



Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists Election Ethics Policy

The RMAG Board of Directors has adopted this Election Ethics Policy as a guideline for RMAG officer candidates.

Preamble

The Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists is a respected scientific organization of professional geologists. The purposes of RMAG are best served by elections that are conducted in an honorable and dignified manner. Pursuant to the authority granted by the provisions of Article II Section 6 of the Bylaws of RMAG, the Board of Directors of RMAG adopts this Officer Election Ethics Policy to assure an ethical, fair and equal campaign for the candidates for RMAG offices.

Candidates for office in RMAG shall support the principles of the policy by strict adherence to both the spirit and the letter of the policy. In each of the following described provisions pertaining to A. Campaign Activities, B. Notification and Acceptance, and C. Enforcement, it shall be understood that the intent of the RMAG Board of Directors and these campaign policies shall apply equally to all candidates for office in RMAG.

A. Election Activities

General – Candidates may attend meetings that they routinely attended prior to becoming candidates, but no campaigning may take place at such meetings during the period of candidacy unless all candidates for the office are invited and provided equal opportunity to be recognized and/or heard. In all communications with members, comments or responses may not be self-aggrandizing or derogatory to an opponent; a professional demeanor will be maintained at all times.

Pre-election luncheon meetings – Candidates are encouraged to attend the pre-election luncheon meetings of RMAG and be introduced.

Other Activities – Candidates for office in RMAG are not permitted to participate in or arrange for, and shall discourage members or non-members of RMAG from participating in or arranging for:

- Mailings, letter writing campaigns, social media campaigns, telephone campaigns or other communications on behalf of a candidate,
- Receptions or cocktail parties for the purpose of promoting a candidate,
- Lecture engagements that could be construed as personal promotion by or for a candidate (commitments made prior to learning of candidacy may be honored), or
- Interviews with the media with the intent to publicize or promote a candidate.

B. Notification and Acceptance

The chair of the Nominating Committee, when contacting nominees to determine whether they will agree to stand for the office for which they are nominated, shall notify them of the pertinent provisions of this policy. The agreement of each nominee to abide by this policy shall be a condition of candidacy. The president, upon notification by the chair of the Nominating Committee that the

slate of candidates has been filled, shall transmit to each candidate two copies of this policy. Each candidate shall immediately sign and return to the executive director one copy indicating the candidate's acceptance of and agreement to comply with the terms of this policy.

This policy shall be posted on the RMAG website, in order that the membership of the Association is informed. The RMAG headquarters staff shall maintain scrutiny of its own operations to ensure compliance with the spirit and the letter of this policy.

C. Enforcement

Charges of violations of this policy must be filed in writing with the executive director by an RMAG member. The executive director shall report the charge to the Board of Directors. Upon a report to the Board of Directors of a charge of a violation of the policy, the following actions shall be taken:

- a. The Board of Directors will review the charge and if the Board of Directors determines that it is likely a violation has occurred, will send notice to the candidate charged, setting forth the charge and the time and place at which the candidate may personally appear before a representative appointed by the Board of Directors for a hearing on the charge.
- b. The candidate shall respond in writing within 5 days from the date the notice is sent. The Board of Directors shall, within 5 days after receipt of a timely written response, if any, from the candidate charged, or within 5 days after hearing, whichever is later, render its decision as to whether a violation of this policy was committed by the candidate. Failure to make such a decision and to immediately thereafter notify the candidate charged shall be considered a finding that a violation did not occur.
- c. Upon the finding of a first violation, the president shall immediately send a written admonition and warning to the candidate charged.
- d. On each subsequent finding of a violation, the Board of Directors shall impose a penalty upon the candidate ranging from reprimand to disqualification as a candidate in the current election; or, if elected, removal from office in accordance with Article III Section 3 of the RMAG Bylaws.

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I have read, understand and accept the terms of the RMAG Election Ethics Policy.

Candidate For:

Date:
