



FAQs – 2023 Special Election

Last Updated: April 3, 2023

What happened that's caused the need for a special election?

First, some important background: The Association of Graduates board of directors consists of 16 directors, each serving a four-year term. Our [Bylaws](#) identify three types of directors: elected (11), appointed (4) and the sitting Class Advisory Senate president (1) – all totaling 16.

Now, for what happened: Our 2023 board election should have been for six elected spots on the board. Unfortunately, that was not the case, as the election ending on March 6 was incorrectly for five elected spots. The reason this happened was a record-keeping error. The error was discovered by our board secretary in late March and immediately brought to the attention of our board and our Association's leadership. The error stemmed from records pertaining to the 2021 appointment of a board director to fill a vacant elected spot. Our records erroneously categorized that spot as appointed when it should have been categorized as elected.

In short, in 2023, our membership [elected five board members](#); we needed to elect six. Although the 2023 election of the five directors has been certified, we are short one elected board spot and will hold a special election to fill that spot.

Why do we need to hold a special election?

Our error with the already-certified 2023 election leaves the board of directors one elected position short of what we require to serve the mission. We need to fill that spot, and that's why a special election is occurring.

Why can't you just seat the candidate who finished sixth in the voting in the 2023 board election?

The board considered that when it met on April 3 to evaluate the options. In the meeting, two significant concerns surfaced. First, in the recent election, AOG members were not asked to vote for six candidates; they were incorrectly asked to vote for five. We cannot assume the tallies would have been the same had the election been for six. Second, the candidates finishing sixth through ninth in the final tallies were separated by fewer than 250 votes. Holding a special election open to all members is the fairest course of action.

Are any of the candidates currently on the board:

Andrew Hendel, '09 currently serves on the board as appointed director

What are the desired attributes that the AOG Board is looking for on the Board of Directors?

- Full commitment to AOG board and mission (passion, energy, time, willing to network and leverage personal contacts, team player, courage to dissent, motivation to advocate)
- Diversity reflective of AOG membership (balanced class representation [particularly grads within 15 years of graduation], sex/gender, ethnicity, race, geography, life experience, religious, education)
- Leadership experience (business, military, government, nonprofit, boards)
- Communication skills (good listener, proficient writer and speaker, proficient with social media, willing speaker)
- Financial awareness (budgets, contracting, investment, tax)
- Legal awareness (business, financial, military, civil, legal ethics)
- The board needs candidates who are serving in the military, those in the classes of the 1990s to recent graduates, as well as those with leadership experience in budget and investment finances or non-profit legal matters.

How much time do I have before the Election ballot time out?

You have 60 minutes to complete the ballot. After 60 minutes, it will time you out and make you reenter your username and password to complete your vote.

Is a quorum needed for filling the five open director seats?

No, per our Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2c, "No membership quorum is required for a valid election of directors."

How will the special election be conducted?

It will be conducted in the same fashion as the 2023 regular election. The special election will be conducted online and will be for the remaining single slot on the board of directors. The candidates from the 2023 election pool who were not elected to the five spots already filled will be in the pool. The special election will be held from April 10-24, will be open to all AOG graduate and associate members and will be conducted by a neutral third-party, [Survey & Ballot Systems](#). Each member will get one vote.

When will the special election be conducted?

The special election will occur from April 10- 24, 2023, during which time graduate and associate members can vote. The Election will open at Noon MDT and will end April 24 at Noon MDT.

Who can vote in the special election?

Graduate and associate members of the AOG can vote in the special election.

How can I see the April 3 board minutes?

The minutes will be posted to the [board's webpage](#).

I did not receive my electronic ballot. How can I get one?

The special election starts on April 10, 2023. This ballot is held electronically. To receive your login credentials if you did not receive an email, please contact to support@directvote.net or elections@aogusafa.org. For other questions or concerns, please reach out to elections@aogusafa.org.

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