

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Executive Board -White House Correspondents' Association

FROM: George Lehner, Counsel for the WHCA

RE: Succession Planning for the Office of President of the WHCA

In the July 2022 WHCA election, Kaitlan Collins received the most votes in the balloting for President. As a result, in accord with the By-Laws, she would be entitled to assume the office of President during her third year (2024-2025). (WHCA By-Laws, Article VII (1)(a). Ms. Collins has recently informed the WHCA Board, however, that as result of a new journalistic assignment, she intends to resign from the Board and will be unable to assume the office of President in 2024-2025.

The WHCA By-Laws provide as follows:

“In the event that the person receiving the most votes for the office of President is unable to serve in that capacity prior to assuming the office of President, the person elected as Treasurer shall become President...” WHCA By-Laws, Article VII (1)(e).

The WHCA By-Laws further provide that:

“The Treasurer shall be the member of the Executive Board in the third year of his or her term, other than President, who received the most votes at the time of his or her election.” WHCA By-Laws, Article VII (1)(c).

Based on the results of the most recent election, Eugene Daniels received the most votes, other than Ms. Collins, at the time of his election to the Board. He would, therefore, be expected to assume the role of Treasurer during his third year on the Board at the same time that Ms. Collins would assume the role of President. However, because Ms. Collins is unable to assume that role, Mr. Daniels, as the person receiving the most votes, other than Ms. Collins, at the time of his election to the Board, would be entitled to assume the position of President for the 2024-2025 term.

In addition, the process outlined above is the sole and proper manner to determine who should assume the role of President in these circumstances. Article VI (3) provides: “Individuals elected to the Executive Board to serve for partial terms shall not be eligible to serve as officers of the Association.” An election to fill Ms. Collins’ current seat on the Board would be for a “partial term” and the occupant of this seat would, therefore, not be eligible to serve as an officer of the WHCA.