

MEMO

To: Dear LSOHC members
From: David Hartwell, Chair & Ron Schara, Vice Chair
Date: May 15, 2023
RE: Operating procedures

At our meeting on May 24th, one of the agenda items is updating our operating procedures. Most of the updates are just changes necessitated by time or things that were unexpected when the original procedures were put in place and can be simply clarified now.

There are two issues that are outside of this that we are recommending to you for change. While they were put in place initially for all the right reasons, they no longer make sense for us. These are how we handle elections and the need for an executive committee.

Our current procedures on elections were put in place in 2008 when the council was new. This calls for officers to be elected in such a way that it ensures there are members who have been appointed by all three appointing authorities. This was done with the intent of making sure that no one branch controlled the council. But that has not been any type of an issue since then and it has on occasion prevented a qualified person from serving in an appropriate position and sometimes pressed members into service because they are from a certain appointing authority – not because they really want the job.

So, our recommendation is that this requirement be scrapped, and the election of officers take place without restriction to appointing authority of a council member. It will ensure those most qualified can serve the council.

The second issue is that we have had an executive committee in our procedures made up of the chair, vice chair, treasurer, secretary and legislative member. That committee has not met since January 2014 (before electronic meetings were possible) and because it is an official committee, it is subject to the open meeting law and requires the same notice as a meeting of the full council. With Zoom and phone conference capabilities, there is no reason a full council meeting cannot be called if there is an urgent reason to do so. So, we are suggesting we do away with this committee.

We look forward to seeing you on the 24th and discussing these and other issues with you.