

Your Vote Counts

THIS IS AN APPEAL to every member of ASCD to exercise his right and privilege to participate in the selection of the officers of the association, members of the Executive Committee and members of the Board of Directors who are elected at large. Soon after publication of this issue of *Educational Leadership*, you will receive a ballot. The Nominating Committee has prepared an excellent slate of candidates for each office which provides, in each case, an opportunity for you to choose the persons whom you feel will serve the association best. As soon as you can conveniently do so, you are urged to mark your ballot and place it in the mails.

The right to choose those who perform leadership service in ASCD is only one of the many opportunities that you have to determine policies and to participate in the activities and affairs of the organization. ASCD is unique among professional organizations mainly because the membership has believed in democracy so zealously that it has dared to experiment continuously in attempting to implement concepts of the democratic way of life. Only in this way has it been able to contribute so much to the improvement of modern education.

From the very beginning ASCD has been a flexible organization, subject to any change which would enlist and encourage wider participation of the membership and which would point toward improved education for the young people in our country.

It may be well to call to mind a few of the developments which exemplify the concepts of cooperation and par-

ticipation. The growth of state and regional organizations has been a most encouraging and wholesome movement. The wide representation in the Board of Directors is another evidence of faith in the democratic process. Everyone who has attended knows that the Annual Meeting is a demonstration of democracy in action. The Annual Business Meeting held during the conference provides an opportunity to any member, either present or at home, to offer resolutions to be considered for action in the meeting. These are just a few of the activities and procedures which make ASCD an effective, dynamic professional organization.

One of the most recent changes in procedure has been that related to the election of officers of the association. An amendment, adopted by the membership in September 1951, provides that the Nominating Committee shall submit a ballot to the membership containing the names of three or more members for each office to be filled. This provision makes possible an added opportunity for the membership to participate in the selection of the leadership of the organization.

Have you taken advantage of this opportunity? At the present time there are 6500 members in ASCD. Last year only approximately 1500 returned marked ballots. It is our hope that you will strengthen the tradition of participation in ASCD by marking your ballot and returning it to the national office immediately.—*Maurice R. Ahrens*, director of curriculum, Public Schools, Corpus Christi, Texas, and president, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, NEA.

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