ELECTION CHAIR MESSAGE TO CANDIDATES
FEBRUARY 12, 2022

TO 2022 SCWDC ELECTION CANDIDATES:

Congratulations on being selected by the SCWDC Nominating Committee to run for the position of SCWDC President or Director.

This is Bill Johnston writing, I am the SCWDC 2022 Elections Chairperson. My purpose in writing is to explain the election procedures and plans, and what you need to do as a nominee for office. The Election and Awards meeting is planned for Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 PM.  It will be held remotely using video conference software, as it was for 2021 as well.  I will assist everyone to know how to participate, more info is further on.

After you read this message, would you reply back that you have received it?  Thank you.
*(This message has been sent blind copy to all candidates.)*

Here is the list of 2022 candidates as of today:

For the position of President to serve a one-year term from April 2022 – April 2023:

Ruth D’Alessandro

For the position of Director and four vacancies, to serve a two-year term from April 2022 - April 2024, Names listed in alphabetical order:

B J Barger, Carol Caruso, Mary Thibault , Rita Togni, Cheryl Wiseman

*Note: There is a procedure for someone who has not been nominated by the Nominating Committee to file a petition to run so the above may change.*

**Let’s begin with important Club business.**

I am required to check that if you are nominated that you agree to serve if elected. All of you have submitted a candidate statement and photo.  I am going to consider that each of you is willing to serve if elected. If you change your mind, please let me know.

Another criterion is whether you are a “skier”, although you don’t have to be. Our Bylaws allow for up to four non-skiers to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD).  Skier is defined is this way, downhill skiing, cross country skiing, or snowboarding at least once in any of three ski seasons, 2022, 2021, 2020, and the skiing can be with the SCWDC or private.  I understand that Mses. Barger, Caruso, Togni, and Wiseman meet this definition. Ms. Thibault has been a skier, but chooses not to ski anymore, she is classified as a non-skier.

The Club has followed the practice of suggesting lengths of candidate statements:  President, 400 words; Director 250-300 words. If anyone would like to revise their statement up to this length, you may do so.

**About the Election Procedures – Please Read Them, Follow Them**

The Club haswritten official election guidance in several places. The most important is the “SCWDC Election Guidelines” included in the SCWDC Policy Manual as Appendix 5. A copy can be found below my signature and is also attached as a PDF document.  Please read “SCWDC Election Guidelines” very soon and carefully, and comply with them to the best of your ability. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. You can email (bjohnston2@aol.com) or call me at 703-597-6310. As your question or concern may be straightforward, I encourage you to call me, and then we can exchange questions and information.

In addition, I suggest that you read and familiarize yourself with “Article V - Officers and Elections” in Chapter 1 of the Policy Manual (abbreviated “PM”), and Chapter 2 of the PM, Article IV - Officers and Elections. FYI, they are included in the Policy Manual currently posted on the SCWDC website under the “Home” menu area, “Club Forms and Documents”.  *Note: As a quick aside, new Directors should read the entire Policy Manual after being elected to become familiar with the club’s business rules.*

**New for the 2022 Election: Each Candidate is Asked to Film A Statement**

The Board of Directors has asked me to arrange for filmed video statements from all candidates before the election meeting, and the reason is stated below  These will be posted on the website. Would you please send me a video by Sunday, February 27?  Please use your or a friend’s smartphone, and forward to bjohnston2@aol.com or my cell phone, 703-597-6310.  If you would like my help, I can use the “Zoom” software product to film your statement.  Speech Length:  President, 4 minutes.  BOD Candidate, 2 minutes.  You should try to film in a well-lighted room so the video will be bright.

*Why is the BOD asking for this? The motivating factor is that the club changed its procedures a few years back to make it easier to vote by absentee ballot. Those ballots far outnumber those ballots cast on election night after the candidate speeches. Also, since the club is not holding in-person meetings or events in the DC area due to COVID concerns, there are limited opportunities for campaigning. Therefore, your candidacy will be enhanced by a video statement. Also, if you are not able to attend the Election and Awards meeting, your prerecorded video can be played in lieu of a speech given that evening.*

**Election Meeting Day and Time – April 5, 7:00 PM, conducted by using Zoom Software**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2022 Election Meeting will not be in-person. The 2021 Election Meeting was also conducted remotely. Members will be able to attend via their computer or mobile device, listen to the proceedings, and vote if they haven’t already. Directors are allotted two minutes to deliver a speech. Presidential candidates have four minutes. After the speeches have been delivered, the meeting will be paused, and electronic voting will be enabled. Once the absentee and electronic ballots have been tabulated, the meeting will be called back to order, and the results announced.  The other major business of the meeting is the announcement of awards.

If you have not used “Zoom” software, please let me know so I can give you some instructions and set up a practice session.  I could meet you in person and give a demonstration.  The point is, your introduction to the software should take place before the meeting.  Also to mention is that BOD meetings for the last two years have used both “Zoom” and “Google Connect” video software, instead of meeting in person.  The next President and BOD administration will decide whether to continue this practice.

Thank you for reading this message – it has to be “formal” and specific so you understand the Election rules.
After you read this message, would you reply back that you have received it?  Thank you.

**Importance of Individual Volunteer Efforts**

The Club’s existence from beginning to now has been based on mostly volunteer efforts and a small paid staff. In the last two years, about 250 different volunteer roles were performed annually by about 160 members. There is often a period of life where an individual can only devote himself or herself to family, career, and personal matters, but later has the time to contribute to the SCWDC.

You have answered the call to become a key SCWDC volunteer. Thank you for volunteering to serve.

Bill Johnston
2022 Election Chairperson

APPENDIX 5 of Policy Manual

SCWDC ELECTION GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

A.  Candidates and Campaigns

1.    The Club shall reproduce, at its expense, the campaign article and photo for each

candidate. The Club shall distribute these to each member attending the Election
Meeting.

2.    Articles or notices about the election, including campaign articles, must be submitted

to the Election Chairperson for approval before being submitted to the Club magazine, website, or Ski-O-Gram newsletter.

3.    Campaigning, which may commence when the Nominating Committee first

announces its nominees to the general membership, is allowed at all Club activities through election night. This campaign start date applies to all candidates, regardless of whether they are nominated by the Nominating Committee. Campaign activities include the passing out of fliers, buttons, and name tags; the display of posters; and the public promotion of a candidacy, either in person or by telephone, mail, email, or other electronic means of communication.

4.    Candidates may use personal mailing lists, but they may not use lists generated from

the Club membership database that are not available to members at large.

5.    Use of SCWDC facilities or office equipment for campaign purposes is not

permitted.

6.    Endorsement or promotion of candidates by members while acting in an official Club

capacity (e.g., as an activity leader, assistant, or volunteer) is not permitted. This includes the wearing of buttons, name tags, or slogans that might be interpreted as promoting a candidate. This restriction applies before the activity, while conducting business associated with the activity, and during the activity.

7.    Candidates shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Club’s Code of Ethics.

Malicious behavior, bribery, and false statements about other candidates are not
permitted.

8.    At the election meeting, Board candidates’ speeches will last a maximum of two

minutes. Presidential candidates’ speeches will be a maximum of four minutes. Any candidate running for both offices simultaneously is limited to four minutes.

9.   All candidates for Club office are subject to these guidelines, whether nominated by

the Nominating Committee, by petition, or from the floor.

10. Each candidate is responsible for compliance with campaign guidelines on the part of
       those campaigning on his or her behalf.

11. If violation of these guidelines occurs, the Election Chairperson may ask the

offending candidate to stop campaigning. The candidate will then only be allowed to
make his or her speech at the election meeting. If a serious violation occurs, the
candidate will be informed in advance by the election Chairperson that
announcement of the violation may be made at the time the candidate is introduced
for the speech. The Election Committee can apply an appropriate sanction. Prior to
the day of the election, the candidate may appeal this action to the President. If the
President is a candidate or recuses himself/herself, the appeal shall go to the Board of
Directors, who shall resolve the matter expeditiously. Any appeal on the day of the
election shall be presented to the assembly of members at the meeting.

B.     Election Procedures

1.   The Election Chairperson shall assume responsibility for all aspects of the election

process. Upon nomination, candidates for Club office immediately come under the purview of the Election Chairperson, who shall ascertain that all nominees meet the requirements for nomination. All disputes, questions of procedure, etc., should be forwarded to the Election Chairperson for resolution.

2.   The Election Chairperson will appoint a committee of at least two other Club

members to assist the Chairperson. At the election meeting, the Election Chairperson and committee members will each wear readily visible badges or ribbons identifying them as election monitors, providing a reminder to candidates and their campaigners that the monitors' directions should be followed.

3.   If the Board of Directors consists of eight members, the four candidates with the most

votes will be elected to two-year terms on the Board. Ballots shall state that members may vote for no more than four candidates. If there are additional vacancies on the Board at the time of the election, the individual(s) with the next highest number of votes will be elected to fill the vacancies.

4.   For the election of officers and for Bylaw proposals to the membership, votes may be

cast either in person, by absentee paper ballot, or by absentee electronic voting. For both types of absentee voting, votes count only if received by the Club before the deadline set by the Elections Chairperson. All vote count information must be kept secret until the voting results are officially announced.

An absentee paper ballot may be used for voting only if it is received directly from an official SCWDC source; and it may be reproduced only for members of the same household. An absentee ballot is counted only if the voter mails it directly to or
delivers it in person to the Club office. These ballots shall be counted by the Election Chairperson and at least two additional counters approved by the Board.

Electronic voting serves the same purpose as absentee paper balloting, but uses a
different method. Any electronic voting system should be secure from fraud or
misuse, prevent duplicate voting, and protect the privacy of voters and their
selections.

The Elections Committee must implement a procedure to ensure that any member’s
voting selections are counted only once, given that a member can vote in more than
one way.

Vote counts should be published on proposals; but not published regarding individual candidates for office.

(1/19)