

MEMO

To: All OWLS members

From: OWLS Board of Directors

Date: May 4, 2020

Subject: OWLS 2020 Annual Meeting and Convention for Seniors



With all of the uncertainty surrounding the current Coronavirus pandemic impacting the entire world, it was incumbent upon the OWLS Board of Directors to discuss the wisdom of continuing to plan and promote a national assembly of seniors --- the most vulnerable demographic in this crisis --- scheduled to be held prior to the availability and widespread distribution of an immunity vaccine to protect attendees from the SARS CoVi2-19 virus.

After much discussion -- including consultation with national public health officials -- the OWLS Board of Directors has voted to **CANCEL the 2020 OWLS Annual Meeting and Convention for Seniors**, in compliance with the provisions in Bylaws 7.6. This was done at a properly called special meeting of the Board of Directors on Monday, May 4, 2020. In addition to the voting Board Members, Committee and Advisory Members were included in the deliberations.

Those who have already registered for the 2020 gathering will receive a full refund of all registration fees. Refund of lodging deposits can be accomplished by contacting the hotel directly.

This decision was not made lightly. There are legal ramifications, since conducting a formal and official "Annual Meeting" is part of the requirements to maintain our IRS tax exempt status. We are also required to conduct the 2020 officer election in compliance with the specifics detailed in our Bylaws.

Therefore, the 2020 election of officers will be conducted by mail-in absentee ballot. The OWLS membership shall elect a Vice-President, Secretary, and two members of the Board of Directors, each for a two-year term. The Nominating Committee will present the official slate of candidates, and the official ballot, in the next edition of *New Horizons*, our quarterly newsletter. **This memo shall serve as the official notification that nominations are now open "from the floor."** All nominations must be submitted to the Nominating Committee, accompanied by a biographical statement and head-shot picture of the candidate, no later than July 15, 2020. All nominations are to be submitted to Becky Markgraf at the OWLS National Office, PO Box 84, New Ulm, MN 56073-0084, owlswels@gmail.com.

To place a name on the ballot, you must contact your candidate in advance of submitting their name for consideration. Their consent to serve shall constitute a "second" to their nomination. A biographical statement and a head-shot picture must accompany the nomination. Open nominations will close at midnight, July 15, 2020. At that time all nominations will be closed. Nominations received by the Nominating Committee after that deadline will not appear on the ballot.

Questions, comments, concerns, etc., can be directed to Norman Schell, President (402-880-3645, naschell@gmail.com), and/or John Paulsen, Executive Director (507-469-2011, jolopaulsen@gmail.com).

