



## AGM 2019 FAQs Page

We hope the questions and answers below will help you understand how the AGM works.

If you have any other questions, please email the Governance team at [governance@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:governance@mssociety.org.uk), call on 020 8827 0470 or write to the Governance Manager at MS National Centre, 372 Edgware Road, London NW2 6ND.

### Questions and answers

#### Q. What is an AGM?

**A.** An Annual General Meeting, commonly referred to as an AGM, is a formal meeting held once a year according to the MS Society's constitution.

The AGM is an important event for the MS Society. It gives members and other interested parties an overview of our activities during the previous year, our plans for the future and our financial health.

It is also the time when we revitalise the MS Society through the election of new people to the Board of Trustees and National Councils. Paid-up members have the right to propose and to vote on AGM resolutions.

#### Q. When and where is the AGM?

**A.** According to our constitution, an AGM needs to be held annually, within fifteen months of the last AGM. This year's AGM is at MS National Centre, 372 Edgware Road, Cricklewood, London, NW2 6ND on **Saturday 21 September** 2019 at 11am.

#### Q. How can I register to attend the AGM?

**A.** Please complete the online registration form at <https://mssocietyagm.eventbrite.co.uk>

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Q. I am unable to attend the AGM, but would like a proxy to vote in my place.

A. Please either email [governance@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:governance@mssociety.org.uk) or call 020 8827 0470 to request a nomination form to arrange this.

Q. Who can vote at the AGM?

A. You are eligible to vote at the AGM if you were a paid-up member of the MS Society 13 weeks before the AGM (**22 June 2019**). All eligible voters will have received an AGM booklet and voting papers on or soon after 1 August 2019.

Q. What is the quorum?

A. The quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present (either in person or by proxy) to make a meeting valid. The quorum for the AGM is one tenth of the total membership which is eligible to vote.

Q. How do I know that the voting is fair?

A. The MS Society has a large number of members and we therefore contract Electoral Reform Services - an independent supplier of ballot and election services - to run the voting on our behalf to ensure that it is fair.

Q. Why are you sending me AGM material when I have opted out of receiving postal communications from the MS Society?

A. We are legally obliged by our constitution to give all members of the MS Society notice of the AGM which specifies the date, time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. To ensure all members receive notice of our AGM we used both electronic and postal means to distribute notice of our AGM.

Q. I am experiencing problems voting via post or online?

A. Please contact Electoral Reform Services directly on 020 8889 9203, or by emailing [customerservices@electoralreform.co.uk](mailto:customerservices@electoralreform.co.uk).

Q. What will I be voting for?

A. Members will be asked to vote on resolutions on our new 5 year strategy, receiving the MS Society's Annual Report and Accounts, appointing auditors and also to elect Trustees. Members who live in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and in certain regions of England (Yorkshire; South West; East Anglia; North of England; Wessex and West; and Thames Valley this year) will also be voting for National Council members.

## Q. Why can I not vote for council candidates for the England Council candidates?

**A** - If your ballot form does not show any England Council member candidates this means there is no election in your particular region this year. You will only be able to vote in the trustee elections and this year's AGM resolutions.

## Q. What are resolutions?

**A.** Resolutions are formal decisions or expressions agreed to by a vote of the members. The standard resolutions submitted by the Board and that you will see on every AGM agenda are receiving the Annual Report and Accounts and appointing the auditors for the coming year.

Additional resolutions are sometimes submitted by either the Board of Trustees or by our members – this year the Board is proposing one additional resolution on our new strategy.

## Q. What are the Trustee elections?

**A.** The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the MS Society across the UK, for setting our strategic direction and making sure we meet our objectives. Members of the Board are both trustees of a registered charity and directors of a registered company.

The Board is composed of individuals who are elected by members for a 3 year term on a staggered basis i.e. not all trustees are elected in the same year.

## Q. What are National Council elections?

**A.** Under delegated power from the Board of Trustees, our councils for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales work on behalf of people affected by MS in each nation of the UK. Each National Council usually consists of 12 members (in England it is 15). Council members are elected by members of the MS Society within their nation or, in the case of England, region and are ultimately accountable to the Board of Trustees.

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