

Working for you: Nominating Committee

By David Foley, CAE

The AAEP Nominating Committee plays a crucial role in shaping the association's leadership. Its primary responsibility is to oversee elections of board members, the vice president and the treasurer (in applicable years) and ensure that leadership positions are filled in a fair and equitable manner with the best interests of the association in mind.

Candidates for leadership positions are considered for these roles based on criteria such as integrity, peer respect, engagement with AAEP membership, communications and consensus building, and advocacy for equine practitioners.

By facilitating fair elections, the committee maintains transparency and integrity in the selection process. The committee is also charged with reviewing annual award nominations and recommending recipients for the AAEP's awards program for final selection by the board of directors.

Election changes spur record engagement

Perhaps the most notable change to the 2025 election process involved the selection of AAEP vice president. Prior to the bylaws changes approved by the membership early this year, the vice president was nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the board of directors. Beginning with the 2025 election, the Nominating Committee now nominates two well-quali-

fied individuals for the position, and the membership votes to determine who will serve.

In the lead up to the summer election, AAEP leadership provided multiple opportunities for members to familiarize themselves with the two nominees for vice president as well as the candidates for the two open board positions. Utilizing multiple formats such as candidate spotlights and interactive discussions, the goal was to provide all members with equal access to the backgrounds, qualifications and visions of those seeking office.

The election for the board and vice president positions was conducted from mid-July through mid-August via electronic ballot; members without an email address on file received a paper ballot. A total of 1,755 members cast votes, approximately 400 more than the previous high.

The process for serving on the Nominating Committee is prescribed within Article VI, Section 2 of the AAEP's bylaws, accessible at aaep.org/about-aaep/governance/bylaws. However, with changes this year to the bylaws, there are now more opportunities to serve. If you are interested, be sure to update your Volunteer Interest Form through the website and indicate your interest in the Nominating Committee.

David Foley is AAEP executive director and staff liaison to the Nominating Committee.