

# **PATENT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**

## **STANDING RULES**

**January 2007**

### **Definition of Communist Affiliation**

1. A person shall be deemed to be “affiliated with Communist or other totalitarian movements” if that person (a) has been a member of the Communist Party or other totalitarian movement at any time during the most recent ten-year period, or (b) has taken substantial action in support of such movements over and above mere advocacy of their underlying philosophies, or (c) has been a member of the Communist Party or other totalitarian movement at any time during the most recent ten-year period and has taken substantial action in support of such movements over and above mere advocacy of their underlying philosophies.

### **Definition of Corrupt Influences**

2. A person shall be deemed to be “identified with corrupt influences” if that person has been convicted of, or served any part of a prison term resulting from his conviction of, robbery, bribery, extortion, embezzlement, assault with intent to kill, assault which inflicts grievous bodily injury, or a violation of Title II or III of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, as amended, or conspiracy to commit any such crimes for ten years after such conviction or after the end of such imprisonment, unless prior to the end of such ten-year period such person’s citizenship rights, having been revoked as a result of such conviction, have been fully restored.

### **Definition of a Member**

3. A person shall be deemed to be a “member” if that person qualifies for membership as stated in Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution and has either (a) paid yearly dues within the immediately preceding two years or (b) submitted a valid signed payroll deduction form for Association dues which has not been terminated.

### **Definition of a Member in Good Standing**

4. A member shall be deemed to be in “good standing” if that member has either (a) paid yearly dues within the immediately preceding twelve months, or (b) submitted a valid signed payroll deduction form for Association dues, and who has not voluntarily withdrawn from membership, nor has been excluded from membership.

### **Union Negotiated Agreements**

5. The Secretary shall forward a copy of each negotiated agreement, made by the Association to any member of the bargaining unit who requests such a copy and whose rights as a unit member are directly affected by such agreement. The Secretary also shall maintain copies

of all such agreements, which copies shall be available for inspection by any member or by any employee whose rights are affected by such agreement.

### **Election Protest**

6. Any member of the Association may file a protest alleging violations of the nomination and election procedures. The protest must (a) be in writing, (b) contain a clear and concise statement of the facts alleged to constitute violation of the nomination and election procedures, (c) contain a statement of the relief requested and (d) be presented to the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall render a written decision and transmit a copy to the protestor and the Executive Committee. The protestor may appeal the decision of the Election Committee to the Executive Committee by presenting a written appeal to the President at least ten working days prior to the annual December meeting. If the Election Committee does not render a written decision within three working days of receipt of the protest, then the protestor may appeal directly to the Executive Committee by presenting said protest to the President at least two working days prior to the annual December meeting. Within one week of either such appeal, the protestor shall be notified of the time and place of a special meeting of the Executive Committee at which meeting the protestor will be afforded an opportunity to be heard. A 2/3 majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting shall be necessary to sustain the election protest. The protested election shall be presumed valid pending final resolution by the Executive Committee.

### **Exclusion from Office**

7. Any member of the Association may file a request to exclude any member, hereinafter, in this Rule, to be referred to as the affected member, from office in the Association for the reasons stated in Article III, Section 2(E) of the Constitution. The request to exclude from office must (a) be in writing, (b) contain a clear and concise statement of the facts alleged to be sufficient to exclude from office and (c) be presented to the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall render a written decision explaining the basis for exclusion or non-exclusion and transmit a copy to the requestor, the affected member and the Executive Committee. If the Election Committee does not render a written decision within two weeks of receipt of the request, then the requestor may appeal directly to the Executive Committee by presenting said request to the President. A decision for exclusion may be appealed by the affected member to the Executive Committee by presenting a written appeal to the President within two weeks of such decision. Within one week of either such appeal, the affected member shall be notified of the time and place of a special meeting of the Executive Committee, at which meeting the affected member will be afforded an opportunity to be heard. A 2/3 majority vote shall be necessary to sustain the request to exclude.

### **Nominations and Elections**

8. The Election Committee shall make a Call for Nominations in October of even numbered years and shall specify the period during which nominating petitions will be accepted. Notwithstanding any action of the Election Committee, nominating petitions will be accepted during the last full week in October.

9. Nominations for an Officer shall be by petition stating the Office sought, acknowledging a willingness to serve over the nominee's signature and signed by at least 15 members in good standing.
10. Nominations for an Area Delegate shall be by petition stating the organizational area sought to be represented, acknowledging a willingness to serve over the nominee's signature and signed by at least five members in good standing from the organizational area sought to be represented. A nominee for a particular organizational area must occupy a position within that area.
11. If a nominee for area delegate is on a temporary detail, work assignment or equivalent during the nominating period, the nominee can run for area delegate in the area the nominee was assigned to prior to going on temporary detail, work assignment or its equivalent. (October 2006)
12. Nominating petitions must be delivered to the Election Committee, or to the Secretary, who will transmit them to the Election Committee.
13. The Election Committee shall decide the validity of every nominating petition by verifying that each nominee is a member in good standing and that all other requirements for nominations have been satisfied.
14. The Election Committee shall, at least 15 days prior to the November election, mail notice thereof to each member at the member's last known home address. The notice shall specify the date, time and place of the election and the offices to be filled.
15. The Election Committee shall comply with all reasonable requests of any candidate to distribute by mail or otherwise at the candidate's expense campaign literature in aid of such person's candidacy to all members in good standing. Every bona fide candidate shall have the right to inspect a list containing the names and last known addresses of all members in good standing relevant to the office sought.
16. The Election Committee shall publish detailed election guidelines and arrange to have a copy thereof distributed to the membership.
17. Only members in good standing may vote.
18. The election shall be by secret ballot and shall run for two consecutive days. Ballots shall be cast in person and shall include a list of candidates for Officers and Area Delegates. The order of listing on the ballots shall be determined by a random drawing and incumbents shall be identified.
19. Members may run both as an Area Delegate and as an Officer; however, they may be elected to only one position. If elected as an Officer, the member's name will automatically be removed from the list of Area Delegate.
20. In the event of a tie vote in any race, the candidates will be notified and an inquiry will be made as to whether any of the candidates wish to withdraw so as to resolve the contest. Failing this, a run-off will be held under the following guidelines:

a. The membership list will be closed, which means that no new members will be permitted to join and vote in the run-off.

b. Ballots will be prepared and distributed to the affected area, the election will be held and the ballots counted.

c. In the event of another tie vote, the contest will be decided by the flip of a coin.

21. The Election Committee shall furnish the Secretary and the President with a full written final report of the election. The Election Committee's final report shall be presented to the Executive Committee as soon as feasible.

22. The Secretary shall preserve for one year the ballots and all other records pertaining to the election.

### **Quorum for Meetings**

23. A Quorum for purposes of a Executive Committee meeting shall be calculated on the basis of the number of currently elected and appointed Executive Committee members existing at the beginning of the Executive Committee meeting. (July 2006)

### **Executive Committee Meeting Rules**

24. All Executive Committee motions shall be submitted to the Secretary and/or Assistant Secretary by normal COB (6:00 p.m.) of the day before a first scheduled Executive Committee meeting, and any motion involving internal POPA business shall be read/disseminated at said first Executive Committee meeting, with a vote on such motion to occur no earlier than at the next Executive Committee meeting.

25. The Executive Committee shall hold an additional meeting each month on the first Tuesday of the month which is the second week of a pay period to discuss external business.