Role of the Election Committee

Election Committee members have a special role – (1) the Election Committee does a certain amount of oversight of the administration of the election and (2) the Election Committee is a body that considers protests from candidates and members and makes rulings on those protests.

Administration. Generally, the mechanics of the election will be done by the staff of the Union. The processes will be run by the Election Committee before implementation, but, frankly, these are the same processes the Union has used for many of the past elections. For example, petitions will be filed with the Union by candidates for office. The staff of the Union will have to review the petitions for verification that the signatures on them are signatures of members in good standing. (For some petitions, there will be an initial screen by a vendor). Issues about eligibility will come to the Election Committee if it is determined that the petitions do not have sufficient signatures. At that time, the Election Committee will review any challenge to an eligibility determination and will review the processes used to check signatures to ensure that they were done fairly and correctly.

Protests. Any protests will have to be put in writing and sent to the Election Committee. There will be two rounds of Election Committee review. First, if there are eligibility issues, the Election Committee will consider those issues and decide them. Then, after the election, the Election Committee will review protests to the conduct of the election and rule on them. Because the Election Committee has to act as judge of protests,
it is important the Election Committee not get involved in the actual processing of protests or policing of election conduct.