

## January Parliamentary Procedure Tips

This month, specific details on three more subsidiary motions will be shared. The first subsidiary motion is “limit or extend limits of debate.” This motion is extremely useful because it can be used to save time or to give more debate power to the members. Due to the rule of debate of two turns with ten minutes each turn; sometimes it is not sufficient for members to fully discuss the motion. In this scenario, a motion to extend the limits of debate can be used to lengthen the time of debate per turn or to lengthen the number of turns each member is allowed to debate.

Limit or extend limits of debate can also come in handy when members do not believe that the normal debate limit is necessary to complete business. With this scenario, a motion to limit debate can be used to shorten the time as well as the number of turns each member is allowed to debate. Since limit or extend limits of debate gives or takes away the debating rights of the members, it requires a 2/3 vote for adoption. The proper wording for limit or extend limits of debate is “I move that the debate be limited/extended to (number of minutes) per speaker.”

The next subsidiary motion is “previous question.” The purpose of previous question is to end debate immediately and bring the pending motion or all motions that it is applied to a vote. This motion is helpful because it prevents debate from delaying business. To adopt “previous question,” there must be a 2/3 vote in the affirmative also because it takes away member’s debating rights. The proper wording for “previous questions” is “I move the previous question.”

The final subsidiary motion is “lay on the table.” The purpose for “lay on the table” is to temporarily dispose the pending motion so that another motion of more importance can be brought up. To bring back the motion that was laid on the table, a motion to “take from the table” must be made and adopted at a majority vote. The motion to “lay on the table” requires a majority vote and is not debatable. The proper wording for “lay on the table” is “I move to lay the pending motion on the table.”

Thank you for taking the time and the initiative to be the best parliamentarians you can be. Remember to share what you have learned with your chapter members at your next chapter meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at [parliamentarian@nebraskafbla.org](mailto:parliamentarian@nebraskafbla.org).

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