The CFMS Elections Task Force has completed work examining the process of election of the CFMS Executive at CFMS AGMs, and of the CFMS President at SGM. The current system was felt to work well, and the Task Force felt strongly about the ability for any member to run (regardless of attendance at AGM/SGM). Challenges identified included the use of technology (or speech reading by proxy) for candidates running remotely, and decision making based solely on short speeches and question periods.

As such, the Task Force is not recommending sweeping changes to the elections process. Rather, we propose:

* That the CFMS executive be mandated to post their executive reports two weeks prior to the start of AGM.
* That the CFMS executive carefully review the position descriptions in the Call for Nominations yearly, and update as required.
* That the Call for Nominations be broadly distributed via the CFMS Communique, through the CFMS Reps/Presidents, and via CFMS Social Media and Website, beginning a few months before the elections.
* That the deadline for nomination (i.e. submission of candidacy) be at 5pm on the day before the elections are scheduled. As elections are usually scheduled for Saturday afternoon at both AGM and SGM, this would make the deadline 5pm on Friday, after one full day of meeting.
* If no nominations are received for a certain position, the nominations for that position would be extended until 9am the following day (election day).
* In order to submit a nomination, a submission of a 100-word maximum platform is required. Use of bullet points would be encouraged. All platform “blurbs” would be posted simultaneously after the deadline for nominations.
* Names of the candidates for each position will be posted on the CFMS website, beginning one month prior to the meeting. The list of candidates will be updated weekly until 1 week prior to the meeting, at which point it will be updated every other day.
* Candidates who are not present at the meeting will be required to submit a written speech, which will be read by the Past President. Candidates will also be required to submit a photograph, which will be projected as the speech is read. Video submissions will no longer be permitted. Candidates not present will be given the opportunity to respond to questions via phone, if they agree to be available during the entire scheduled elections period.
* The maximum time permitted for speeches will be two (2) minutes for CFMS executive positions (VPs and regional representatives), and five (5) minutes for CFMS President.
* The time allotted for questions for each candidate will be three (3) minutes for CFMS executive positions (VPs and regional representatives), and ten (10) minutes for CFMS President.
* The Past President will encourage brief questions, ideally less than 15 seconds, with brief responses (<45 seconds) to allow for as many questions as possible. Membership will be reminded to avoid thanking the candidate for their candidacy, in order to maximize time for the question and answers. The Past President shall have the authority to rule a question inappropriate, and to move on to the next question.
* To avoid lengthening the elections process unnecessarily, candidates will continue to be able to run for only a single position.

The proposed changes do not require any modifications to the CFMS bylaws. We will be seeking approval of the CFMS executive to move ahead with the changes to the time allotment for speeches and questions for presidential elections at SGM 2016. We will also seek member ratification of the proposed changes at SGM 2016, with the remainder of the changes coming into effect for executive elections at AGM 2016.