

After Action Report
2025 MVPA Board of Director's Election
15 October-24 November, 2025

Issue: Election Schedule Change

Discussion: When the legacy board of directors (Emdee, Lusty, McLaren, and West) were removed through Special Election in April of 2025, the new board of directors (Tipton, Hedges, Brough, Wesolowski, Grenier and Doran) decided to implement a new timeline for the election based on the ability to get information to members through email, the MVPA website and social media sites. The new timeline was:

1 August: Nominations due from members/candidates
1 August-19 August: Board meeting to vote the slate of candidates
20 August: Information on candidates due to History in Motion
15 September: Email candidate information to members
17 September: Oct/Nov issue of History in Motion mailed to members
15 October-24 November: Polls open
1 December: mail-in deadline (due to USPS lag time) *See note in Recommendations
1-14 December: post election accounting and confirming with candidates
15 December: announce the new BOD
1 January: new board assumes duties

Since all six members of the current board had submitted letters of resignation for 31 December, 2025, all six board positions were open for the election.

Recommendation: Keep the condensed schedule for elections. *Make it more clear that the added time for the mail-in ballots is due to the lag in USPS service, not additional time to vote beyond the electronic voting cut-off. All voting ends at the same time, but mail-in ballots must be postmarked by the close of electronic balloting to be valid.

Issue: Candidate Town Hall

Discussion: It was discussed and decided early in the election cycle to host a “meet and greet” type Zoom meeting where members would have an opportunity to see and hear each candidate present his position and explain why he was the best candidate for the board of directors. The Zoom meeting was hosted by the nominations committee and each candidate was given the same amount of time to present. Candidates could use less time

if they were comfortable with using less time. The Zoom Candidate Town Hall was recorded and posted for members to view prior to casting a vote.

Recommendation: Continue with the Candidate Town Hall format as an additional way for members to get to know the members running for the board of directors.

Issue: OpaVote Voting Platform

Discussion: The board of directors opted to use the online voting platform OpaVote (the same program used for the Special Election) to conduct this election. The ballots were sent to 2,850 of the ~3,400 members on 15 October. Members without an email on file with the MVPA were instructed to call the HQ during normal work hours and request a mail-in ballot. When a request was received, the nomination committee verified the member was in good standing on the 15th of October, verified they were not sent an email from OpaVote, and then were mailed a hard copy ballot. All ballots were to be returned to a law firm in Milwaukee for counting and reporting. Eight members requested mail-in ballots.

One issue with OpaVote is that no more than one vote can be counted per email. In 28 cases, the MVPA has one member that share an email address (husband/wife, parent/child, siblings, etc.) In those 28 cases, one of the email addresses had to be eliminated from the file sent to OpaVote and one member had to request a mail-in ballot. That happened in one case.

Numerous members stated throughout the process that they were not receiving the electronic ballot. Ballots were sent directly from the OpaVote site, not the MVPA.org email address. Many ballots ended up in Spam, Junk, or Trash folders in member's email accounts.

Recommendation: Continue to use the OpaVote platform. Make it clear in the instructions to members that when two or more people share one email address that only one electronic vote will be cast. The remaining member/s must request a mail-in ballot. Also make it clear what the email will look like and that members need to set their spam filters to allow OpaVote messages.

Issue: Current Director Participation on the Nominations Committee

Discussion: With this election being unique in that all the directors were up for re-election, it was decided early in the process that no current director would serve on the nominations committee. This would eliminate most appearance of any impropriety. The nominations

committee was comprised of John Schroeder, Wisconsin, the current appointed, volunteer Recording Secretary and Verne Jenkinson, Florida, volunteer from the legacy nomination committee under the previous board of directors.

Recommendation: In the future the nomination and election process should be run separate from the board of directors comprised of volunteers from the MVPA.

Issue: Plurality at Large Method of Voting

Discussion: With 11 qualified candidates running for 6 open board of director positions, the nominations committee decided to use the plurality at large method of voting where each member of the MVPA was required to vote for the 6 candidates they felt could best serve as directors.

Recommendation: Future boards and nomination committees will need to analyze the number of candidates for the number of open positions and determine whether members must vote up to the number of open seats or are allowed to vote for a lesser number of candidates.

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Date: