

November Parliamentary Procedure Tips

This month we will discuss about two out of the four classes of motions that members could make during a meeting. First we will talk about the most common class of motions: the main motions. The purpose for a motion is to introduce business to the assembly. They can only be made when no other business is pending. There are two subclasses of main motions. One subclass is the original main motion. Original main motions introduce new business. An example of the original main motion could be a motion that wants the chapter to have an ice cream social. The other subclass of the main motion is the incidental main motion. Incidental main motions usually deal with procedure and are moved when no other motions are pending.

Another different class of motions is the secondary motions. Secondary motions are motions that could be applied to the main motions. There are three subclasses of secondary motions. One subclass of secondary motions is the subsidiary motion. Its purpose is to modify or change the status of the main motions. An example of a subsidiary motion would be to amend or to modify the main motion. Another subclass is the incidental motions. Incidental motions deal with questions of procedure arising out of another pending motion. (Note: the difference between an incidental main motion and an incidental motion is that incidental motions are applied to another motion whereas incidental main motions are moved when no motion is pending.) The last subclass of secondary motions is the privileged motions. Privileged motions do not relate to the pending business but has a matter of immediate and overriding importance. An example of privileged motions is Call for the Orders of the Day. Its privileged status allows the motion to be made at almost any time to make the assembly conform to its agenda.

Now it's time to take your "Leadership in Action" to a new level by sharing what you have learned so far with the members at the coming up meeting. Encourage your chapter members to use parliamentary procedure during your chapter meetings. In doing so, your chapter meetings will excel and accomplish more this year.