



SERVING POSTAL UNION COMMUNICATORS SINCE 1964

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### INTERNAL UNION ELECTIONS

(A true or false quiz about the use of a labor union publication and the internet during internal union elections.)

1. The reason for federal laws regarding union elections is to guarantee all candidates equal consideration and union members the opportunity to consider the candidates. \_\_\_\_\_
2. After nominations have taken place for local election, the Election Committee shall determine the criteria to be used for articles to be published pertaining to candidates in the election. \_\_\_\_\_
3. As part of the criteria established by the Election Committee, the publication does not have to accept any candidates' campaign articles in the newsletter. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The union election criteria should be approved at a general membership meeting. \_\_\_\_\_
5. It is improper to restrict campaign articles to candidates for **one** particular office and not allow candidates for other offices to submit campaign articles for publication. \_\_\_\_\_
6. If campaign articles are accepted for publication, it would not be a violation to print the incumbent president's campaign article on the front page and the opponent's article on an inside page. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Two candidates are running for an office. Their campaign articles are printed side by side in the newsletter. It could be a violation to "highlight" one campaign article by using boldface print and a bigger typeface in one of the candidate's articles and not the other. \_\_\_\_\_
8. A good practice to follow when accepting campaign articles is to limit the articles to a pre-determined number of words. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Once the publication (after consultation with the Election Committee) decides to open the newspaper to candidates, they do not have to advise all of the candidates of the availability of the publication for that purpose. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The president of a local union, who is a candidate for office in an election, traditionally has a column in the local union publication, which is published on an inside page. It could be a violation a few months before the election to transfer the president's column to the front page. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Just prior to the election, the local union publication begins to use a larger, or more attractive picture than had been previously used, of an incumbent officer who is a candidate for re-election. This would not be considered a possible violation. \_\_\_\_\_

12. It could be a violation, if in advance of the election, the local union publication carries stories about insignificant events, in which the accomplishments of the individuals who are candidates for office in the election are puffed out of proportion. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Just prior to the election, photos of a non-incumbent candidate for local union office appear in the publication. His/her photograph had never been published before. The photographs are of non-events, or of staged events, or of real events in which the featured member-candidate would not be expected to participate. This could be considered a violation. \_\_\_\_\_
14. The newsletter publishes a photograph in the issue before the election of a candidate in a hospitality room at a union function. He or she is sitting at a table filled with beer cans and liquor bottles. This would not be considered a violation. \_\_\_\_\_
15. An **announced** candidate for local union office a few months prior to a local union election begins writing a column in the local publication. This person has never submitted an article for publication. As editors, we are always looking for material to publish in our newsletters. It would not be considered a violation to publish these articles. \_\_\_\_\_
16. An **incumbent** candidate for local union office begins writing a column in the local publication a few months prior to the election. In the three years he/she has held this office, no such written report was given to the membership, even though one was expected and would have been considered to be a normal function of the person's office. This could be a violation of election laws. \_\_\_\_\_
17. During the election period, "letters to the editor" should be reviewed. Letters which are nothing more than support, endorsement, or criticism of a candidate should not be published. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Officer's reports, editorials, etc., do not come under federal regulations concerning internal union elections. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Paid political advertising is legal, provided that all candidates for a particular office are given the opportunity to purchase space for an ad. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Incumbent candidates can be given free advertising space, while all other candidates are required to pay for advertising space. \_\_\_\_\_
21. If it is decided to accept paid advertising, you can charge more than your regular advertising rate. \_\_\_\_\_
22. If you do not have a regular advertising rate and decide to accept advertising, a reasonable advertising rate must be established and all candidates must be charged the same consistent with space used. \_\_\_\_\_
23. If paid political advertising will be accepted in the newsletter for local and/or national elections, a notice should be published prior to the election stating that advertising will be accepted; if not all, which specific office(s) advertising will be accepted for and the advertising rates. (for example: business card, 1/4-page, 1/2-page, full page). \_\_\_\_\_

24. If it is decided to accept paid political advertising from candidates running for specific national APWU offices, it is not necessary to advise all candidates (running for the specific office or offices for which advertising is being accepted) of the opportunity to purchase advertising. \_\_\_\_\_
25. It has been decided to accept paid political advertising from candidates in a regional, national APWU election. A notice stating that advertising will be accepted for this office has been published in your newsletter along with advertising rates. Candidate (A) is from your state and receives your publication. Candidate (B) is from another state and does not receive your publication. Since a notice was published in your paper stating that candidates for this office may purchase advertising, it is not necessary to notify candidate (B) of the opportunity to purchase advertising space. \_\_\_\_\_
26. It would not be a violation to accept campaign statements from candidates running for specific APWU national offices for publication in a local or state paper, as long as each candidate for that specific office is given a substantially equal opportunity to submit the campaign statement. \_\_\_\_\_
27. If paid political advertising will be accepted, a notice should be published in an appropriate area of the newsletter. \_\_\_\_\_
28. The political ad should contain a statement that it is paid for by the candidate. \_\_\_\_\_
29. Articles or editorials, which are used to praise or criticize a candidate, are acceptable. \_\_\_\_\_
30. If a local executive board endorses candidates for national APWU office, the union may print this information in their publication. \_\_\_\_\_
31. A publication has the right to publish a straight news story regarding actions taken at a union meeting, including endorsements of candidates. The newsletter is entitled to report such endorsements **provided** they do not editorialize on the reasons for such endorsements, or the qualifications of one candidate over another. \_\_\_\_\_
32. Endorsements of candidates for national APWU office are published in your newsletter. It is permissible to increase the distribution of the newsletter to include APWU members who otherwise do not receive the paper. \_\_\_\_\_
33. In a local election, when accepting campaign articles for publication in the newsletter, it is a good practice to establish and notify candidates of the procedure that will be used to count the number of words in their article. \_\_\_\_\_
34. A local officer submits an article for your publication during the election period. The article notifies members about the national APWU election and urges them to vote. The writer goes on to say that it has been a pleasure to meet several of the candidates over the past few months. Also mentioned are the names of two of these candidates and what offices they are seeking. It would not be considered a violation to publish this article. \_\_\_\_\_

35. Just prior to the election period, a local officer submits an article for the newsletter and it contains the following statement. "Yes! I am running for re-election as (title of office). There will be other candidates running against me for the same office. You will have to make a choice as to who you vote for. Only you can make that choice and I hope that choice will be me." This could be a violation of election laws. \_\_\_\_\_

36. It would not be a violation to publish articles on a local's web page promoting the election of candidates for national union office. \_\_\_\_\_

37. Local officers regularly send E-mail messages to APWU members and other locals from the union office. It would be a violation to use this forum to encourage the nomination and/or election of a candidate for national APWU office. \_\_\_\_\_