



GROUP CIRCULAR 923

To: Branches, Groups and Executive Council (3 copies)

May 2022

(Copies to members of the Standing Orders Committee for information)

Dear Colleague

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022 – MOTIONS, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND NOMINATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October 2022. The precise times for the start and finish of the AGM will be advised after the Standing Orders Committee has had time to consider the number of Motions submitted and the order of business for the AGM.

The Alliance is in discussions with the Civil Service Insurance Society about their sponsorship of the AGM. We hope to be able to continue with the practice of paying for an additional representative from Branches and Groups, but this will depend upon the outcome of those discussions.

The usual procedures for arranging Hotel accommodation for the AGM will apply again, so there will be no need for Branches or Groups to book accommodation for their representatives attending the AGM. More information will be given in the relevant Group Circular, to be issued towards the end of July 2022, giving details of AGM charges, and requesting Branches & Groups provide details of their delegates and sponsored representatives (observers) in order that CSPA HQ is able to make all the required bookings direct with the Hotel.

Branches & Groups are therefore, invited to submit Motions and Constitutional Amendments for debate at the AGM and Nominations for the posts of elected Officers and Executive Committee members.

Guidance on the wording of Motions and the Nomination & Election procedures are provided in **Appendix IV** of the latest version of the *Advice to Groups in England and Wales* booklet.

Branches & Groups are strongly advised to read this advice before submitting Motions and making Nominations. Following the passage of **Motion A4/2008**, the Executive Council (EC), after having consulted further with Branches & Groups, agreed that all Branches & Groups should be advised, before considering the terms of Motions for submission to the AGM, that:

- All Motions must relate to issues of primary and direct concern to pensioners - Rule 2 applies

- If, in any doubt about aspects of proposed Motions, particularly about the provisions of Rule 2, Branches & Groups should, in advance of formal submission for the AGM, seek appropriate advice about the wording and subject of Motions from one of the officers at Alliance HQ.

The deadline for receipt of Motions, Nominations and Constitutional Amendments at Headquarters Office, Croydon is 12.00 noon Friday 1 July 2022

First class post can often take several days to reach HQ, which should be borne in mind when posting, whereas, next day delivery can be guaranteed by paying an extra fee at the Post Office.

The enclosed forms (1 copy of each) should be used to submit Motions (YELLOW) Nominations (GREEN) and Constitutional Amendments (BLUE) and should be signed by both the Chairman and Secretary of the Group or Branch in accordance with Rule 7(e) (iii) of the Rules & Constitution.

MOTIONS

I am sure that the Standing Orders Committee will be flexible when applying the relevant regulations.

As groups will be aware, the Covid19 pandemic meant that Annual General Meetings in October 2020 and October 2021 had to be cancelled. This means that the agenda for the 2022 AGM is likely to be full.

To ensure constructive debate and focus of CSPA resources on priority issues, when drafting motions, Groups and Branches are asked to consider the reports made during the year and at the online events on the progress of priority policy areas and issues of concern. (Issues of concern and EC responses from the online event in 2020 can be found with **GC 905** and issues of concern from the online event in 2021 can be found with **GC 916**) The 2021 Annual Report soon to be published, will also give details of the progress on these policy areas during 2021.

Groups who submitted “issues of concern” to the previous online events held 2020 and 2021 may wish to develop these for submission as a Motion. Particularly welcome would be motions on the CSPA’s top priorities agreed with the EC during 2020/21, which continue to affect our members and older people as the fallout from the covid pandemic continues:

- Economic Impact on Pensions and Pensioner entitlements,
- Access to Health Appointments,
- Financial and Digital Exclusion,
- Social Care
- Cost of Living crisis

However, to re-iterate, if any Branch or Group wants advice on how to word a Motion or whether a particular marking is likely to apply, please do not hesitate to contact CSPA HQ. The EC would much prefer that Branches & Groups consult about wording to avoid falling foul of the Standing Orders and to ensure that their members’ views are aired at the AGM.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The CSPA constitution rule 12(a) allows for amendments every three years. Following this rule, the last opportunity for consideration of constitutional amendments was 2021. It was not possible to hold an Annual General Meeting for the last two years and therefore the Executive Council and Standing Orders Committee has agreed that constitutional amendments will be allowed this year.

Groups & Branches may wish to alert the Executive Council to any proposed changes to the Constitution that they are considering, so that constructive dialogue can take place between the Group and Executive Council (EC) before the terms of any planned Constitutional Amendments *are set in concrete*. The Executive Council (EC) will be able to let the Group or Branch know at an early stage whether it would be supporting the Constitutional Amendment, or if, perhaps, some rewording would make it acceptable to the EC. In any event, Groups & Branches will still be entitled to pursue whatever Constitutional Amendments they wish. However, by availing themselves of this opportunity, Groups & Branches may make the process mutually productive to all concerned. Any correspondence on such matters should be directed by post, to CSPA HQ; by email, to lisa.ray@cspa.co.uk or by telephone, to 020 8688 8418 (office)

GC 922 gives details of rule change amendments being proposed by the Executive Council for 2022

NOMINATIONS

It would help HQ if Branches & Groups could check with all nominees that they are willing to stand for the intended posts.

The General Secretary has to date been notified that the following Executive Council members **do not** wish to stand for re-election at the 2022 AGM.

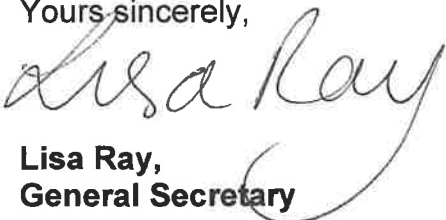
Frank Edwards, Eastern Region Representative,
David Humphreys, Midlands Region Representative
John Jarvis, Secretary Administration
Michael Lawler, Secretary Organisation

We are therefore seeking new candidates for these posts, and under the terms of **Motion 12A/18**, we would especially welcome women and other under-represented groups to come forward to help the Executive Council better reflect the CSPA membership.

CONCLUSION

Should you have any questions or need clarifications about any aspect of the contents of this Group Circular, please don't hesitate to contact me, either by phone - 020 8688 8418 (office)-or by email – lisa.ray@cspa.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Ray,
General Secretary