

Procedures for DISTRICT 13 Business

Updated 12/20/23

The purpose of this document is to provide an easy, clear way for District 13 to conduct its business and reach an informed group conscience. District 13 uses Robert's Rules of Order with exceptions (to keep us in the spirit of AA Tradition). This summary closely mimics the Area 11 Committee and the General Service Conference.

District Meeting Quorum

2/3 of all registered District members is required to conduct business. Currently have 10 voting members; 2/3 = 7 needed for a Quorum

Making a Motion

A motion is a proposal for the District member to take an action. The motion should be made in a positive statement ("Move to..." instead of "move not to...")

- Any voting member may make a motion (see voting section for eligible voters), All agenda topics must be submitted to the DCM/Alt DCM in writing by the Friday prior to the District meeting unless emergency arises.

General Rules of Debate

- All comments are directed to the DCM/Alt DCM
- The mover is the first to speak
- People who wish to speak will raise hand And wait to be recognized before speaking
- Each person may speak for 2 minutes
- No one may speak for a second time on a topic until all who wish to have spoken for the first time. (Keep in mind if your perspective has already been expressed it is not necessary to say it again).

Voting

Voting can be either show of hand or written ballot. District elections will be Third Legacy Procedure. Eligible voters at District meetings include all District officers (excluding DCM), Alt DCM, Committee Chairs, and GSRs (Alt GSR is eligible if GSR is not in attendance). Majority is determined by number of members voting. Abstentions will not be recognized. This will allow for a more informed group conscience.

Substantial Unanimity

All matters of policy require a 2/3 majority (substantial unanimity). Any amendments that affect an action also require a 2/3 majority. 2/3 majority means 2/3 vote of the eligible voters voting, as long as the total vote (yea, nay, and abstain) constitutes a quorum.

Minority Opinion

After each vote on a matter of policy, the side which did not prevail will always be given an opportunity to speak to their position. If the motion initially passes with a 2/3 vote the minority may speak. If the motion initially receives a majority vote but fails to pass for lack of a 2/3 vote, the majority may speak.

Calling the Question

Calling the question brings the debate to a halt while members decide whether to proceed directly to a vote (the question) or go on with the debate. A motion to call the question:

- Must be made in order by raising hand and made without comment
- Requires a second
- Is not debatable
- Requires a 2/3 vote

General Consent/Unanimous Consent

- Used for matters where there appears to be no opposition in routine business (meeting minutes, Treasurer's reports, adjournments, extension of meeting, etc)
- As an example, after questions and comments regarding minutes, Chair calls, "if there is no objection, we will accept the minutes as presented."
- If any eligible voter objects, the matter is instead immediately considered for a motion and second, followed by formal voting

Tabling a Motion

Tabling a motion (postpones discussion until a later time)

- Must be made without comment and requires a second
- Is not debatable
- Needs a simple majority to pass

Reconsideration

A motion to reconsider a vote may be made only by a member who voted with the prevailing side, but it can be seconded by anyone

- If the majority votes to reconsider, full debate, pro and con, is resumed (voting members are encouraged to limit discussion to new considerations of the question under debate.)
- No action may be considered twice