MINUTES OF THE LLDC MEETING, JUNE 11, 2020

Present: Perry Beider, Adam Briskin-Limehouse, Lydia Morris Fettig, Kate Lang (Board liaison)

WES member request to know the number of voters in the Board election

The LLDC agreed that Sera Morgan could be given the information she requested. POLICY CHANGE: It was further agreed that for future elections, the number of ballots cast would be included in the publicly announced results.

The group also agreed to maintain an election database showing the election purpose (LLDC, Board), format (on-line, paper, etc.), selection method, numbers of candidates and positions, numbers of ballots cast, and the total numbers of votes on the ballots. After some discussion, the group decided not to include the vote tallies for individual candidates, for reasons of privacy and confidentiality.

Timing of election events

The group agreed that having one week between the distribution of the ballot access codes and the candidates’ forum was too long. The solution for the near future would be to distribute the codes a few days earlier than required (say, 16 or 17 days before the membership meeting), with the forum following 14 days (two Sundays) before the meeting.

The requirement that ballots be available 14 days before the election is a holdover from mailed paper ballots. The group did not discuss a particular CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE.

Resolving election ties

Proposed CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE: The elected members of the LLDC vote in LLDC and Board elections only if their votes are needed to break a tie that affects the election outcome (seats or term lengths).

It was suggested that ties are less likely if selection is done using ranked-choice voting, which could be another factor in favor of that mechanism.

LLDC’S responsibilities and membership

The group discussed whether the Leaders should not be members of the LLDC, and whether the group’s mission should be limited to recruiting candidates and conducting elections, dropping the responsibilities for developing lay leadership more broadly. Both would require CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES. The group will seek to consult with Interim Leader Lyn Cox on both topics. For now, there was general support for dropping the Leaders as members, and for viewing lay leadership development as something that the LLDC assists the Leaders and staff with, rather than as the LLDC’s responsibility. Two ideas of ways to provide such assistance were suggested: checking in periodically with current lay leaders and compiling and relaying the information to the Leaders and staff; and creating a Leadership Recognition box, in which members could drop notes of appreciation for acts of leadership (broadly defined) they observed. (The current practice of having the LLDC find a person to read the Statement of Purpose during each Sunday’s platform is serving less to recognize people in leadership roles than to publicize groups and activities that WES members could join.)

Appreciation

Perry, Lydia, and Adam expressed their thanks to Kate for her work with the LLDC this year, noting that the next Board liaison will have a high standard to maintain!