

Information for Voting Members of District 7

Voting on a Motion

A quorum is defined as the minimum number of voting members that must be present in order to vote on unfinished business, new motions, and Trusted Servant elections.

District 7 has established its' quorum to be of the voting members in attendance at the time such business is being presented.

1. A substantial unanimity of a 2/3rds approval vote will be required to pass a motion pertaining to the following areas:
 - a. District 7 Finances
 - b. Guidelines: "SWTA – District 7 Policies & Procedures"
2. A simple majority vote will pass all other motions
3. The DCM will vote only to break a tie.

Minority Opinion

Alcoholics Anonymous Concept V: "Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered."

District 7 practices A.A.'s Concept V of minority opinion, which allows those who voted in the non-prevailing to restate their case, and allows members of the prevailing vote majority to carefully reconsider their position.

Who Votes on a Motion

The District 7 Policies and Procedures indicates the following as voting members:

1. General Service Representatives (*If the GSR is not present, the Alternate GSR votes*)
2. District 7 Elected Officers
3. District 7 Elected Committee Chairs

General Process Flow of a Motion

1. Presenter reads the motion verbatim, as submitted.
2. Motion is seconded (if no second indicated, the motion dies.)
3. Questions to presenter may be made for clarification (no discussion of merits at this time.).
 - a. Friendly amendments are allowed during this step.
 - b. The presenter may or may not accept the friendly amendment.
 - c. If the presenter does not accept the friendly amendment, any voting member can move for a formal amendment (to be voted on by the body; 2/3 majority required)
4. Motion is re-read by the District Secretary verbatim, accounting for any changes during the clarification.
5. Discussion opens on the merit. Everyone is invited to speak in support/opposition to the motion.
 - a. Those who would like to speak may do so for a maximum of two minutes.
 - b. Those who would like to speak a second time may do so only after everyone who wishes to speak has spoken.
 - c. Formal amendments (by motion to amend) can be made at any time during discussion.
 - i. An amendment must be seconded
 - ii. All voting members will be given time for questions of clarity and merit discussion on the amendment only.
 - iii. Voting will then occur if to amend the motion
 - d. During a lengthy discussion, anyone may “call the question” or move that the motion be postponed to a subsequent District meeting or tabled:
 - i. A motion to postpone to the next District meeting is debatable and passes with a simple majority.
 - ii. After the question is called the DCM, at his/her discretion, may allow those who already have their hands raised to speak.
 1. A vote is then taken to end discussion (2/3 required to pass).
 2. If the vote to end discussion fails, then discussion continues.
 3. If the vote to end discussion passes, the motion is re-read and voting begins.
6. After a full discussion and everyone has had an opportunity to speak, the District Secretary will re-read the motion verbatim and voting begins.
7. The District Secretary counts the votes for and against the motion. Motion must pass in accordance with the process outline in “Voting on a Motion.”
8. After the outcome is determined, “Minority Opinion” is solicited. Only those voting in the minority (non-prevailing) may re-state his/her position.
9. After the minority opinion is heard, any voter in the prevailing vote may make a motion to re-vote.