

What's a "Proxy"?

**A brief introduction to
the proper use of Proxies**



Proxies, an Overview

- Council Proxies can be likened to babysitters (who are sort of proxy parents):
 - Some babysitters do the job well, take an interest in what they are doing, and everyone is better off for their having been there.
 - Other babysitters are just queens and kings of the TV remote who can't wait until the night's over and they get back home.

As a parent, which would you rather have?



What's a Proxy?

According to Merriam Webster:

PROXY:

- **1:** the agency, function, or office of a deputy who acts as a substitute for another
(i.e., the job)
- **2a:** the authority or power to act for another
b: a document giving such authority
(i.e., the authority)
- **3:** a person authorized to act for another
(i.e., the person)



What's a Proxy?

In other words:

A **proxy** is both the Person doing the job, and the document authorizing him or her to do it*

*In this presentation, “Proxy” means the person, “proxy” means the authorization or the document



Why use a proxy?

- In an expected absence of the Councilor, to
 - Insure a **flow of information** back to the Section or Division
 - Allow the Section or Division to provide **input to the organization**
 - Maintain the Section's or Division's **voice in governance**



SPE's Proxy Rules, part 1:

- A proxy for a Councilor must be
 - In writing
 - For a definite time period (*e.g.* “Council meeting of September, 2005”)
 - From the Councilor her- or himself
 - If the Councilor is unavailable:
 - Division Chair
 - Section President
 - Given to an eligible member of SPE



SPE Proxy Rules, part 2

- A Councilor proxy is given with the expectation that the Proxy will:
 - Attend the Council meeting
 - Attend Council Committee of the Whole meeting
 - Attend Sections or Divisions Committee meeting
 - Attend other committee meetings as appropriate
 - Report back to the Section or Division which gave the proxy



SPE Proxy Rules, part 3

- All Proxies must be members in good standing of the SPE
- To be a Section Proxy for a U.S. or Canadian Section, the Proxy must be a member of that Section
- To be a Division Proxy, the Proxy must be a member of that Division



SPE Proxy Rules, part 4

- A member may act as Proxy for only one Councilor – no “double dipping”
- The rule in SPE is that “One person gets one vote”



What is “Seating the Proxies”?

- Recognition of the Proxies’ legitimacy
 - Proxies, once seated, have the same authority (*i.e.*, voice and vote) as any other Councilor
- Seating is done as soon as a quorum is established
 - Seated Proxies may fully participate from that point forward.
- Seating is only for the term of the written proxy



Now it's your turn

- If you ask someone to be a Proxy:
 - Help the Proxy learn about the issues before Council
 - Explain that the proxy is to attend all the meetings for which a proxy has been given
 - Council
 - CCOW
 - Sections/Divisions Committee
 - Other Committees
 - Encourage the Proxy to participate fully
 - Ask for a written report back to your Section/Division

