

Election Procedures for Nepali Association of Oregon Executive Committee Members for the Term 2007-2009

The Election Committee announces the election for Executive Committee for the Nepali Oregon Association (NAO) for the term 2007-2009. All NAO members whose membership is current on the election date and who are above 18 years of age, are encouraged to participate in this election. As per the NAO constitution, the Executive Committee is a body of elected members from the General Assembly, which shall take care of the functions, and obligations of the organization on the day-to-day basis. The General Assembly is a supreme body of the Oregon Nepali Association. General Assembly is comprised of current members of Nepali Association of Oregon who are older than 18 years. The election shall be conducted following the procedures described herein.

The Executive Committee shall comprise of the following members:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Member
6. Member
7. Member
8. Member
9. Member

Eligibility for Executive Committee Office: Any member whose membership is current on the election date and who is above 18 years of age, may serve in any position of the Executive Committee.

Eligibility for Voting: Any member whose membership is current on the election date and who is above 18 years of age will have the right to vote on the basis of one-person-one-vote. Any NAO members born on or before 14th April 1989 will be eligible to cast a vote. Voting by proxy will not be allowed.

Filing for Election: Eligible candidates may declare, with the Election Committee, their interest in the desired position in the Executive Committee. No single person can run for more than one position. Interested candidate shall contact the Election Committee through any of the committee's four members before the deadline for declaring candidacy. Contact can be made through email or phone. Email is preferred. The candidate shall provide the following information:

1. Full Name:
2. Position sought:
3. Phone:
4. Email:

Election Committee Members and Contacts:

Name	Phone	Email
Dhruba Munankarmi	503-624-9141	dhruba@cecs.pdx.edu
Satish Shrestha	503-558-1582	rupasatish@hotmail.com
Subhash Poudyal	503-679-6944	scpd15@hotmail.com
Sushil Aryal	503-615-0635	sushilaryal@hotmail.com

Please feel free to contact the Election Committee members if you have any questions regarding the election. Email is preferred as it can be easily shared with the rest of the community.

Nomination for Executive Committee: A potential candidate can be nominated (recommended) by any other eligible member of NAO for any position. The Election Committee will confirm with the nominated candidate his/her interest to run for elections for the proposed position. The nominated candidate will be registered for election if he/she is interested, otherwise the nomination will be voided. A person may not nominate more than one candidate. A candidate running for a position may not be nominated for any other position.

It is suggested that the person nominating a potential candidate email a courtesy copy to the nominated candidate, in order to expedite confirmation.

Emails: The list of candidates and positions sought will be updated and posted through emails regularly. NAO Email Distribution List will be used for this purpose. Please visit <http://www.nepaloregon.org> to join this email list. The Election Committee will make announcements through this email list.

Any candidate may use the NAO Email Distribution List one time for canvassing purpose. Please note that this is a moderated email distribution list. Candidates shall email their message to the Election Committee.

Withdrawal from Election: A candidate may withdraw from election at any time until the deadline for withdrawal. A candidate may withdraw from one position and run for another position before the deadline to declare candidacy.

NAO Membership: To determine if you are a good standing member of NAO, please check with the current NAO Executive Committee. You can also check your membership status online at <http://www.nepaloregon.org>. If you are not already a member of NAO and wish to become a member, you are encouraged to do so by contacting the current NAO Executive Committee or through the NAO website. You may be eligible to vote in the elections if you become a member at least one hour prior to voting.

Extension of Deadline under Extraordinary Circumstances: If any position in the NAO Executive Committee is not contested for or filled within the specified deadline, then the Election Committee may announce the vacancy prior to the voting. Any eligible member of NAO may volunteer to serve in that position. The first person to contact the Coordinator of the Election Committee to state interest in serving in the vacant position may be accepted in the position.

Voters' List: Candidates for election may contact the Election Committee for the NAO voters' list. The Election Committee will provide the voters' list upon request.

Dates and Deadlines: The various dates and deadlines regarding the election are as follows:

1. Declaring candidacy and nomination of candidates will begin on March 11, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.
2. Deadline for nomination by second person: April 10, 2007, at 9:00 p.m.
3. Deadline for withdrawal from candidacy: April 11, 2007, at 9:00 p.m.

Final list of Candidates: After the last date for filing for elections and the deadline for withdrawal, the election committee will announce the final list of candidates for election. The names of candidates for contested positions will appear on ballot papers. Uncontested candidates will automatically be elected.

Voting:

- Voting shall be conducted through secret ballots. Ballot papers shall be used. The ballot papers shall have the names of the candidates and the position sought for every position that is contested. Uncontested positions shall not appear on the ballot paper.
- There are 5 member positions. If more than 5 persons apply for member position, the names of all of the applicants for member position will appear on the ballot paper.
- The ballot papers shall be distributed by the Election Committee to the voters (members of NAO) present during the General Assembly Meeting/Nepali New Year Party on April 14, 2007.
- The ballot paper shall be marked by voters to indicate their vote. For every contested position, only one candidate shall be chosen by placing a suggested mark (such as "X" or "✓") at the designated space next to the desired candidate's name.
- Voters shall fold the ballot paper appropriately for confidentiality and place it inside the ballot box during the allotted balloting period, the schedule for which will be announced by the Election Committee prior to the event on the same day.
- Only one ballot may be cast by any eligible voter.
- **Validity of Votes:** The vote for any position in a ballot paper shall be considered invalid if no candidate has been chosen by the voter for the position. If in any ballot paper, more than one name has been marked with the suggested mark (such as "X" or "✓") among candidates for the same position, then the vote for that position shall be considered invalid. An invalid vote for a position in any ballot does not invalidate valid votes for other positions in the same ballot. If any ballot paper has crossed out (cancelled) marks but clearly indicate the voted candidate, such votes shall be considered valid.
- The Election Committee will explain the balloting process during General Assembly meeting and will introduce to the mass the candidates for various positions of NAO Executive Committee.

Questions, Suggestions and Grievances: Election committee will respond to questions, suggestions and grievances from NAO members regarding the election during the election process, and after the casting of ballots.

Attendance: It will not be necessary for a candidate to be present during the April 14th General Assembly meeting. However, the voters must be present in person during the balloting in order to cast their votes. Proxy votes will not be allowed.

Counting of Votes: The Election Committee, with the help of volunteers and representatives of the candidates, will count the votes from the ballot papers for each candidate, and announce the results and the names of the new elected Executive Committee members of NAO. The ballots and the results shall be kept as documents.

Documentation of Election: The Election Committee shall hand over all the election related documents to the new Executive Committee a few days after the election.

Addendum to Election Procedures: The Election Committee may provide further information as addendum to election procedures to elaborate on specific topics as necessary.