GRAND AERIE, FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

MODEL ELECTION RULES

The following Sections of the Statutes pertain to the nominations and election of officers, as follows: 91.1, 91.2, 91.3, 91.4, 91.5, 91.6 and 91.7. The following Sections of the Ladies Auxiliary Rules and Regulations pertain to the nominations and election of officers, as follows: 18.1, 18.2, 18.3, 18.4, 18.5 and 18.6. Please refer to these Sections for further information and/or clarification.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

I. Nominations

The nominations for officers shall take place at the last regular meeting in April under New Business. At that time the President will announce that nominations for officers are now open. If the Aerie/Auxiliary has a Nominating Committee, the President will call upon that committee for their report before accepting nominations from the floor. If there is no Nominating Committee, nominations will be accepted from the floor.

A. Report of the Nominating Committee

1) When the Nominating Committee is called upon for its report at the meeting, its chairman rises and presents their selection for each office to be filled, naming the nominees in the order in which the offices are listed in the Constitution and Statutes Section 80.1 and Rules and Regulations Section 8.1. Nominees must be present to accept nomination or his/her written letter of acceptance for an office must be given to the Secretary of the Aerie/Auxiliary **prior** to the President or presiding officer opening the nominations. The letter of acceptance then becomes a communication of the Aerie/Auxiliary.

2) The Nominating Committee is automatically discharged when its report is formally presented at the meeting.

3) Members of the Nominating Committee are not barred from becoming nominees for office themselves.

4) The Nominating Committee, before making its report, shall contact each person whom it wishes to nominate in order to obtain his/her acceptance of a nomination.

B. Nominations from the Floor

1) After the report of the Nominating Committee, or if there is no Nominating Committee, the Chair opens the nominations to the floor.

2) When the Chair has called for nominations from the floor, a member rises, waits to be recognized by the Chair and then makes a nomination.

3) No second is required, but one or more members may second a nomination to indicate endorsement.

4) A member may nominate himself/herself for an office.

5) The Chair repeats each nomination until all nominations for the offices have been made. Nominations are called for as they appear in the Constitution and Statutes Section 80.1 or the Rules and Regulations Section 8.1. The order of nominations is as follows:

AERIE	AUXILIARY
President	President
Vice President	Vice President
Chaplain	Chaplain
Secretary (if open)	Conductor (if it is an elected position)
Treasurer (if open)	Secretary (if open)
Conductor	Treasurer (if open)
Inside Guard	Inside Guard
Outside Guard	Outside Guard
Trustee (s)	Trustee (s)

NOTE: Trustee positions may only be combined if the same term length exists. Otherwise nominations must be held separately for each term length.

6) Robert's Rules of Order states that sufficient time will be given for a member to make a nomination. In the Fraternal Order of Eagles, it has been the usual custom for the Chair to call for nominations of each office three (3) times.
Example: The Chair states that nominations for the office of President are now open. After a member(s) has been nominated, the Chair would say "Are there any other nominations for the office of President"?

7) The Chair should close nominations for each office as he completes it and then ask those who were nominated if they accept the nomination. Once the nominations are closed, no other member can be nominated for that office. If a member is nominated for another office later in the nominations, he/she must withdraw from the previous nomination or decline the second nomination as a member can only be a candidate for one (1) office.

C. Nominees

1) Where a candidate for nomination cannot be present on the night of nominations, his/her letter of acceptance for an office must be given directly to the Secretary of the Aerie/Auxiliary **prior** to the opening of any nominations so that the letter of acceptance becomes a communication of the Aerie/Auxiliary. This is required even if the Nominating Committee has selected the candidate.

2) If only one (1) candidate has been nominated for an office and, prior to the time of election, he/she dies, withdraws, or for any reason is unable to be such candidate further nominations for that office, and that office only, may be made at the meeting at which the election takes place.

3) If there is no candidate nominated for an office(s), nominations for that (those) office(s) may be re-opened at the next meeting upon notice to the membership. Only those offices without a candidate can be re-opened.

4) After nominations have been closed, they may not be re-opened if there are any candidates nominated for that office.

5) If there are two (2) candidates nominated for an office and one (1) withdraws prior to the election, there would be no further nominations for that office and the candidate that is left would win by acclamation, as he/she would be unopposed.

6) The President appoints the Election Committee (Tellers) at this meeting if there is an election.

II ELECTIONS

The election of officers takes place at the first meeting in May and is held in accordance with the time set by the Aerie/Auxiliary By-Laws.

Each nominee is permitted to have an observer at the polls and/or at the counting of the ballots. The observer is just that – an observer – and he/she cannot participate in the election or in the counting of the ballots. The observer may not engage in any campaigning while serving in such capacity.

The ballots should contain each of the offices that have opposition listed in the order in which they were nominated. The Aerie/Auxiliary must decide prior to nominations the order the names will appear on the ballot. It can be in the order nominated or alphabetically. Any offices that have no opposition are not required to be on the ballot.

III VOTING PROCEDURE

The Election Committee should set up in a secure place in the Aerie Home where they would not be disturbed by the noise from the bar, if possible. Campaign material – posters, signs, cards, etc. – are not permitted in the room where the election takes place.

The member voting shall be required to sign his/her name on a pad and shall be required to present his/her official dues receipt to the Election Committee to receive a ballot; no other evidence of membership is acceptable. The Secretary cannot vouch for such member. The Election Committee shall inspect his/her official dues receipt, making certain he/she is current in their dues at the time of the election, and if so, furnish him/her with a ballot, containing the names of the candidates running for office. Ballots may be numbered to insure that the number of ballots given out equal the number of members who signed the pad to vote. The number must be removed or detached when the ballot is given to the member so there are no identifying marks and the vote would remain a secret.

1) Membership prerogative in judging vote procedures. Unless the By-Laws provide otherwise, the membership itself is the judge of all questions arising which are incidental to the voting or the counting of the votes. In an election by ballot, for example, the Tellers shall refer to the membership for a decision on all questions on which there is any uncertainty.

2) The ballots shall be prepared in advance for distribution at the proper time.

3) After the polls are closed, the Tellers proceed to count the ballots in a secluded location or in another room if the meeting proceeds to other business during counting.

4) In recording the ballots cast, the Tellers ignore blanks and do not credit illegal votes to any candidate. All blanks must be ignored, since members who do not wish to vote may adopt this method of concealing the fact. Only the portion of the ballots pertaining to a particular office shall be voided where that portion of the ballots is left blank or where they have voted for more than the number specified on the ballots. The vote for all other offices would count.

5) The method of balloting is provided in Local Aerie/Auxiliary By-Laws and this is the only procedure to be followed. The ballots shall never be taken out of the Aerie Home. They shall be locked in the Aerie safe or some other locked box. The ballots cannot be destroyed until such time that a motion is made on the floor of the Aerie/Auxiliary to destroy the ballots.

6) Small technical errors, like the misspelling of a word or name, does not make a vote illegal if the meaning of the ballot is clear.

7) Unintelligible ballots are treated as illegal votes or spoiled ballots.

8) If there is evidence that any ballots were cast by persons not entitled to vote, and if there is any possibility that such ballots might affect the result, the entire election is null and void and a new election must be taken after proper notice to the membership of the new election.

9) The Chairman of the Tellers, standing, addresses the Chair, reads the Teller's report, and hands it to the Chair without declaring the result. The Chair will then repeat the results and declare the winner.

10) The Teller's (election) report is entered in full in the minutes becoming a part of the official records of the membership.

11) There is no absentee voting. It is a fundamental principle of parliamentary law that the right to vote is limited to the members of an organization who are actually present at the time of voting as defined by the Local Aerie/Auxiliary By-Laws.

12) The number of ballots cast at the time of the election shall not exceed the number of ballots issued, and the number of members registered who were issued ballots. If the election results are affected, the election is null and void and a new election must be held after proper notice to the membership.

13) If any member requests a recount, such request must be made on the date of the election prior to the closing of the official business of that meeting and prior to the time that the ballots are destroyed by the direction of the Aerie/Auxiliary.

14) After completion of an election if the membership at the election meeting orders a recount (which requires a majority vote) the ballots can be ordered to be destroyed after the recount has been declared official.

IV VOTING

1) If a member does not vote for one (1) office on the ballot, it does not affect the rest of the ballot and his/her vote would count for the other offices.

2) Where there are only two (2) candidates for an office, the person receiving the majority votes would be the winner.

3) Where there are three (3) or more candidates for one (1) office, the person receiving the plurality (most votes) would be the winner.

4) Where more than one (1) officer is to be elected for any one (1) office of the same term length, such as Trustee, a member may vote for one (1) or more candidates up to the number required to be elected and their vote will count.

5) In the event of a tie for office, the winner shall be determined by lot. This means that the winner must be determined by some method involving chance, such as a coin flip, drawing straws, cutting cards, etc. The contestants themselves shall determine the method and it should be done at a meeting where other members and officers are present to be witnesses.

V ROSTER

The Aerie/Auxiliary roster is a protected document and all members are entitled to their privacy, and it cannot be used for any commercial purposes. The Aerie may vote to allow all candidates to use the roster for an election and that election only. All candidates must be afforded the opportunity to use the roster if the membership approves the use of it. The candidates may not take the roster from the Aerie and must use it at the convenience of the Secretary.

VI INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The Installation of Officers takes place at the first meeting in June. A ceremonial installation or a joint installation may be conducted prior to that meeting, but the officers do not assume their Chairs until the first meeting in June. The Incoming President selects the Installation Team.

TELLER'S REPORT

NUMBER OF VOTES CAST _____

NECESSARY FOR ELECTION _____
(NAMES OF CANDIDATES)

_____

_____

_____

SPOILED BALLOTS _____

_____
(COMMITTEE NAMES)

Date: _____ _____

_____ _____
AERIE/AUXILIARY/STATE/PROVINCE

_____

_____
TELLERS SIGNATURES

INSTRUCTIONS

1) Count ballots ignoring any blank ones.

2) Number necessary to elect, unless ordered otherwise, is a majority of the votes cast.

3) Keep a tally sheet on each nominee.

4) List nominees on report in order of votes received – the one receiving the highest number first.

5) Illegal votes must be reported as such:

   a. If two or more filled-out ballots are folded together they are recorded as illegal (each set being one illegal vote)
   b. Unintelligible ballots are treated as illegal votes.

6) The report should be signed by all Tellers.

7) The Chairman reads the report in full when called on by the President and then hands it to the President who rereads it and declares the winner.