent 2017 Section Chairs eligible for re-election to a second term may NOT be the Nominations Chair for the Section.

4. The Region ExCom requires that ALL sections that will be having an Officer election for the 2018 term begin their nominations process not later than 9 June 2017; that they vet all candidates not later than 14 July 2017 and that their Section Nominations Committee have a ballot not later than 16 August 2017. The Area Chair for the Area in which the Section lies shall have oversight responsibility for all section elections in their Area.

5. The Section elections shall be completed by 27 September 2017 to permit a proper transfer of leadership and updating of the Region Board Section Chairs listing for 2018.