

Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to have caucus meetings held for the purpose of making nominations for the Board of Directors. Such caucus meetings shall be held at some convenient place in the respective director's district where the vacancy in office will occur and must be held within the period of March 1 to April ~~15~~ inclusive. Written notice of the holding of each caucus meeting, in which notice shall state the time, place and purpose thereof, shall be sent to each member of the district and region not less than five (5) days or more than twenty-five (25) days before the date of such caucus meeting. All members of the region shall be invited to said caucus meeting for the purpose of providing an informational meeting for them also. The Secretary or a designee shall be present at each district caucus and shall act as Secretary thereof and shall record the names of all nominees. The presiding officer of the caucus shall be the director from that district, or, in the absence of that director, a chairperson designated by the members of the district actually present at the caucus.

There shall be no restrictions on the number of nominations that may be made at each caucus provided however, that nominations must be made by members of the district from members of the district for the seat up for election and only one nomination may be made by any member present and nominations shall not be closed by the chairperson of the meeting until there are no further nominations made by the floor. Nominations do not need a second and shall not be voted upon at the caucus. All nominees must state their willingness to be a nominee, either in person at the caucus meeting, or in a letter addressed to the caucus. All nominations made shall be reported to the offices of the corporation by the secretary immediately following the caucus, and such nominees shall be placed upon the ballot for the annual meeting unless a nominee gives notice to the secretary that they are withdrawing their name as a candidate. Nominations may also be made by a petition presented containing the signature of 20 members from the correct district to the secretary of the Cooperative. This petition must be presented to the secretary no later than April 1st by close of the cooperative business day ~~25 days before the annual meeting~~ and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the respective district caucus is posted. The secretary shall mail with the notice of the respective meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the respective caucus meetings and the nominations made by petition, if any. The members may, at any meeting in which a director or directors shall be removed, as hereinbefore provided in these bylaws, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provision with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything in the subsection contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this subsection shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors. No additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting of the members except in the event there is no qualified candidate nominated or available to serve from the caucus and that no petitions have been properly received prior to the meeting from qualified members available to serve.