

Bethel Election Procedures

HONORED QUEEN: We will now prepare for the election of officers.

To be eligible for election to any elective office, a Daughter: Shall have satisfactorily passed the Proficiency test, current edition of the Ritual; And she must have been a member of the Bethel in regular attendance during the entire term in which the election is held. Regular attendance shall be interpreted to mean present at all regular meetings of the Bethel unless excused by the Executive members of the Bethel Guardian Council for good and sufficient reasons. There shall be no conversation in the Bethel room during election. No Daughter will indicate before election begins that she does not intend to accept an elected office. However, if there is no majority after the first ballot, a Daughter may stand and ask that her name be withdrawn.

It is generally understood and in general practice that a Daughter elected shall proceed through the stations to the office of Honored Queen. **Rap (*)**

HONORED QUEEN: New Business: Election of Officers. Associate Bethel Guardian, you will read from the Bylaws concerning election.

ASSOCIATE GUARDIAN: Nebraska Constitution - Bethels, Article VII.

Section 1(a): Officers shall be elected at either the second meeting in April or the first meeting in May and the second meeting in October or the first meeting in November.

Section 1(b): The election shall be by ballot without nominations, starting with the highest office and continuing until the offices of Honored Queen, Senior Princess, Junior Princess, Guide and Marshal have been filled. A majority vote shall elect. A majority is more than half of the votes cast, ignoring the blanks.

Section 1(c): The method of balloting in Nebraska Bethels shall be secret ballot.

Constitution - Bethels, Article VII.

Section 1(f): Detailed procedures to be followed in conducting the election shall be as determined by Executive members of the Bethel Guardian Council.

Section 1(g): Elections shall be from those present, except in cases of sickness or otherwise unavoidable absence. The Executive members of the Bethel Guardian Council present shall decide upon and announce the eligibility of the absentee.

HONORED QUEEN: The Guardian will now read in alphabetical order, the names of those who are qualified to hold an elective office.

BETHEL GUARDIAN: The following members are eligible for election. Please stand as your name is called.

HONORED QUEEN: _____, _____ and _____
will serve as Tellers.

To determine the number of members eligible to vote, we will now count off. I will start by standing and saying the number, “one”. We will then continue around the room until everyone is standing and has counted off.

To double check, I will then say the number, “one”, again and be seated. You will continue counting until everyone is seated. The members will please count off.

There are _____ members entitled to vote. The Tellers will distribute the ballots. As you vote, please include the person’s first and last name. There should be nothing other than the first and last name on the ballot.

You will now mark your ballot for the office of Honored Queen. *[HQ writes her ballot and then after checking to see that all are through writing says:]* The Tellers will collect the ballots.

Have all balloted who desire to do so? If so, I declare the ballot closed. *[One rap]* Tellers, you will count the ballots for the office of Honored Queen.

[First Teller opens the ballot and silently reads the name and hands it to the second Teller who reads the name aloud. The Bethel Recorder repeats the name aloud, counting “Jane Doe 1, Jane Doe 2, Jane Doe 3, Jane Doe 4, Jane Doe tally, Jane Doe 1, etc.” A majority of votes cast for each office is necessary for election.

Blanks are not counted as votes. When through counting out loud, the Recorder adds the number of votes cast for each person and totals them, counting blanks separately. Recorder then checks with Guardian Secretary. When the Recorder and Guardian Secretary agree the tally is correct, the Recorder takes the tally sheet to the Honored Queen without any comments. The Honored Queen reads the Election Tally Sheet aloud in full, giving each girl’s name and the number of votes she received.)]

HONORED QUEEN: Total number of ballots _____

Total number of blank ballots _____

Total number of votes cast _____

Number of votes necessary for election _____

If there is a majority the Honored Queen says:

By your vote you have elected _____ Honored Queen. _____ Do you accept? *[Wait for reply for elected officer.]* _____ is your Honored Queen-elect. *[Applause]*

You will now mark your ballot for the office of Senior Princess. *[HQ writes her ballot and then after checking to see that all are through writing says:]* The Tellers will collect the ballots.

Have all balloted who desire to do so? If so, I declare the ballot closed. *[One rap]* Tellers, you will count the ballots for the office of Senior Princess.

Total number of ballots _____
Total number of blank ballots _____
Total number of votes cast _____
Number of votes necessary for election _____

If there is a majority the Honored Queen says:

By your vote you have elected _____ Senior Princess. _____ Do you accept?
[Wait for reply for elected officer.] _____ is your Senior Princess-elect.
[Applause]

You will now mark your ballot for the office of Junior Princess. [HQ writes her ballot and then after checking to see that all are through writing says:] The Tellers will collect the ballots.

Have all balloted who desire to do so? If so, I declare the ballot closed. [One rap] Tellers, you will count the ballots for the office of Junior Princess.

Total number of ballots _____
Total number of blank ballots _____
Total number of votes cast _____
Number of votes necessary for election _____

If there is a majority the Honored Queen says:

By your vote you have elected _____ Junior Princess. _____ Do you accept? [Wait for reply for elected officer.] _____ is your Junior Princess-elect.
[Applause]

You will now mark your ballot for the office of Guide. [HQ writes her ballot and then after checking to see that all are through writing says:] The Tellers will collect the ballots.

Have all balloted who desire to do so? If so, I declare the ballot closed. [One rap] Tellers, you will count the ballots for the office of Guide.

Total number of ballots _____
Total number of blank ballots _____
Total number of votes cast _____
Number of votes necessary for election _____

If there is a majority the Honored Queen says:

By your vote you have elected _____ Guide. _____ Do you accept?
i _____ is your Guide-elect. [Applause]

You will now mark your ballot for the office of Marshal. [HQ writes her ballot and then after checking to see that all are through writing says:] The Tellers will collect the ballots.

Have all balloted who desire to do so? If so, I declare the ballot closed. *[One rap]* Tellers, you will count the ballots for the office of Marshal.

Total number of ballots _____

Total number of blank ballots _____

Total number of votes cast _____

Number of votes necessary for election _____

If there is a majority the Honored Queen says:

By your vote you have elected _____ Marshal. _____ Do you accept? *[Wait for reply for elected officer.]* _____ is your Marshal-elect. *[Applause]*

IF THERE IS NO MAJORITY:

HONORED QUEEN: There is no majority, so we will vote again.

After the first ballot, if there is no majority, it is permissible for a Daughter to stand and say, "Please withdraw my name at this time." The HQ will say, "Thank you," but no one will elaborate any further.

AFTER ALL ELECTIVE OFFICERS ARE FILLED:

HONORED QUEEN: Tellers, you are excused. Thank you for your assistance. This concludes the election of officers. *[One rap of the gavel]*

Teller Duties

Three members of the Bethel will serve during elections as tellers. Two will collect the ballots when directed to do so by the Honored Queen and return them to the Tellers table. When the Honored Queen says "Tellers, you will count the ballots",

1. One teller will pass the unopened ballots, one at a time to the second teller who will count each ballot.
2. The third teller will write on the top of the Teller's report the office being voted upon and the total number of ballots received.
3. The first teller will open each ballot, one at a time, look at it and pass it to the second teller, without saying anything.
4. The second teller will read the name aloud without saying anything else.
5. The third teller will write the name (the first time read) and repeat the name and number of vote this is (example: Susie - one) as she strokes tallies on the Teller's report by each Daughter's name. When any one Daughter reaches 5, 10, 15, etc. the third teller will repeat the name and vote number as "Susie - tally".
6. When all votes have been counted, the third teller will complete the Teller's report by writing the number of stroke tallies beside each Daughter's name. She will then take the Teller's report to the Honored Queen and return to her seat at the Tellers table. The Honored Queen will read the report.

If ANY teller has a question about any ballot received (can't be read, etc.) she should ask the Bethel Guardian / Associate Bethel Guardian or other Executive BGC member who is observing the counting about the eligibility of the ballot. The tellers do not decide among themselves about the eligibility of any ballot.