

Parliamentarian Moment

At our last assembly we had confusion regarding motions made and voting on them. Let's review what happens when voting on a motion.

1. A motion is written and submitted to the Bylaws committee for review. If the motion is not in violation of our Bylaws, the committee will accept the motion. It is not the committee's job to agree or disagree with a motion before submitting it. The committee may wordsmith the motion to make things clearer or to specify how the motion will be implemented.
2. In cases where the motion is deemed non-controversial or routine housekeeping, the motion may be put on what is called the Consent Agenda. Motions are put on the Consent Agenda to speed up the process. The Consent Agenda is available for review before the Assembly. If there is any motion on the Consent Agenda you want discussed further, you simply need to let the Assembly know when the Consent Agenda is presented to the Assembly. Items removed from the Consent Agenda will have the full procedural vote.
3. Motions not on the Consent Agenda are presented to the Assembly Reps to vote on. The first time the motion is presented, there is an opportunity for up to three people to speak in support (Pros) or against (Cons). The Maker of the Motion presents the motion and is considered the first Pro. If the Maker of the motion withdraws the motion at that time, the Chair will ask if there is any objection to withdrawing the motion. If someone objects, then a voice vote can be taken on whether to continue to consider the motion.
4. Motions submitted during the assembly are considered Emergency Motions and will only be considered if it would be detrimental to wait until the next Assembly to implement the motion. At this assembly, they will be discussed during New Business on Sunday.
5. Now comes the fun part. Suppose a motion is made but you would like the motion modified. That is called an amendment to the motion. Amendments are really at the heart of the process. They are used to perfect the motion before a final vote. During the Questions portion of a motion vote, you can propose an amendment. There are some rules though:
 - a. It must be relevant to the current motion
 - b. The amendment cannot negate the motion
 - c. You must write up your amendment.
 - d. The amendment must be seconded.

Once your amendment is submitted, we stop voting on the original motion. We take up a vote on the amendment. We go through Pros and Cons. There will be only 2 Pros and 2 Cons. The Assembly votes on the amendment. If the amendment passes, the original motion is then amended to reflect the accepted change. The original motion can only be amended twice. If there is a third amendment proposed, the motion is defeated.

Assuming there are not three amendments, the amended motion is then taken to a vote where it will either pass or fail.