

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

2023 National Convention Semifinal Round Team Problem Solving Practicum

Directions:

As a team, provide a professional parliamentary opinion to the questions posed as a response to the scenario, 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 other provided material.

Scenario:

You and your team have been asked to review the following information on the responsibility of officers. Recent questions have occurred from this section of the bylaws and your assistance is requested in making sure the organization's members understand their bylaws.

Relevant information from the group's bylaws are listed below.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person who supports the purposes of the Association may become a member of the Association by the payment of annual dues in effect at the time.

Section 2. The dues schedule shall be approved by vote of the Association at its annual meeting.

Section 3. Upon compliance with the above sections, an individual shall be placed on the roll of members.

Section 4. Each member shall be entitled to cast one vote on all matters which come before a meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held once a year, at a time and place determined by the board. Notices of meetings shall be sent thirty days in advance of the date of the meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings of the association may be called by the president or the board or upon written request of five members. The notice shall be sent at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. The business to be discussed shall be stated in the notification to all association members.

Section 3. Regular meetings of the board of directors shall take place at least four times a year. Notices shall be sent to board members at least one week before the meeting. Special board meetings may be called by the president with at least forty-eight hours notice to board members.

ARTICLE VIII – FISCAL PERIOD

Section 1. The fiscal year of the association shall start on July 1 and end on June 30.

Questions

- 1. Member Jones is displeased with several decisions made by the organization. Things get heated in the meeting and he states the treasurer gave him incorrect information**
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about funds being spent on a project—to the point that Member Jones calls the treasurer a “liar.” Is this allowed?

RONR 43:21: “Refraining from Attacking a Member’s Motives. When a question is pending, a member can condemn the nature or likely consequences of the proposed measure in strong terms, but he must avoid personalities, and under no circumstances can he attack or question the motives of another member. The measure, not the member, is the subject of debate. If a member disagrees with a statement by another in regard to an event that both witnessed, he cannot state in debate that the other’s statement “is false.” But he might say, “I believe there is strong evidence that the member is mistaken.” The moment the chair hears such words as “fraud,” “liar,” or “lie” used about a member in debate, he must act immediately and decisively to correct the matter and prevent its repetition.”

2. Member Jones realizes he will not be able to pursue his vision for the organization and has decided to resign from membership. However, the membership year started three months ago and he has yet to pay his dues. If he resigns, is the organization required to accept his resignation?

No. RONR 32:8 states the following: “Resignation from Membership. A member in good standing with his dues paid cannot be compelled to continue his membership so that additional obligations are incurred. His resignation should be accepted immediately, and if it is not, he incurs no obligation after his resignation has been sent in, provided he does not avail himself of the privileges of membership. It is different with members who have not paid their dues up to the date of sending in their resignations. Until they have settled their dues, the society is under no obligation to accept their resignations, and thus additional amounts may become due. If their dues are not paid within a reasonable time, instead of accepting their resignations, the society may expel them. A resignation sent in to escape charges need not be accepted. The charges may be preferred, and the trial should proceed the same as if the resignation had not been sent in.”

3. Member Jones has driven away many members and there is a concern that the association may not be able to have enough members to make a quorum. As the quorum is not stated in the bylaws, please cite the correct reference in Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised that states what the quorum is for this group.

RONR 40:2 *Number of Members Constituting a Quorum. Depending on the organization and the provision it adopts in this regard, the number of members constituting a quorum may vary. As discussed below, most voluntary societies should provide for a quorum in their bylaws, but where there is no such provision, the quorum, in accordance with the common parliamentary law, is as follows:*

- 1) In a mass meeting, the quorum is simply the number of persons present at the time, since they constitute the entire membership at that time.
- 2) In organizations such as many churches or some societies in which there are no required or effective annual dues and the register of members is not generally reliable as a list of the bona-fide members, the quorum at any regular or properly called meeting consists of those who attend.
- 3) In a body of delegates such as a convention, the quorum is a majority of the number who have been registered as attending, irrespective of whether some may have departed. This may differ greatly from the number elected or appointed.
- 4) *In any other deliberative assembly with enrolled membership whose bylaws do not specify a quorum, the quorum is a majority of all the members.*