

## Let's make it easier

Over the past three years I have had the pleasure of attending several annual meetings of Not-for-Profit groups. Some were related to the motorcycling community and others were arts related. It was interesting to observe the efficiency and smoothness, particularly with the voting procedures that took place at these annual meetings

Ballots for advance voting had been sent out to all members well in advance of the meeting. Members had the opportunity to review the issues and return their voting responses prior to the meeting date. The efficiency of advance voting was impressive, when compared with CVMG's proxy voting procedures.

We have had the following issues with using proxies, which would be solved by advance voting:

- Additional time was required at the meeting to contact proxy holders and obtain their vote by 'chat' for each member they were representing.
- Some Members who filled in proxy instructions thought that their vote was directly recorded once the proxy was sent to the CVMG – that was only true if they had appointed a National Executive representative as their proxy holder (choice A). If they had chosen and written in the name of any other person as their appointed proxyholder, that proxyholder had to attend the AMM and had to vote on each issue for them.
- A consequence of this last point was that some of those Members did not give a copy of the proxy form to the person they appointed. Because the proxy holder never received their instructions on how to vote all the predetermined voting issues for their friend, they were not able to vote for them at all. Some proxy holders were completely unaware that they had been appointed.
- The proxy form we use is complicated because the regulations under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act specify language that must be used in the proxy. While this is detailed and accurate, it is not simple.

Advanced balloting does not fully replace voting at meetings. It just makes it possible for all members to weigh in with their vote on issues to be addressed during the upcoming Annual Members' Meeting (AMM), whether they can be there or not. Procedures would be in place so that no person's vote is mistakenly counted twice.

To use the advanced voting system, **a By-law change must be approved** at our **upcoming AMM in June 2022**. It requires two-thirds majority of votes casting "yes" to approve. Then advance voting would be used at the **2023 AMM**.

This letter is just to let you know we have been working to try and find a way to make the voting system better for all concerned. There is nothing for you to do right now except to consider how valuable it will be for us to move to an advance voting system. Once in place, we believe your AMM will be a more efficient and effective experience.

The following chart may assist in understanding the differences between the proxy-granting process and advance voting.

Comparison Chart: Proxies versus Advance Voting

	A - Proxy	B - Proxy	Advance Voting by Advance Ballot
	<p>Choice A-voting by proxy using a National Executive representative</p> <p>You just check choice A, and do not need to write in a name.</p>	<p>Choice B-voting by proxy using another person of your choice</p> <p>You must write in their name on the form.</p>	<p>A ballot is sent to you by email or post or you use a link to create one online. You vote directly on the ballot issues. The online form is automatically submitted. Paper forms can be returned by mail or email.</p>
Permits people who are not at the meeting to vote	yes	yes	yes
Must be mailed, or emailed, or created online	yes	yes	yes
Appoints a person to act on your behalf to vote	yes	yes	no
Person appointing a proxyholder must give copy of proxy document to proxyholder	yes – but done automatically when sent to CVMG	Yes-you must send your person of choice a copy of the proxy document	not applicable
Appointed person (proxyholder) has to attend meeting for your vote to be counted	National Executive representative is certain to attend	yes – if they do not attend, your vote will not be counted	vote is automatically counted
Appointed person (proxyholder) has to cast vote on your behalf for your vote to be counted	National Executive representative votes are pre-counted and will be included	yes – if they do not vote on each matter, your vote will not be counted on that matter	vote is automatically counted
Time spent in meeting tabulating vote	Pre-counted – no extra time in meeting	Extra time needed to ask each proxyholder on each vote	Pre-counted – no extra time in meeting