

December Parliamentary Procedure Tips

This month we will talk about three out of the seven subsidiary motions. Remember, subsidiary motions are a sub-class of secondary motions and can be applied to a main motion. Main motions are motions that introduce new business to the assembly. i.e. "I move that the chapter do a fundraising activity for the Nebraska FBLA Foundation."

The first subsidiary motion we will discuss is "postpone indefinitely." This is a powerful motion because by adopting it, the assembly will kill the main motion that it is applied to and therefore, save time in the process. Like most motions, postpone indefinitely requires a second and is adopted by a voice vote. The wording for postpone indefinitely is: "I move to postpone the motion indefinitely."

The next subsidiary motion we will talk about is "commit or refer." This motion is especially useful if the assembly would like to further investigate or more thoroughly consider the main motion by the means of creating a committee. This motion requires a second and is adopted by a voice vote. The wording for commit or refer is: "I move to refer the motion to a committee of (number of people desired to be on the committee), (method for the appointment of committee members) with instructions to report at the (time desired for the committee to report)." i.e. "I move to refer the main motion to a committee of five, appointed by the president, with instructions to report at the next chapter meeting."

The last subsidiary motion we will talk about this month is "postpone definitely." Sometimes when a subject of more importance needs to be taken care of before the pending motion, a member may move to postpone definitely the pending motion to consider it at another meeting or at a later time in the same day. The wording for postpone definitely is: "I move that the motion be postponed to (time desired to be taken up)." i.e. "I move that the motion be postponed to tomorrow's meeting."

Parliamentarians, thanks for all the leadership you are showing your chapters. Please share these tips with your chapter members at your chapter meetings. Remember, you only get out what you put in. So put your Leadership in Action to improve your chapter meetings. If you have any questions about parliamentary procedure, please contact me at parliamentarian@nebraskafbla.org.

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