

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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CB Reps: Mark Your Calendars for Sunday, July 22



If you're not the Central Board representative for your branch, you may skip to the next article in this newsletter. But if you *are* the CB rep, then whip out that datebook and set aside Sunday, July 22, for CWC's next Central Board meeting and annual election of officers.

I've booked our usual venue, the Holiday Inn at the Oakland Airport. When the time draws closer, I'll be sending out details as to booking a hotel room, as well as the agenda and reports and all that. But do plan for an all-day event, 8:30 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m.

If you are no longer the CB rep for your branch—or won't be by the time July 22 rolls around—be sure to let me know the name and contact information of the person now (or will be) representing your branch. Send the info to president@calwriters.org. And if you're already otherwise engaged on July 22—launching a book tour, perhaps?—please start thinking *now* about lining up an alternate to represent your branch.

Branch Elections: Start Now to Get Those Ducks in a Row

Yes, I know it's only March, but it's not too early to begin planning for your branch's election of officers later this spring. Specifically, I'm recommending that you take a look at your branch by-laws, and policies and procedures if you have them, and make sure there's no language in either that's out-of-date or could create problems down the line.

Just one example: last summer, I heard from a branch with by-laws requiring an unduly large percentage of members to be present to constitute a quorum. This was creating a serious problem, as they could not entice enough members to come to the meetings and thus could not conduct an election. So, like I say, take a look at your by-laws *now* and if something needs to be revised or deleted, do it *now*.

What does "the state" have to say on the subject of branch elections? On the one hand, the CWC Policies and Procedures says that the branches operate on a "semiautonomous basis," including elections. On the other hand, this same document says that the branches shall comply with the CWC governing documents. The CWC PnP defines a quorum as half of the duly appointed branch representatives, so there's one clue for you.



Latest Issue of *The Bulletin* Soon To Be Hot Off the Press



Well, hot off the computer, or whatever the digital equivalent might be. You get the picture. The winter/spring 2018 edition of *The Bulletin* should be showing up in your "in" box any day now.

Here's how it works: Good ol' Bob Isbill, CWC's chief of Advertising and Promotion, will email a copy of *The Bulletin* to the person designated at your branch as the local Advertising and Promotion contact. Or, if no such volunteer exists, then to the branch president. That person is responsible for sending it along in an email blast to the members of your branch.

The Bulletin is the main communications tool between "the mother ship" and our general membership, so it's vital that it be distributed in a timely manner, not only for the sake of those who submitted news articles, but also for our advertisers. Those supporters have been promised that their advertisement will reach each and every one of our 1,700-plus members, and it all hinges on one volunteer at each branch who has committed to making sure this happens. So, if your branch members haven't received the latest *Bulletin* in another week or so, I'd recommend rattling a few cages—in a kind and supportive manner, of course.

As always, a tip of the hat to *Bulletin* Editor Rusty LaGrange of the High Desert branch, who puts in countless hours of her own time and talent into creating a high quality newsletter for us.