

ELECTION

REPORT

By BEN SHUPACK

Chairman of the S S A Elections Committee

THIS year the request for nominations appeared in the November-December 1947 issue of SOARING. In response 14 names were submitted; 10 had the required three endorsements and were nominated. In the 1947 election, 47 names were submitted and 21 were nominated of whom 18 accepted. This year's nominees were: William Briegleb, Francis Compton, William Coverdale, Alexis Dawydoff, Richard Johnson, Raymon Parker, Paul Schweizer, James Spurgeon, Floyd Sweet, Amos Wood.

Richard Johnson declined the nomination and Raymon Parker did not reply leaving eight candidates.

Ballots were mailed to 508 SSA Active Members whose dues were paid up at the time the envelopes had to be addressed. Returns were received from 177 members or 35 per cent, geographically distributed as follows: California-33, Colorado-4, Connecticut-4, Florida-8, Georgia-2, Illinois-8, Indiana-4, Kansas-1, Kentucky-1, Maryland-1, Massachusetts-9, Michigan-7, Minnesota-1, Missouri-4, Montana-1, New Jersey-12, New York-40, North Dakota-1, Ohio-6, Oklahoma-1, Oregon-1, Pennsylvania-16, Tennessee-1, Texas-4, Vermont-1, Virginia-1, Washington-3, Dist. of Columbia-2.

Of the 177 ballots, 14 were voided, 6 from the west, 8 from the east leaving 163 which were included in the count. With six directors to be elected the quota for each was 23 votes. The voting was as follows:

	Count of First Choices Rule 4	Distribution of excess from Compton, Dawydoff Schweizer Rule 6		Distribution of Votes from Wood Rule 8
Briegleb	16	23		
Compton	23	23		
Coverdale	7	21	plus 2	23
Dawydoff	23	23		
Schweizer	23	23		
Spurgeon	6	18	plus 3	21
Sweet	11	23		
Wood	1	9	4 exhausted	
		163		

As a comparison a tabulation was made of the number of times each candidate received a mark. For this, the numbers on the ballots were counted as though they were crosses. The results were: Briegleb-132, Compton-144, Coverdale-99, Dawydoff-



E. J. Reeves

"Big Ben" Shupack, the man with The Hat, is looking for someone who'll nominate a Director next year or at least vote. Helping him is Emil Lehecka, one of the SSA's ace photographers.

137, Schweizer-151, Spurgeon-100, Sweet-100, Wood-78.

Comparing these figures with those above for Proportional Representation and also the votes by states many conclusions could be drawn:

1. That the eastern half of the country though more aware of the duty of voting is not regional minded. This is indicated by the fact that Spurgeon and Wood received a vote of 100 and 78 ballots respectively even though only 42 ballots were cast by members residing in the western states.

2. These figures also show that the western half of the country cast about half of its first choice votes for easterners. Briegleb, Spurgeon and Wood received a total of 23 votes out of a possible 42 first choices from the western contingent. Obviously the implication in the oft heard criticism of the SSA that it's directorate is overstaffed with easterners is unjustified since the westerners assist materially in electing easterners, and the average voter appears to be more concerned with the qualities of a Director rather than the area from which he comes.

Many more nuances could be discussed but perhaps more would be achieved if this data was discussed at get-togethers, meets, regattas, clubs and such.

This Proportional Representation method of electing directors could achieve regional representation if more members voted; if the members in a given region voted No. 1 on the basis of location and other numbers for "outside the region" representatives.

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