



The ATA Nominating Committee: A Peek Behind the Curtains

By Tuomas Kostainen

Actually, I do not think

there are any curtains here, but I liked the title and believe there are still a lot of members who do not know why or how these eight excellent names ended up on the slate of candidates for ATA office. (See page 9 for the slate of candidates.) The purpose of this article is to explain exactly that, and also to encourage you to be a part of the process next year.

What does the Nominating Committee Nominate?

The main job of the committee is to nominate candidates for each elective position of ATA's Board of Directors—in other words, create the slate of candidates for the annual election. The job description is defined in ATA's bylaws and further detailed in the charge that the committee receives from ATA's president each year. This year's charge said: "According to current thinking on association management, the committee should strive to propose one candidate for each officer position (president-elect, secretary, and treasurer) and two candidates for each director position (for a total of six candidates for director)." Sounds pretty straightforward.

Who Nominates the Nominating Committee?

The Nominating Committee consists of five members, and is appointed by ATA's Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the president. This year's committee members are Nora Favorov, Jean Leblon, Odile Legeay, Connie Prener, and myself. Traditionally, a new committee has been appointed for each annual election. However, the current Board has emphasized the need for more year-to-year stability and continuity in the committee, and that the committee should work to

develop and maintain a list of possible candidates for the future (the leadership pool). This would make it possible for the committee to have a more comprehensive picture of the skills and expertise among the membership, and to be on the lookout for suitable candidates throughout the year. This, in turn, would make the work of the committee easier and much more efficient, and allow it to develop longer-term plans.

How Does the Committee Work?

We all have our own reasons for voting a certain way or wanting to see a certain person as a candidate. However, the committee members have to be able to look beyond their personal preferences and concentrate on the common good, as well as the big picture, when selecting candidates. The goal is to have a slate of candidates as diverse as possible, and candidates that every voting ATA member can feel excited about, or are at least comfortable with.

Candidates can be nominated either by ATA's Nominating Committee or through a petition by members (endorsed by at least 35 voting members). (See page 9 for the details.) In addition, members can propose names through the Call for Nominations for the committee to consider when compiling its list of candidates. These methods ensure that members have a say in the nominating process and that it is not only the committee that decides who can run. It really surprised me that we did not receive any nomination proposals through the Call for Nominations and very few suggestions from the chapter presidents we contacted. I try to think positively, and interpret this to mean that after seeing the names of the committee members, you were so sure we would do an excellent job ➡