

Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters



*Affiliated with the
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America*

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TO: All Local Unions and Executive Committee Members of the PNWRCC
FROM: Doug Tweedy, Executive Secretary-Treasurer/CEO
RE: Limited Delegate Status of PNWRCC Executive Committee Members

Section 34 (A) of our Bylaws states in part “Officers duly nominated and elected, by virtue of their office, shall be deemed a delegate from his/her local union for the ensuing election of Local Union Delegates to the Council.” In this case “Officers” refers to all of the Executive Committee positions.

Legal counsel has advised that such “delegates by virtue of their office” are “Limited Delegates”, meaning that they are delegates in every sense of the word except that they may not vote in Council officer elections or vote in Council matters pertaining to dues unless they have been duly elected by secret ballot by the members of their local to a delegate position for the current term.

These “Limited Delegates” occupy one of the delegate seats available to their local per the formula prescribed in the Council Bylaws. A “Limited Delegate” may chose to run for the election of a duly elected delegate position from their local. In this case they would be running for one of the seats that are left after reducing the number of allotted delegate seats by the number of “Limited Delegates” (Council Executive Committee members) that belong to that local.

Example:

In June 2008 “Bob” is elected by his local to a Council delegate position for a two-year term. In August 2009 Bob is elected to the Council executive committee for a 4-year term. Bob is an elected delegate from 2008 until 2010 “by virtue of his office”.

- **Scenario A** - When the 2010 delegate elections are held in Bob’s local, he does not run for delegate election because he is an automatic delegate “by virtue of his office”. Per the formula in the Council By-laws Bob’s local is entitled to 10 delegates. Bob is automatically one of those ten delegates so the local is only electing 9 more delegates. Since Bob is now a delegate “by virtue of his office” he is a “Limited Delegate” and cannot vote in Council officer elections or on matters concerning dues. Bob does not run for future delegate election but continues to hold the “Limited Delegate seat by virtue of his office” until his term as a Council executive committee member expires.

- **Scenario B** – When the 2010 delegate elections are held in Bob’s local he does run for delegate election even though he is an automatic delegate “by virtue of his office” because he wants to be able to vote in Council officer elections and on matters pertaining to dues. Per the formula in the Council Bylaws Bob’s local is entitled to 10 delegates. Bob automatically holds one of those ten delegate seats so the local is only electing 9 more delegates. Bob gets elected to one of the 9 delegate seats that are open for election and therefore remains a duly elected delegate from his local. Bob must now resign his “Limited Delegate” seat held “by virtue of his office” which leaves his local with 9 out of their 10 allotted delegates seats filled. This tenth delegate seat can be covered by a duly elected alternate delegate (with all voting rights) or by appointment by the local union president (limited delegate) or by future election of another delegate from the local.

- **Scenario C** - When the 2010 delegate elections are held in Bob’s local he does run for delegate election even though he is an automatic delegate “by virtue of his office” because he wants to be able to vote in Council officer elections and on matters pertaining to dues. Bob does not get elected to a delegate position from his local. Bob still retains one of the 10 delegate positions allotted to his local and his position of “Limited Delegate by virtue of his office” until his term on the Council executive committee expires.

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