

**National FFA (@NationalFFA)
Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event (#SuperBowlLDE)**

2019 Problem Solving MASTER

2019 National Convention Preliminary AM Round Team Problem Solving Practicum

Directions:

Assume that the following scenario transpired during the chapter meeting that was just held. As a team, provide a professional parliamentary opinion to the questions posed by composing your answers on the computer provided using the word processor software. Please be sure to provide appropriate citation of your parliamentary authority (including page numbers). You may use both the digital Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as well as your own books as reference material.

Scenario:

Your team has been called upon to resolve an issue with a local club. The organization has 150 members. Forty-five members attended the last meeting. A controversial vote was adopted at the previous meeting by a vote of 30-15, on a roll-call vote. Now members are asking for help determining if the motion was properly adopted.

Questions

1. **A member notes that a quorum might not have been present. What is a quorum, and what is the quorum of this organization under common parliamentary law?**

Quorum: The minimum number of members who must be present for business to be validly transacted.

See [RONR (11th ed.), p. 21]

Under common parliamentary law, the quorum is the majority of the members; therefore the quorum of this organization is 76.

See [RONR (11th ed.), p. 345-346]

2. **Could the quorum have been suspended to ensure that this motion passed?**

The quorum cannot be suspended. See [RONR (11th ed.), p. 263-264]

3. **If the Bylaws of this organization noted that a quorum is 47 members, is it proper to have a defined quorum that is smaller than what would be required under common parliamentary law?**

Yes, the defined quorum can be established in the bylaws, and may be much smaller than a majority of the members.

See [RONR (11th ed.), p. 346]

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Scenario:

At the May meeting, the chapter discussed having an open house in the fall to showcase student projects and let alumni tour the classroom, greenhouse, and lab facility. There was a lot of good discussion. The issue was referred to a committee of five with power to act and plan for the event. The committee met once in early June but hasn't met since.

The chapter would still like to organize this open house but because of the committee's inaction they need to take up the matter from the committee.

At the September meeting, MEMBER A moved to reconsider the vote on the motion to refer to a committee. They wanted to bring the issue back up for the entire chapter to discuss. MEMBER A did vote on the prevailing side of the referral at the May meeting.

The chair ruled the motion to reconsider out of order. MEMBER B appealed from the decision of the chair stating that the reconsider was in order. The chapter voted on the appeal and overturned the chair's ruling. They then discussed the motion to reconsider. The motion to reconsider was voted on and received 12 votes in favor and 12 opposed. The chair announced that the motion to reconsider failed.

Questions

- 1. Was the chair right to rule MEMBER A's motion to reconsider out of order? Why or why not?**

Yes. An affirmative vote on the motion refer to a committee can be reconsidered only if the committee has not begun consideration of the question. Since the committee had already met once, the vote cannot be reconsidered. See [RONR (11th Ed.), p. 171, ll. 6-8]

Yes. Reconsider must be made on the same day the vote being reconsidered was taken.

See [RONR (11th Ed.), p. 316]

- 2. If the chapter still wanted to discuss the open house, how else might they have brought the matter up before the assembly?**

They could have moved to Discharge the Committee. See [RONR (11th ed.), p. 171, ll.8-10]

- 3. Assuming there were 24 members present at the meeting, was the chair correct in announcing the vote on reconsider failed?**

Yes. Reconsider requires a majority vote to pass and a tie is not a majority or more. See [RONR (11th Ed). p.320 ll. 32]

2019 National Convention Semifinal Round Team Problem Solving Practicum

Directions:

Assume that the following scenario transpired during the chapter meeting that was just held. As a team, provide a professional parliamentary opinion to the questions posed by composing your answers on the computer provided using the word processor software. Please be sure to provide appropriate citation – from a parliamentary authority (including page numbers) or other provided reference. You may use both the digital Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as well as your own books as reference material.

Scenario:

The State Society of Agricultural Boards is having financial issues. An issue has arisen within the last week, which must be considered and acted on before the end of the year. The President has come to you and asked for professional parliamentary assistance.

Relevant information from their bylaws:

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular and Annual Meetings

- A. The regular meetings of this State Society shall be held on the first Saturday of the months of February, June, and October.
- B. The Annual Meeting shall be held on the first Saturday of the month of June, unless otherwise ordered by the State Executive Committee.

Section 2. Purpose of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of this State Society shall be for the purpose of receiving reports of State Officers, the State Executive Committee, and State Committee Chairmen; the election of officers; and for any other business that may arise.

Section 3. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the State President or upon the written request of fifteen members of the State Society. The call shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted. At least fifteen days' notice shall be given.

Section 4. Quorum

At all meetings of the State Society, twenty voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Questions

1. **The President would like to call an additional regular meeting to be held in early December. Is this permitted?**

No. Regular meetings are held in February, June, and October. An additional regular meeting is not permitted. (See provided bylaws Article VIII. Section 1.A)

See [RONR (11th ed.), p. 89]

2. **Is it possible to call a special meeting?**

Yes; the President may call a special meeting with fifteen days' notice. (See provided bylaws Article VIII. Section 3)

3. **Must notice be sent via postal mail?**

No, it can be sent by email if the member has agreed to received notice in this form.

(See [RONR (11th ed.), p. 89]