

To: SSSP Board of Directors and Executive Officer
From: Yvonne M. Luna, Chair, 2017-2018 Elections Committee
Re: 2018 Elections Committee Report
Date: June 29, 2018

1. 2018 Elections Committee: Yvonne Luna (Chair), Abdallah Badahdah (member), Michael O. Johnston (member), Paul D. Steele (member), Noreen M. Sugrue (member), and Tracy L. Vargas (member).
2. The 2018 approved nominations list was as follows: President-Elect (one position), Vice-President Elect (one position), Board of Directors (3 positions), Board of Directors – Student Representative (1 position), Budget, Finance, & Audit Committee (1 position), Committee on Committees (2 positions), Editorial & Publications Committee (2 positions), Membership & Outreach Committee (2 positions), and Membership & Outreach Committee – Student Representative (1 position). The list of nominations was ranked upon receipt.
3. The Process: Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager, Michele Koontz identified nominees who were listed for more than one position and sent those names along with the full list and description of the election committee process to me. Only one nominee was identified for two positions. For the higher-ranking office, two candidates were needed and those who were higher ranked accepted their nominations. The duplicative nominee accepted the nomination for the lower-ranked position. All nominees were initially contacted with some version of the following email on September 10, 2017 (subject line “Time Sensitive – SSSP Nomination”):

Dear _____,

It is my pleasure as Chair of the SSSP Elections Committee to write to inform you that you have been nominated to run for the office of _____. You may wish to consult the SSSP By-Laws and Operations Manual to review the duties of this position:

<https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/29/locationSectionId/0/By-Laws>

https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/30/Operations_Manual/

The Elections Committee must fill the election slate by mid-October. Accordingly, I ask that you respond to this email by **September 25, 2017**, indicating your willingness to stand for election to this office.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Congratulations on your nomination! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes,

Yvonne

If a reply wasn't received by September 18, I followed up with an email and/or phone call. All nominees accepted their nominations. When they replied, I asked about their willingness to serve as Chair when applicable. The 2018 Candidates List (indicating willingness to serve as chair) was sent to Michele Koontz on September 25.

4. Participation in the Election Process: The total number of members as of 03/15/18 was 2,051. The total number of members eligible to vote electronically was 1,902 with 149 members who requested not to vote. The total number of voters this year was 357, with a participation rate of 17%. This represents a 3% decrease from 2017. Reminders to vote from the SSSP administrative staff were sent on February 25, March 7, and March 14, 2018. Candidates were notified of the results on March 19, 2018 and the Board of Directors notified on March 26, 2018.

5. Election Results: The results of the 2018 election were as follows:

President-Elect (2018-2019); President (2019-2020): Heather Dalmage

Vice-President Elect (2018-2019); Vice-President (2019-2020): Daina Cheyenne Harvey

Secretary (2018-2019): Glenn W. Muschert

Treasurer (2018-2019): Susan M. Carlson

Board of Directors (2018-2021): Yvonne A. Braun, Matthew W. Hughey, and Deborah A. Potter

Board of Directors - Student Representative (2018-2020): Apoorva Ghosh

Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (2018-2021): Louis Edgar Esparza

Committee on Committees (2018-2021): Trinidad de Jesus Arguello and Kasey Henricks

Editorial and Publications Committee (2018-2021): Rogelio Saenz and A. Javier Treviño

Membership and Outreach Committee (2018-2021): Barbara Wejnert and Cameron T. Whitley

Membership and Outreach Committee - Student Representative (2018-2021): Nathalie P. Rita

6. Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager, sent personalized notification letters to all candidates on March 19, 2018. The results were posted on the SSSP website on April 2, 2018.

7. Recommendations of the Committee:

The 2018 Elections Committee was tasked with developing strategies for encouraging greater voter participation of SSSP members. The Committee thinks it important to first understand why people do not vote before incentives can be structured. It may be a good idea to conduct a short survey about this. One suggestion is to conduct a study to find out how sister organizations incentivize voter participation. Additionally, it may be good to poll members to ask them about their desires for SSSP's approach to voting. Other helpful data to collect from voting members: age, gender, employment status, geographic location, most popular day/time of completing the ballot, voter participation by division.

In addition to needing data, the Committee also asks: What are Division Chairs doing to get the vote out? It may be good practice for them to send out special emails and encourage their members to vote and perhaps even run for office. What percentage participate in the election of their Division Chair? Do more people participate in Division elections as opposed to the general election?

We recommend that the 2019 Elections Committee develop a method for collecting the kinds of data identified in this report. Other ideas and suggestions to incentivize greater voter participation:

- Offer a small discount/incentive for members who participate (e.g., ten percent off annual meeting registration, subscription to online version of *Social Problems*);
- Make the ballot smartphone friendly, perhaps by creating an SSSP app; and
- Post reminders and links to the ballot on social media, like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvonne M. Luna
Chair, 2017-2018 Elections Committee