

May 11, 2009

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
PROVIDENCEASSOCIATION OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS IN AMERICA**

The year 2009 is an election year to elect officers and directors of the Providence Association for the next four years. The election will be Sunday, October 18, 2009.

The branch officers should encourage their members to take active interest and participate in the election.

NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES

Every member of the Providence Association, between the ages of 21 and 65, a citizen of the USA and a member of the Providence Association for at least three years may be elected to the office of the General Assembly. The branch elections shall take place in May and members acquiring signatures for candidacy must do likewise.

Candidates must be endorsed by a minimum of ten members of their branch. A member may also submit his or her own candidacy by acquiring the endorsement /signatures/ of at least ten Providence Association members. Certifications of candidates shall then be forwarded by registered mail to the **Election Commission, Providence Association, 817 N. Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123, postmarked no later than June 15, 2009.**

A candidate for the President must be a duly ordained Ukrainian Catholic priest, between the ages of 30 and 65, having the consent of his respective bishop. This also applies to the candidates for the Spiritual Adviser, with the exception that consent of his respective bishop is not required.

Members, who are in arrears with their dues payments, cannot be candidates and are not eligible to vote. Please advise your members of the above requirements.

Taking into consideration that the 2009 is an election year, the branches should hold meetings for the purpose of nominating candidates to the General Assembly and electing a branch Election Committee. The purpose is to conduct the elections in the branch, to tabulate the votes on the proper forms and to forward them in on time to the General Election Commission.

Enclosed are excerpts of the By-Laws regarding the elections of the General Assembly of the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America.

For the Executive Board of the Providence Association:

Bishop John Bura
President

Eryna Cvikula Korchynsky
Secretary

ELECTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

78. Every qualified member of “The Providence” who is a practicing Catholic, of upright character, between the ages of 21 and 65, a member of “The Providence” for at least three (3) years, and a citizen of the USA, single or married in the Catholic Church, can be elected to any office of the General Assembly of “The Providence” with the exception of the President, unless he/she has waived this right in writing.
79. Only a validly ordained Ukrainian Catholic priest, possessing all qualifications, between the ages of 30 and 65, having approval of his bishop to become a candidate, can be nominated and elected to the office of the President of “The Providence”.

The President has the right to be elected to the office for a maximum of two (2) terms.

80. The general elections of candidates to the General Assembly take place every four (4) years:
- (a) Any member possessing the necessary qualifications who has received at least ten (10) votes at a meeting of his/her Branch or has collected ten (10) signatures on his/her own from other members of “The Providence”, may become a candidate for a position in the General Assembly. The declaration of his/her candidacy must be sent to the Home Office no later than June 15th of an election year for certification by the Election Commission;
 - (b) The names of all candidates certified by the Election Commission as well as voting regulations shall appear must be published in the official organ of “The Providence” and its website no later than July 1st of the election year;
 - (c) At the annual meeting prior to election time, the General Assembly elects the Election Commission consisting of three (3) members and two (2) alternates, who among themselves will elect a president and a secretary of their Commission. The duties of the Election Commission will be: to certify the credentials of declared candidates, to accept all ballots cast in the general election, to verify their validity, to tabulate the number of votes received by individual candidates for each position, and to publicly announce the elections' results in the official organ of “The Providence”.
 - (d) In case of resignation, withdrawal, or disqualification of a candidate with the highest number of votes, he/she shall be replaced by the candidate who received the next highest number of votes in the general election;

(e) Candidates for office in the general election may avail themselves of the privilege of using the official organ of “The Providence” to present themselves and their qualifications to the members prior to the election;

(f) The Secretary shall prepare a printed list of all candidates on the official ballot for the general election and mail same along with voting regulations to secretaries of the respective Branches, before October 1st of the election year. General elections are to be held on the Branch level on the designated date in October. Each Branch shall receive the number of ballots equal to the number of qualified voters in that Branch.

Each ballot sent for the general election must have the seal of “The Providence” and the number of the Branch affixed thereto.

Also an explanatory notice must be clearly printed on every ballot indicating the number of candidates to be voted for each respective position.

Individuals may elect, in writing, a direct mail ballot from and to the Election Commission in place of the traditional method of branch voting.

(g) Members can vote only for those candidates whose names appear on the official ballot;

(h) A member who is financially indebted to “The Providence” for more than three (3) months, does not have the right to vote in national or branch elections; one must also be a member for at least one (1) year before he/she has a right to vote;

(i) The voting in general election shall be conducted on the premises where the regular meeting of the Branches are held or in some other premises designated and announced by officers of the local Branch;

(j) The voting shall be secret and the qualified voting member shall mark the ballot by placing an “X” in the space provided on the ballot and depositing it in the balloting box;

(k) Each member of “The Providence” over 16 years of age is entitled to one vote and shall receive one ballot;

(l) There shall be no voting by proxy;

(m) Any ballot that is smeared, sullied, crossed-out or erased shall be invalidated;

(n) Upon completion of voting, the Branch President and Secretary shall collect all the ballots from their members, tally the ballots either themselves or

with the help of the Branch Electoral Committee elected for that purpose, and record the count in the minutes. The Branch minutes shall state exactly how many votes were cast for each candidate. These minutes shall be signed at the same meeting by the Branch President and Secretary, and together with all used and unused ballots, sealed and sent to the President of the Election Commission in care of the Home Office. This letter must be postmarked no later than November 5th of the election year;

(o) A Branch which fails to send the voting records and ballots to the President of the Election Commission within the herein designated time shall be deemed to have voluntarily renounced its voting privileges.

Should fraud or abuse concerning the election be uncovered and proven against any Branch officer, he/she shall be removed from office immediately;

(o) The Election Commission shall tabulate the votes received for each candidate no later than November 15th of each election year. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for the respective office shall be considered elected to that office; subject to possible revision after hearings of irregularities.

Should two (2) candidates receive an equal number of votes for the same position, the outcome shall be decided by lot drawn by the Election Commission.

(q) Complaints of voting irregularities against Branch officials or members shall be filed with the President of the Election Commission no later than December 5th of the election year. Complaints shall be in the form of an affidavit. A notice of right to file complaints shall be published in the organ of "The Providence" at least once a week beginning on November 15th through December 5th of the election year;

(r) The Election Commission shall resolve all complaints received no later than December 15th of the election year and only then shall the Election Commission announce the final results of the general elections and publish them in the official organ of "The Providence";

(s) The Secretary shall prepare and supply the Election Commission with special forms for tabulating and recording the results of voting.

81. At the commencement of his/her term, each member elected to the General Assembly shall take the official oath of office printed in a special appendix of these Bylaws. Such oath shall be administered collectively by the Protector (or Co-Protector) of "The Providence".