

ELECTION PROCEDURE 2013 – REGIONAL TRUSTEES

Election procedures for Officers and Regional Trustees of the National Executive Committee are identical apart from the voting process. For Officers, U3As cast their votes at the National AGM in September. For Regional Trustees, U3As in each region complete a Postal Vote which has to be returned by a specified date. If there is only one candidate, U3As are reminded that they should still vote, as an unopposed candidate must attract a majority of votes in favour of their election.

In the East Midlands region, candidates for the post of Regional Trustee are invited to speak to members in support of their candidature at the Regional AGM in July. No voting takes place on this occasion and members are not asked to indicate their support or otherwise for a particular candidate. It is simply an opportunity for any contender for the role of Regional Trustee to make themselves and their credentials known to Regional U3As attending the AGM.

The following outlines the procedure being carried out in 2013

1. Candidates for appointment to the NEC as elected members must be nominated and seconded by U3As in the Region.
2. The February 2013 National Office mailing explained which trustees would be finishing their terms of office so that people can start to think about possible replacements. The East Midlands Trustee is currently co-opted and must stand down at the National AGM in September. The Trustee is eligible for nomination.
3. **Nomination** forms together with the Agenda for the National AGM will be sent out at the end of May. This will again list the regional trustees who are completing their 3 year terms and ask for U3As in those regions to consider nominating or seconding a candidate on the enclosed individualized **nomination** form by a specified date. It also states that the proposer must ensure that the candidate is willing to be nominated and pass on the enclosed information on the role of regional trustee to the member concerned. In addition, it states a requirement for a 500 word statement to be attached or submitted and reminds U3As that current trustees are available to be consulted. There is also a list of contact details of all the U3A Chairmen in the region included in the mailing.
4. Individualized **voting** forms are sent out in July with a list of nominations with supporting statements and a date for receipt of the vote. Regional Trustee elections are by postal vote of U3As because it would be a major logistical problem to manage regional trustee elections at the National AGM. If there is only 1 candidate U3As still have the opportunity to vote. See para 6.
5. In a contested election the candidate with the most votes is confirmed as the new regional trustee at the National AGM.
6. If there is only 1 candidate the appointment is confirmed at the National AGM providing the majority of votes received are in favour.
7. In the event of no nominations being received for a region by the declared date or all candidates being rejected by the U3As in that region, the Chairman of The Third Age Trust writes to all the U3As in the region explaining the situation, stressing the importance that the region is represented on the NEC for the next 12 months and asking them to inform their members and encourage anyone who might be willing to serve until the next AGM to contact the Company Secretary and then submit a 500 word statement.
8. In the event of more than 1 person from a region coming forward, each member of the NEC votes on the basis of the supporting statements.
9. The person chosen will be formally co-opted to the NEC until the next National AGM.