

The One Proposal for the 2018 ABM Ballot

Prepared by the RCA Structure Committee

1. **The 2018 By-Mail Ballot Proposals:** The committee has prepared this document in accordance with its assigned responsibilities.
2. **Purpose of the Rationales, Comments, and Opinions.** As has been the practice since the 2007 Annual Business Meeting (ABM), this document includes the rationale of the submitter and the comments of the Structure Committee.
 - We emphasize that all comments are simply opinions, as is the rationale provided by the submitter of the proposal. None of these opinions is entitled to any greater weight simply because of the service positions held by those expressing their opinions.
 - As emphasized in our Second Tradition, there is equality among all RCA members. The members of each RCA group are the ones to decide the position that their group will take on any of the proposals.
 - The various opinions included herein are provided to assist the member groups in evaluating the merits of each proposal. A website discussion forum has been established so that other RCA members can submit their comments and opinions for consideration by the Fellowship.
3. **Request to Each RCA Group:** Whether you vote at the ABM or by mail, each member group is asked to review the proposal to determine the position that your group may wish to take.
 - Adopted at the Boston ABM, the 2006 bylaw amendments established RCA's unique process of combining the votes of those groups present at the ABM with the votes of those groups voting by mail. This process ensures that decisions made at annual business meetings reflect the collective group conscience of the entire Fellowship; not just the views of those present at the business meeting.
 - We recognize that there are many demands on the time of RCA members and that priority must be given to continued individual and couple recovery. Each member group, however, is requested to review and vote on this proposal if at all possible.
 - Your group will thereby help ensure that decisions made at the business meeting will truly reflect "the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship."
4. **Openness in a Democratic Process:** This document is for RCA members, not the general public. We identify those RCA members providing the opinions included in this notice to ensure a level of openness consistent with our commitment to "always remain democratic in thought and action." Openness is a fundamental element of a democratic process.

Structure Committee Members

David H
Alameda, CA

Scott L
St Louis, MO

Maureen S.
Santa Barbara, CA

Karl S
Berkeley, CA

Mark R
Plantation, FL

Members of the Board of Trustees

David & Elizabeth
Chicago, IL

Jean & John
Spenser, NY

David & Mona
Toronto, Ontario

Dick & Vicki
Palm Desert, CA

Gopal & Wendy
Tucson, AZ

Robert & Sandy
Irvine, CA

Scott & Cathy
Edmonton, Alberta

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Proposal for 2018 ABM

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| No: 1 | Title: Replacement of Bylaw 4.1.2 |
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| Submitter: RCA Board of Trustees | Type: Amendment to the Bylaws |
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Motion:

Delete current provision 4.1.2 and replace with the following:

Qualifications: Any couple which is a member of a Member Group for a minimum of 3 years shall be qualified to be elected to the Board of Trustees. It is required that any such couple has worked the Twelve Steps of R.C.A. through the 5th Step and is actively working with sponsors or co-sponsors.

Submitter's Rationale:

Since RCA was established in 1991, it made sense to have the minimal 12 month requirement. Now, 26 years later, it is reasonable to establish a more meaningful level of qualification for election to the Board of Trustees. The three year requirement enables a couple to keep their initial focus on couple recovery while coming to an understanding of the principles, Traditions, Concepts of Service, policies, and tools of RCA.

It is helpful to look at similar provisions in AA, Al-Anon, and NA. In brief, AA general service trustees need seven years of continuous sobriety, Al-Anon requires 10 years of continuous membership, and NA requires 10 years of clean time.

Board of Trustees' Comments and Recommendations:

The Submitter's Rationale servers as the Board of Trustee's Comments.

Structure Committee's Comments on Proposal One:

The Structure Committee was unanimous in endorsing this proposal. We felt that the requirement for a couple to have 3 years' experience in RCA before being eligible for the Board of Trustees has merit. We note the far more stringent requirements of older fellowships like AA, NA and Al-anon. We also see merit in the point raised in the rationale that suggests that couples new to RCA would be better off working on their coupleship for a while, learning and experiencing the tools and Steps of RCA. How can couples share their Experience, Strength and Hope as leaders if they don't have experience in the program? We agree that it

takes time to come to an understanding of the principles, Traditions, Concepts of Service, policies and tools of RCA.

While we noted that in the past, it has sometimes been difficult to get enough couples to fill the Board positions, we feel that the merits of the proposal outweigh any such concern.

In summary, we think the Fellowship would benefit from this refinement in experience requirements for eligibility for serving on the Board of Trustees.