

Local Parliamentarians

November's parli tips relates to making a motion. A motion creates an objective for the assembly to follow instead of members being able to debate anything and everything. It takes wasted time out of the meeting.

To make a motion the following steps must be completed:

1. Rise and Address the Chair
2. State the Motion
3. Motion is Seconded
4. Motion is Stated by Chair
5. Motion is Debated
6. Motion is Stated Again by Chair
7. Motion is Voted Upon
8. Result is Announced

1. Rising and Addressing the Chair

Rising and addressing the chair simply means getting the attention of the chair so he will allow you to speak. The correct way to gain the attention of the chair is to rise and state "Mr. President." However, you cannot obtain the floor to make a motion if another member is speaking. Also, the chair does not have to recognize you just because you attempted to obtain the floor. He may give the floor to another member who rose at the same time.

2. Stating the Motion

To state a motion, you begin with the phrase "I move" followed by what you want to do. For example, a member wants your FBLA chapter to donate money to the March of Dimes. Once the chair recognizes him, he states, "I move that we donate \$100 to the March of Dimes." The motion states exactly what the member wants done, and the motion cannot have multiple interpretations.

3. Motion is Seconded

After a member makes a motion, another member may say "second" if they wish for the assembly to debate it. The seconder does not have to be recognized to second the motion, and they do not have to support the motion. In some cases the seconding member may be the biggest adversary of the motion. However, they feel the motion should be debated.

4. Motion is Stated by the Chair

The chair states the motion exactly as the member who made the motion has put it forth. He then asks, "Is there any discussion?" allowing the assembly to debate the

motion. (Example: "It is moved and seconded that we donate \$100 to the March of Dimes. Is there any discussion?")

5. Motion is Debated

To debate the motion a member must obtain the floor in the same manner as step one. They will either be in support of the motion so it is important for them to state which side they are speaking for. Speakers may only debate the merits of the motion; they may not speak about other members in a negative fashion, or another motion that is not being considered. Each member has the right to speak twice on the motion, and up to ten minutes per turn. Once a member has used both their turns in debate, they cannot debate the motion any further.

6. Motion is Stated Again by the Chair

Once debate has ceased, the chair states the motion again to make sure every member knows what is being voted upon. On some highly controversial motions, debate may be extremely long, and some members may have lost track of what is being debated.

7. Motion is voted upon

Each member is given one vote. They can vote in favor of the motion, in opposition of the motion, or even not vote at all. No person can force them to vote in a certain direction, and no one can take away their right to vote. The chair asks for the vote in the following manner: "Those in favor of the motion, say 'aye.' [pause] Those opposed say 'no.' [pause]" If they 'ayes' and 'noes' are too close to tell for sure, the chair or a member can require a vote to be taken by standing.

9. Result is announced

When the chair announces the result of the vote, he does three things:

1. Reports how the assembly voted ("There is a majority in favor.")
2. States if the motion is adopted or lost ("The motion is adopted.")
3. States what the motion effectively does ("We will donate \$100 to the March of Dimes.")