

ELECTIONS

AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE

What is an At-Large Representative?

- An at-large representative is the spokesperson for the At-Large members within a given state.
- At-large representatives are equal to a chapter representative.
- At-large representatives answer to the state representative or state president.

The Election Process:

Regular At-Large members in any state may elect an at-large representative to be their delegate for state level business and to national conventions.

A member must have been a regular at-large member in the state in which they would be running for at least three (3) months. (*At-Large representative qualifications can be found in P&P section 1.XVIII*)

This process begins in January of each even numbered year.

The State President/Representative will:

- Send a letter to each regular At-Large member residing in their state between January 1 and January 15 of even numbered years. (They may appoint a designee for this process)
 - They may use email, or USPS(“Snail”) mail using the most recent roster information. (*Email is recommended when possible)
 - The letter will explain the first steps of the election process.

(SEE P&P, SECTION 5 VIII.C.1-11 FOR THE PROCESS DETAILS.)

If Responses are Received:

- If even one regular At-Large member responds stating that they wish to run for the position, the following steps are taken:
 - ✓ If only one person responds that they wish to run for this position, they will be declared to be the at-large representative by the state official.
 - ✓ When 2 or more members respond, a ballot is sent out to all of the regular At-Large members, with instructions. (Form F-ELE5.03 available on the AVVA website.)
 - ✓ If no one responds, the position will remain vacant until the next election cycle.

- ✓ The at-large members will fill out the ballots and return them to the state president or rep within the stated deadline.
- When ballots are returned the state president or representative will count and record the votes and declare a winner.
 - ✓ The person getting the most votes will be the at-large representative.

WHAT IF NO ONE ANSWERS?

If there are no responses to the first letter, notifying the At-Large members of the election process, then the position of at-large representative will remain vacant until the next election cycle.

This will mean that the at-large members have no representation.

If there are no answers or ballots returned once ballots have been sent, then there are no votes, and the position remains vacant until the next election cycle.

- There are sample letters and ballots at the end of the Elections Section (section 5) of the Policy and Procedure Manual.

Q & A

- Q: Where can I find the details?
 - A: Section 5.VIII of the National Policy & Procedure Manual.
www.avva.org/policy.html
- Q: Can any At-Large member be a representative?
 - A: Yes, any AVVA **Regular** At-Large member who has been at-large in the state they want to run in for at least 3 months can stand for this position.
- Q: Does this mean that the at-large representative is a voting delegate at national conventions?
 - A: Yes. If properly elected, this person is a delegate to national conventions as well as to the state meetings.

REFERENCES:

Questions can be directed to your state president or representative, or if that office is vacant, you should direct your questions to your regional director.

Find your representative and director here: <http://www.avva.org/statechapter.html>

The policy and details of this process can be found in section 5 of the national policy. (5.VIII)
<http://www.avva.org/policy.html>