ARTICLE 6: ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The elections shall be held by secret ballot for President Elect, Vice-President and two members of the Executive Body every year and for Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer every 3 years. There shall be no election for President since President Elect would assume office of President automatically after the Annual General Body Meeting, whereas the President shall become Immediate Past President.

ELIGIBILITY

For the post of President – Elect and Vice-President a candidate should have been a life member of the Society for at least 5 years and should have held an elected position in the Executive Body of the Society for at least one term.

For all other positions viz. Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer and Elected Member of the Executive Body a candidate should have been a life member of the society for at least 3 years.

No member shall be eligible to seek election consecutively or otherwise for more than one tenure as President-Elect, more than 2 tenure is Vice-President, Secretary; Joint Secretary, Treasurer or elected member of the Executive Body.

The President and President- Elect shall not seek election for any position in the Executive Body in future.

A member shall not contest simultaneously for more than one office bearer post i.e. President Elect. Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

By the last week of May each year the Secretary shall send to each member list of vacancies in the Executive Body and a list of new members of the Society under certificate of posting, with a request to send the nominations for different offices. The nomination paper shall bear the candidates name and address as well as details of the office for which the candidate is being nominated. It shall be proposed by a life member and seconded by another life member and shall be duly signed by the candidate signifying his/her willingness to contest the election and to serve the Executive Body if elected. There shall be separate nomination paper for each candidate and for each post. These nominations must reach the Secretary not later than 30th June. The nomination paper should be accompanied by short bio – data of the candidate (not more than 100 words).
The Secretary shall inform the contesting candidates of all the nominations received for the post, they are contesting and if any one wishes to withdraw his/her nomination, he/she should inform the Secretary in writing on or before 30th July.

By 16th August, the Secretary shall send these nominations for balloting if the number of nominations for each category exceeds the seats in the Executive Body. The ballot paper shall bear the signature of the Secretary and the Returning Officer (appointed for the purposes of elections by the President of the Society).

The ballot papers will be sent to the members of the Society under certificate of posting by the Secretary. Three different envelopes A (for ballot paper), B (for keeping the envelope "A". The envelop "B" shall bear the signature, name and address of the member) and C (an outer envelop duly stamped bearing the address of the Secretary for keeping the envelop B).

The member after casting his/her vote shall return the ballot paper to the Office of the Secretary of the Society by 30th September. Ballot papers received after the last date will be invalid.

If any of these deadlines falls on a Sunday or postal holiday, the immediate next postal working day shall be considered as the valid deadline for all these procedures.

The ballot papers shall be scrutinized and the counted in the Office of the Secretary of the Society in the presence of the Society in the presence of the Returning Officer, a member of the Executive Body and a nominee of the candidate. The date and time of counting would be intimated to the candidates under registered post, but this all should be completed by 30th October. The result would be declared as soon as the counting is over, and shall be presented at the meeting of General Body/Executive Body.

If for any reason, the elections could not be held on the dates herein laid down, the President shall determine the respective dates to ensure that the process of election is completed before the end of the Annual General Body Meeting of that year.

If the nominations received by the Secretary are less than the vacancy of seats in the Executive Body, such vacancy shall be filled by election/nomination to be held at the time of Annual General Body/Executive Body Meeting.

The Co-opted members of the Executive Body for the coming year shall normally be chosen at the Meeting of Executive Body to be held at the time of Annual Conference. At this meeting, the current members and the members elect for the coming year may be present and would have right to vote.

If a vacancy occurs in any office of the Executive Body otherwise than efflux of time, the Executive Body shall elect a member to fill this vacancy until the end of the year.

Any Executive Body member may resign his/her position by giving notice in writing to the Secretary or the President. The resignation shall be placed in the Executive Body and shall take effect from the date of its acceptance by the Executive Body.

The Ballot paper will be invalid

a) If it does not bear signature/facsimile signature of the Secretary of the Society and/or the returning officer (appointed for holding the elections)

b) If the member signs his/her name, writes anything or makes any mark on the ballot paper or on cover A by which he/she can be identified.

c) If the number of votes recorded on the ballot paper exceeds the number of vacancies of the posts.

d) If there is uncertainty about one on more vote(s) recorded.
e) If the ballot paper is not enclosed in Cover B or if Cover B is not properly sealed.

f) If the member's signature and name is not given on Cover B or if member's name and identity number do not tally with the available records.

g) If the ballot paper is received in the Secretariat after the scheduled last date.
RE-ELECTION TO OFFICE

A member shall not be entitled to contest for election to the same office (except President Elect) for more than two consecutive terms. He/she may hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms should no nomination be coming forward for the office and with prior permission of the Executive Body.