The Format

The following format should be followed to carry out smooth and efficient elections:

1. Order of Elections – Elections should begin with the office of Venerable Dean.  This should be followed by the offices of Senior Dean, Junior Dean, Secretary, Treasurer and Rush Chairman (who is usually elected).  Any candidate who is defeated in a previous election may be nominated for a lower office.
2. Reading of Nominations – The Secretary reads the names put into the nominations section at the previous meeting for the office being considered.  Additional nominations are accepted from the floor.  A motion is made and seconded to close nominations.
3. Speeches by Candidates – Each candidate is allotted a predetermined amount of time to present his qualifications and platform to the group and to entertain questions from the floor.  (*Venerable Dean candidates might be allowed more time while candidates for lower offices are allowed correspondingly less.)*
4. Discussion (Optional) – After all candidates for a given office have made their presentation to the chapter, they are escorted from the room and time is allotted for a general discussion of each one.  It is important that the discussion does not become a “cut session” and that both strong points and weak points are considered for each candidate.
5. Voting – Voting is done by secret ballot while the candidates are out of the room.  If no one receives a majority of the votes on the first ballot, a second ballot will be required to determine the winner.  The winner is announced immediately in the presence of all candidates and members.

Although careful elections tend to be time consuming, they are well worth the effort.  With so much at stake, good or bad elections can be pivotal in determining the future of the colony.