



Hal Reynolds, District Director
Pacific Southwest District of American Rose Society

Dear Rose Society Member:

I am circulating this referendum and asking for your signature on my referendum to make a positive change in the ARS bylaws. This page is for you to sign and e-mail back to me if you agree with my referendum. On the following pages I will give my reasons why this change is needed and why I have taken this route to accomplish the change. My referendum is as follows: This referendum to the ARS membership is to put up for a vote by the ARS membership a referendum to replace bylaw's Article XV section three sentence three, about qualifications for who may run for Vice-President to read:

“Any current member in good standing for three most recent consecutive years or more with the American Rose Society may run for the office of Vice-President of the American Rose Society”.

Hal: I agree with your proposed referendum to change the eligibility for who may run for Vice-President of the American Rose Society.

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Address (Street number, city, state, zip):

Phone: _____

Please print out copies of this page and take it to rose society meetings, collect some signatures and mail them back to me.

Hal Reynolds 73308 Tamarisk St., Palm Desert, California 92260

Reasons for This Referendum

At the ARS board of directors meeting in San Diego I presented a resolution to change the bylaws that states who is eligible to run for V. P./President of ARS. The vote was 10 for and 11 against and the resolution was lost because a couple of members were absent. The other way to get this change enacted is by referendum. A referendum requires that 300 members of the ARS agree with the referendum and sign a petition stating that they are for the referendum. When the signatures are collected I will present them to the board and the Referendum is then presented to the entire membership in the triennial election for a vote. This simply allows the membership a voice.

Currently the only people who are eligible to run for V.P./President are people who have completed at least one three year term as a District Director, Regional Director, or someone who has served a three year term as a national officer. Our current President Jolene Adams has pointed out that the ARS has about 8,000 members of which only about 90 people are eligible to run for V.P./ President, and of those only about 30 or so are young enough to take on the six year commitment of serving 3 years as V.P. and then 3 years as President. With dropping membership numbers there will be a further decrease in the number of members eligible to run.

The leadership of the ARS is seen by the general membership as a very tightly closed private club of the same people running things year after year. The leadership is seen as the same people moving out of one chair or position on the board to another chair or position on the board. There seems to be no room for new blood or new thinking.

The history of the ARS is that, before about 1998 any member of the ARS was eligible to run for the office of V.P./President. It was changed to specifically to eliminate one person from becoming President. It needs to go back to the traditional way of selecting our leader from a larger pool of talent, perhaps even the most talented. The membership and strength of the ARS was on an increasing path reaching about 24,000 members until that bylaw was changed and other factors reduced the ARS leadership to a closed club. The membership is now about 8,000 and dropping. Too few of the board serve on too many of the committees. This makes for a stagnation and a closed circle. Some board members serve on six or more committees. The ARS was progressing and vibrant when any member of the ARS could run for V.P./President. We need an injection of new blood, new ideas, and a more open way of leading the ARS. We need to return to the traditional way V.P./ President were elected, when the ARS was a much more open and vibrant organization.

Remember that this referendum only places the issue on the ballot where all members have a right to vote on it. You as a member of ARS should have a say on items like this. For these reasons I feel my referendum is just one step in the process of opening the ARS up to some change and giving the feeling that the ARS is trying to become a more open and democratic organization.

Please print and sign my referendum and e-mail or mail it back to me. If you agree with me print out a few copies and take them to your local society meeting and gather some signatures and mail them to me. Remember only ARS members should sign.

I thank you in advance.

Yours for a more open ARS,

Hal Reynolds