

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by WILLIAM S. IVANS, SSA President

The preferential ballot is used by SSA members for election of Regional Directors, and by Directors for choice of National Championship sites and in determining recipients of awards. A good deal of attention has been focused upon this balloting procedure as a result of close contests in recent regional elections and the very narrow choice of McCook over Adrian for the site of the 1964 Nationals.

The purpose of the presidential ballot is to assure that winning candidates are chosen by a majority of all who vote, without the expense and delay of run-off elections. Each of the candidates is ranked by the voter in his order of preference, as contrasted to simply marking his first choice only.

The tellers (under supervision of the Elections and Allocations Committee) make a tally of first-choice votes as the initial step in the vote count. If one candidate has a clear majority—more than one half of the total votes cast—there is no further work to be done.

If no majority is obtained as a result of the initial tally, the first-choice votes of the lowest ranking candidate are discarded, and the

second-choice votes of those who voted for him are added to the first-choice totals of the remaining candidates. If there were more than three candidates and a majority is still not obtained following this first distribution of votes, the process is repeated until a majority is obtained.

This method of scoring the preferential ballot is equivalent to one or more run-off elections, each with the lowest ranking candidate of the last election dropped from the ballot. It does not employ arbitrary weighting of votes; in each distribution, only the new first choice totals are compared.

The preferential ballot will not create a true majority vote for a candidate who did not obtain it on the first tally. Nor will any other type of ballot or system of counting. What it does do is give a wider range of expression of choice to all who vote, thereby making the final result a better expression of the will of the majority than a simple plurality award.

The preferential ballot is particularly useful in situations where a large number of qualified candidates appear on the ballot, and the differences between acceptable and preferred are narrow. A case in point is the Region 12 Directors' election just passed, in which the ultimate winner received only 28% of the first-choice votes on the first tally; four redistributions were necessary before a majority was established.

Another case in point is the

selection of McCook as site of the 1964 Nationals. Of the 25 votes cast, 12 first-place votes were cast for Adrian, 7 for McCook, and 6 for Hobbs. Lacking a majority (by only one vote!), the Hobbs 2nd choice votes were distributed. All were for McCook, giving McCook the majority, 13 to 12. One may quarrel with the rankings assigned the sites on the part of individual Directors, but no one can dispute that by a very narrow margin, the Directors preferred McCook over Adrian. Many commented that the choice between all three was a most difficult one, and that location of site from a contestant travel mileage point of view was an important factor in ranking; Directors were unwilling to condemn the prospective western pilots to a second long trip East following last year's meet at Elmira.

## OSTIV News

OSTIV is the international organization concerned with the scientific and technical aspects of soaring. There is an "OSTIV Section" in each issue of the monthly Swiss magazine, *Aero Revue*, which is sent to all OSTIV members. Dues for 12 months (begins with either Jan. or July) are \$4, c/o London Gliding Club, 22 Half Moon St., London W.1, England.

The "OSTIV Section" of the November issue of *Aero Revue* consisted of two papers presented at the 1963 OSTIV Congress, both in German, with the following titles: "Über eine Möglichkeit zur Vermeidung der Insektenrauhigkeit," by Dr. F. X. Wortmann, and "Einige Laminarprofile für Segelflugzeuge," by Dr. F. X. Wortmann (reprinted in English in the January, 1964, issue of *Soaring*).

The "OSTIV Section" of the December issue of *Aero Revue* consisted of one paper presented at the 1963 OSTIV Congress, "On Optimization of Glider Cross-Country Flight Using Thermals," by O. Niehuss.

The "OSTIV Section" of the January issue of *Aero Revue* consisted of two papers presented at the 1963 OSTIV Congress, both in German, as follows: "Über die Prüfung und Zulassung von Motorseglern in Deutschland," by Manfred Kuppers, and "Die Entwicklung von Motorseglern in Deutschland," by Hans Zacher.

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