

World Association of Community Broadcasters (AMARC)

Guidance on Elections Procedures

1. Introduction

The General Assembly of the World Association of Community Broadcasters (AMARC) will be held during AMARC 11, scheduled to take place in Accra, Ghana from 10-14 August, 2015. This will include elections to the International Board of Directors of AMARC.

This guidance on elections procedures is to enable AMARC Regular Members (voting members) to prepare for the elections and to ensure the elections are conducted in a fair and transparent manner, consistent with AMARC statutes.

2. Elections Committee

The elections procedures will be overseen by an Elections Committee nominated by the International Board of Directors to serve as the official body responsible for approving the procedures for conduct of the election, counting the votes and announcing the results.

The Elections Committee will respond to questions and/or complaints on the process.

3. What positions are open for election?

According to AMARC International statutes, the International Board “*is composed of the following: President, Deputy-President, Treasurer and at most nine vice-presidents. The vice-presidents shall include a vice-president selected by the Women’s International Network and at least one vice-president appointed by each duly constituted regional section of AMARC. The remaining vice-presidents are elected by the General Assembly.*”

This means that Regular Members who are represented at AMARC 11 either by an authorised representative or by a designated proxy will have the opportunity to vote as follows:

- To directly elect members of the AMARC International Board Executive Committee - the President, the Deputy President and the Treasurer (three seats);
- To ratify Vice Presidents previously elected by AMARC regional sections - the Vice Presidents of Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean (four seats);
- To ratify the Vice President of the Women’s International Network (WIN) (one seat);
- To directly elect up to four other Vice Presidents (up to four other seats only).

4. Who has a right to vote?

All Regular Members up to date with payment of their annual dues have the right to vote in the elections. Please note, Associate Members, which include individual members, do not have the right to vote.

All Regular Members also have the right to designate a single proxy to vote on their behalf during the elections. No Regular Member may serve as a proxy for more than 10 votes.

To exercise the right to vote during the elections, all Regular Members must name their authorised representative who will be present in Accra at the AMARC 11 General Assembly or assign a proxy to another Regular Member who will be present.

The attached form is to designate the authorised representative or assign a proxy.

5. What is the nomination process?

The Elections Committee will be open to receive nominations from Friday, 7 August 2015 up to the deadline of Wednesday, 12 August 2015, 12:00 local time in Accra.

Nominations must be submitted on the Nomination Form provided. The candidate must be affiliated with a Regular Member. The nomination must be supported by two Regular Members at least one of which must be from a region different from the Region of the nominated candidate. Nominations must be accompanied by a justification statement.

The Regular Members supporting the nomination of a candidate must be up to date in their payment of dues to AMARC. No Regular Member may support two candidates competing for the same position on the International Board.

6. How will voting be carried out?

The Elections Committee will examine and verify the nominations received and will publish a list of the candidates standing for direct election and all other positions to be ratified.

There will be printed voting papers, corresponding to the positions to be directly elected and those to be ratified by the General Assembly. Voting papers will be distributed at the General Assembly in person to the authorised representatives of the Regular Members or to their designated proxies. This will take place immediately prior to the elections.

Voting in the elections will be by secret ballot.

To be elected to the International Board a candidate must obtain at least 30% of total votes cast. If two candidates for the same position exceed the minimum percentage of votes required, the candidate with the most votes will be elected.

After closing of the elections, the votes will be counted by the Elections Committee. As soon as the count is completed the results will be announced to the General Assembly.