

COMMANDERS' GUIDE TO HANDLING MOTIONS

A member seeking permission, has been recognized and has stated their motion. A second has been received. It is now the responsibility of the Commander to state the motion and also that the motion has been seconded. Ask: Are you ready for the question? *or* Is there any discussion? Once the Commander has stated the question, the motion cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the members present.

If there is debate/discussion on a motion:

One question at a time and one speaker at a time:

once a member has been recognized and granted *the floor*, they are not to be interrupted by another member;

no motion is in order that does not directly relate to the question under consideration;

Debatable motions must receive *full* debate/discussion

all members who wish to speak shall be heard and those who are first-time speakers on the issue are to be heard before those wishing to speak a second time;

Once a question is decided, it is not in order to bring up the same motion or one essentially like it at the same meeting. Such a motion should be ruled out of order.

The majority rules. The minority has the right to be heard but once a decision has been reached by a majority of the members present and voting, the minority must then respect and abide by the decision.

Silence is consent. Those members who do not vote agree to go along with the decision of the majority by their silence.

Personal remarks in debate/discussion are *always* out of order. The Commander *must* rule all personal remarks out of order.

Debate/discussion must be directed to motions and *not* motives.

REMEMBER it is principles and not personalities that are to be discussed.

All members are equal and their rights are equal. Those rights are to attend meetings; to make motions and speak in debate; to nominate; to vote; and to hold office.

The rights of the organization supersede the rights of individual members.