

## Constitutional Change Proposal – Elections

The Jewish War Veterans prides itself on being a democratic organization yet the manner in which its one elected office – that of National Commander – is elected is far from democratic. To wit, the current Constitution states that the National Commander shall be elected at the National Convention (Art VI, Section I) but that voting at the National Convention shall be “restricted” to members of the NEC and “Delegates” (Art V, Section 2). Art. V, Section 4, Delegates, however, essentially states that in order for delegates to cast their allocated votes, they must be present at the National Convention. If one takes as an example the attendance at the August 2008 National Convention, only 83 Posts of a total of 392, i.e., 21-percent, were represented and therefore able to cast votes. In all fairness, it must be added that those 83 Posts did cast a total of 799 votes out of a total of 1851 authorized. Even so, this amounts just 43-percent – well less than a majority - of the total membership of JWV.

Whether this lack of representation is due to location, the expense of attending a National Convention, age or illness on the part of our aging membership is immaterial. It is, however, unconscionable that 79-percent of the Posts belonging to this organization were not allowed to vote for the only elected officer in the JWV. Furthermore, by mandating a presence at the National Convention in order to vote, Posts that are unable to have a delegate present are also denied the ability to voice their positions on the various proposals put forward by the NEC for approval by the general membership who are present at the Convention..

Therefore, to make the election of the National Commander and the approval/disapproval of proposals put forward at the National Convention, it is proposed that Art V, Sections 2-4(a) be deleted in their entirety and re-written to allow every member of JWV to cast a ballot for the election of a National Commander and for or against proposals put before the membership by:

- a. Printing in the last issue of *The Jewish Veteran* published before the National Convention, biographies and position statements of all the candidates for National Commander, and each of the proposals that will be presented for vote at the National Convention.

b. Establishing a secure, password protected link on the JWV national website that contains a ballot containing the names of all the candidates for National Commander and each of the above mentioned proposals upon which members having access to the internet can cast their votes.

c. Including in the last issue of *The Jewish Veteran* published before the National Convention a “pull-out” self-addressed ballot with the same information as contained in sub-paragraph ‘b’ above to allow those members who do not have access to the internet or computer skills that would enable them to use the internet to cast their ballot and mail it to National Headquarters by a date certain, or

d. To authorize delegates to the National Convention to carry with them those “pull-out” ballots filled out by their respective Post members or to receive from Posts not able to send delegates to the National Convention duly certified ‘proxies’ so that every member of JWV has the opportunity to cast a vote at the National Convention as befits the stature of an organization such as ours.

Submitted by:

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