September 26, 2017
M17-022

To: SPEEA Council Delegates

From: Rick Mochow (E-11) and Tony Hickerson (D-2)

Subject: PRE-SUBMITTED NEW BUSINESS: Virtual Voting Committee

Background

Motion to create a special committee to evaluate and recommend virtual voting solution for membership voting for SPEEA positions.

Issues:
1. SPEEA membership participation in elections is uniformly low, especially for officer positions. Members have suggested that they would be more likely to vote if a virtual voting was used, which would result in better participation.
2. SPEEA spends a large amount of money printing and mailing ballots, and pays for return postage for participating members. Significant savings could be realized by performing the votes in a virtual manner.
3. Mail service is not timely, resulting in ballots not reaching SPEEA by the voting deadline even when mailed in advance of the due date.
4. Members are not always at home to receive voting materials during elections due to personal or job related travel.

Multiple virtual voting software products are available. All claim to be low cost, secure and easy to use. SPEEA leadership has an obligation to the members to validate such claims prior to selecting a voting solution, but if a viable solution is available SPEEA should pursue that option. SPEEA has members with expertise in software and systems security who can support a technical evaluation if required.

Motion

It is moved: **THE SPEEA COUNCIL directs the Council Officers to appoint a special committee to evaluate commercially available virtual voting products performance, cost, and security, and report to the Council at or prior to the March 2018 Council meeting. The committee shall include at least one Council Officer, one Teller, and one member of the Governing Documents Committee. If the committee recommends SPEEA adopt virtual voting, it shall provide a detailed recommendation on the required updates to the SPEEA Governing Documents. The committee shall disband after its final report to the Council.**