

Notice of MUA Election 2013

The following information is provided to members to assist in the preparation for the conduct of the 2013 MUA Election. It includes an explanation of the various steps to be taken by members, the National Council, existing officials and the National Returning Officer. The information provided hereunder also contains a timeline summary to assist members.

The conduct of the election is undertaken in conformity with the MUA Registered Rules, which were last amended in June 2013 and can be viewed on the MUA website or by obtaining a copy from any Branch office. The elections are to be conducted as far as practicable as an ordinary election in accordance with the Rules and Rule 42(d).

Nominations for the 2013 MUA Election open on Tuesday 30 July 2013 and close at 5pm on Monday 26 August 2013. The election will then be by a postal ballot of all financial members in the relevant Branch commencing on Monday 2 September 2013 and closing at 5pm on Tuesday 24 September 2013, in those positions where more than one candidate has validly nominated.

In accordance with the Rules National Council has determined that the election shall be for the positions as listed:

WEST AUSTRALIA:

Assistant Branch Secretary 1.

NORTHERN TERRITORY:

Branch Secretary 1;

Deputy Branch Secretary (Honorary) 1.

Existing officers must notify the National Secretary if they are not standing for office or are standing for another position before Tuesday 30 July 2013, as per Rule 45 (i), which prohibits an officer of the union from nominating for a different office in the union unless he has given written notice to the National Secretary before the opening of nominations, and subject to necessary modifications required as a result of the election occurring mid term.

Members will then be notified of this information by Branch newsletters and the Union website.

A preliminary Roll of Voters and a Final Roll of Voters shall be prepared by the National Secretary and provided to the National Returning Officer having regard to Rule 46.

The Final Roll of Voters in hard copy form may be provided to candidates who make such a request and who provide written confirmation to comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The provision of this material will require the payment of the nominal cost for printing and postage.

Nomination papers will be available in Branch offices or can be downloaded from the MUA Elections page on the MUA website. Nominations are to be in writing, signed by the nominee and two financial members and forwarded to:

*National Returning Officer
Maritime Union of Australia
PO Box 20433
World Square
NSW 2002*

The nominee should ensure that verification of the date and means of postage is retained. It is recommended that nominations be forwarded by Registered Post.

A candidate may enclose a 100-word statement and a head and shoulder photograph with their nomination.

The union will mail out candidates' statements and photos to financial members eligible to vote, distribute to branches, and place on the MUA website. Candidates who fail to provide their statement and photo before close of nominations will not have their statements and photos published.

Statements shall require the approval of the National Returning Officer and shall meet requirements of the law. Scandalous or defamatory matter will not be published. Words in excess of the 100-word limit will be deleted from the end of the statement – see Rule 45(k).

Only financial members who have been a member for at least one year at the close of nominations are eligible to nominate as required by Rule 45 (g).

No member shall be eligible to nominate for more than one office as prescribed in Rule 45 (h). If a member nominates for more than one such office, both nominations shall be void.

In the event of two or more candidates being nominated for any office, the National Returning Officer [as prescribed in Rule 47 (b)(i)] shall, within seven days following the closure of nominations, arrange for the printing of ballot papers. These ballot papers shall contain the names of the candidates in alphabetical order.

The National Returning Officer will then cause each ballot paper to be initialled before dispatching papers to voters on Monday 2 September 2013, this is the day the ballot opens.

Members must check with their Branch to ensure their current mailing address is correct on the union's records.

The method of validly casting a vote is provided for in Sub-Rules 47(c) to (f) inclusive subject to necessary modifications required as a result of the elections occurring mid term. The ballot material provided will contain voting instructions from the National Returning Officer. Absentee Voting is provided for where a member will not be present at the postal address provided in the Roll of Voters during the ballot period. In these circumstances a member may apply in writing to the National Returning Officer to personally collect the ballot materials or to have them sent to an address nominated by the member. Such applications must be made before 5pm on Tuesday 17 September 2013.

Each candidate shall have the right to appoint not more than two scrutineers being financial members of the Union who shall be entitled to be present at all stages of the ballot. The appointment of scrutineers shall be by notice in writing signed by the candidate to the National Returning Officer.

The rights and duties of scrutineers shall be to represent the interest of their appointing candidate. They shall be entitled to be present at all stages of the ballot while the Returning Officer carries out the procedures under the Rules and to direct the Returning Officer to any irregularity concerning the carrying out of any step in the ballot. They shall do all things necessary so that the secrecy of the ballot shall be observed. They shall not obstruct the Returning Officer in the performance of the Returning Officer's duties nor interfere with the conduct of the ballot.

The National Returning Officer shall notify each candidate by post of the place and date of the Ballot Count at least 7 days prior to the count.

The ballot closes at 5pm on Tuesday 24 September 2013 and only ballot papers received by the National Returning Officer by that time shall be counted, provided that a ballot paper contained in a prepaid envelope which is received by the National Returning Officer by 5pm on Monday 30 September 2013 bearing a post mark dated not later than 24 September 2013 shall be counted.

On Wednesday 25 September 2013 the National Returning Officer shall attend at a place nominated by and under the control of the National Returning Officer in order to count the ballot.

The counting of the Ballot will be undertaken in conformity with MUA Sub-rules 47 (g) to (i) inclusive, subject to necessary modifications required as a result of

the elections occurring mid term, and be under the control of the National Returning Officer.

Upon completion of the count, the National Returning Officer shall announce the result of the election in writing to the National Secretary and each Branch Secretary pursuant to Sub-Rule 47 (j), except that all persons declared elected shall take office from the declaration of the result of the elections by the National Returning Officer.

Any protests will be dealt with in conformity with Sub-Rule 47 (l).

All persons declared elected shall take office from the declaration of the result of the elections by the National Returning Officer.

The following table is provided to assist members in dealing with relevant aspects of the election.

*Philip Byrne
National Returning Officer
18 July 2013*

Election Dates Timetable

Date	Action	Rule
24 July 2013	Final Electoral Roll created	Rule 46 (b)
30 July 2013	Officials to notify of intention to National Secretary if they are not going to stand for their current position or if they are to run for another position	Rule 45 (i)
30 July 2013	Nominations Open	Rule 42(d)(i)
26 August 2013	Nominations Closed	Rule 42(d)(i)
2 September 2013	Ballot Sent Out	Rule 42(d)(ii) and 47 (c)
17 September 2013	Request for Absentee Vote closing date	Rule 47 (f)
18 September 2013	National Returning Officer to notify candidates of the place and date of the Ballot Count	Rule 47 (h)
24 September 2013	Ballot Closes	Rule 42(d)(ii)
25 September 2013 onwards	Election Count	Rule 47 (g)