

Suggested *Third Legacy Procedure* format for General Service Area 50 Assembly Elections:

1. Election for the position of Area 50 Delegate is held first, followed in order by Alternate Delegate; Area Chairperson; Alternate Chair; Area Treasurer; Area Secretary, Area Service Committee Chairs, GSA Education Chair, GSR Orientation Chair, Registrar, Webchair and Area 50 Intergroup Liaison.
2. A past delegate serves as chair of the elections. At the outset, the Election Chair reads aloud to the Assembly body a brief description of duties and responsibilities of each position.
3. Using the current Area 50 roster, the Chairperson calls out the names of those who are eligible to stand for election to an Area 50 position. The list includes all Area Officers, Area Service Committee Chairs and their Alternates, DCMs, GSA Education Chair, GSR Orientation Chair, Registrar, Webchair, Area 50 Intergroup Liaison and their Alternates and GSRs. All past Area 50 Area Committee Members are also eligible to stand.
4. Each eligible individual who is present, states each position that he or she intends to stand for election.
5. An individual cannot stand for election to a position in which he or she has previously served a full two-year term.
6. The Delegate cannot stand for election to any Area voting positions after rotation out as Delegate.
7. Names on the roster that are not called out by the Chair of the Assembly include liaisons and contacts from other service entities (GSO, Central Office/Intergroups; etc.).
8. All past members of the Area 50 Area Committee are eligible to stand for elected positions at the Assembly (noting the exceptions in 5 & 6 above).
9. If no current or former member of the Area 50 Area Committee stands for a position, the chair may then ask if there are any other eligible individuals present who wish to stand for the position.
10. The names of those willing to stand are listed on the projection screen or blackboard.
11. Candidates are requested to give a brief verbal summary of their experience in AA service work (sometimes called a service resume) to the body.

12. Voting members of our Area 50 Assembly (refer to the previous section titled Eligibility to Vote) then write their choice of candidate on paper ballots (with varying colors for each ballot) and non-voting assistants collect the ballot.

13. The past delegates count the votes and the result is announced.

14. When seeking candidates for elected positions beyond the boundaries of Area 50 such as Northeast Regional Trustee or other Trustee or Director positions the Chair announces an opening and asks if *anyone* is willing to stand for that position. Note these positions can be announced at any Assembly or ACM and are not part of the Area 50 Third Legacy Procedure.

AA's Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure. It is considered unique to AA and, at first glance, appears to introduce a strong element of chance into a matter that should depend solely on the judgement of the majority. In practice, however, it has been highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. The "railroading" of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, because voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. More importantly, a second-place candidate who may be extremely well-qualified but without popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw.

Third Legacy Procedure is as follows:

1. The names of eligible candidates are posted on a board. All voting members of the board area cast written ballots, one choice to a ballot. The tally for each candidate is posted on the board.
2. The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.
3. Withdrawals start after the second ballot. If any candidate has less than one-fifth of the total vote, his or her name is automatically withdrawn except that the top two candidates must remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
4. After the third ballot, candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the two top candidates remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
5. After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn, except that the top two candidates remain. At this point, the chairperson asks for a motion, second, and a simple majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot. If this motion is defeated, the choice is made by lot - "going to the hat" - immediately. If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot is conducted.
6. If after the fifth ballot no election occurs, the chairperson announces that the choice will be made by lot (from the hat). At this point, balloting usually involves only the top two or three candidates.
7. Lots are then drawn and the first one "out of the hat" is elected.