

Washington Area Assembly

Discussion and Voting Procedures for Agenda Items

Motions/Discussion Items: Motions are to be presented to the Chairperson at least one month prior to the Area World Service Committee Meeting. These motions are then discussed, and a decision is made by the members of Area World Service Committee to place these motions on the agenda for a final decision. Motions from the floor will only be accepted if it is a time sensitive situation. It must be in writing and given to the Secretary.

Voting Members: The voting members are made up of Group Representatives or any person voted by their group to carry the vote. One vote per group is allowed, and no person who is also a member of Alcoholics Anonymous can vote. The Secretary will take roll by calling on each District Representative and in response the District Representative will announce how many voting members are present from that District. During a hybrid meeting the secretary will also ask the Zoom host/moderator how many virtual voters are present from that district. A vote will be taken to decide what process will be used to pass a motion. (Substantial unanimity, simple majority etc.)

Discussion: Members who wish to speak will line up at the microphones. Please state your first name and your district number. Each member is allowed two minutes to speak and will be allowed one time at the microphone. This discussion time is used to hear pros and cons or any new information on the issue. As Trusted Servants we listen carefully to all information so we can make the best decision for Al-Anon as a whole. **KEEP AN OPEN MIND!** Each member is entitled to and should express his/her opinions, **however if someone else has already stated your perspective it is not necessary to say it again!** Each item is given a thirty-minute time limit which will not include the presentation of the motion. If after thirty minutes an item hasn't been resolved, it will be turned over to a committee for further investigation. The findings will be presented at the next AWSC meeting.

Amending a Motion: If for some reason a motion must be amended it must be presented to the secretary in writing. The amendment must be seconded and agreed upon by the person who presented the motion.

Tabling a Motion: A motion can be tabled by a simple majority vote, and it is rescheduled at the discretion of the chairperson.

Calling for the Question: A motion can be made from the microphone, by any member, to call for the question. If a second is made the discussion ends and the chairperson will ask if all sides have been heard (minority/majority). This vote takes a simple majority. If it passes the Assembly proceeds to vote on the item before them. If it fails, the discussion will continue.

Voting: Voting can be done by a voice vote or if any member requests a paper ballot will be used. (Updated per approved motion 1990 Fall Assembly)

By group conscience at the 2022 Pre-Conference, the panel 62 Assembly body has decided to use the World Service Conference's method of counting votes. From the 2018 WSC Summary: *"Abstentions and voids are not considered votes. Therefore, the number of voting members necessary for substantial unanimity may vary from motion to motion.... The two-thirds majority is based on the total of yes/no votes cast."* When announcing if the motion passed or failed, the number of yes, no and abstention votes will be stated along with the number of votes required for substantial unanimity.