

THE MAKING OF MOTIONS IN KRE MEETINGS

The following is a review of the official rules for motions. Most of the time organizations do not use all the steps as they can slow down a meeting, but they are there so that anyone in the audience can follow the progress. Having a predictable path for a motion is far better than having to nudge the person next to you and whisper "What just happened?"

Passing a motion is done in three steps with each step marked by distinct "Gates" through which the motion must pass: Motion, Discussion, and Disposition. Recognizing the three distinct gates makes it easy to follow its progress.

Part 1: Making a Motion.

- A member who "has standing" (meaning that he has the right to stand and offer a motion) gets the attention of the Chairman and is recognized. No one who does not "have standing" is allowed to offer motions. Since the rules change about who "has standing" between meetings of the Board (only elected members of the Board) or meetings of the General Membership (any property owner), some care is needed here. In really formal settings the member should then rise to make his motion. This gives a visual signal to everyone else in the room that he "has the floor". No other motions can be made while he has the floor. When the motion has been made, the member sits down. This is the signal that someone else can "have the floor". If this procedure is not followed, anyone who detected this error may raise a "Point of Order". A "Point of Order" stops all action until the problem is resolved.
- Another member gets the attention of the Chairman and is recognized. He offers his "second" to the motion and then he sits down.
- The Chairman then restates the motion by saying "It has been moved and seconded that...(reads the motion).....". This is a very important step and restating the motion locks the language of the motion so that it cannot be changed and the group knows precisely what is being proposed. This marks the first Gate that moves the motion to the discussion phase. Many organizations fumble this step and the actual motion language ends up unclear and muddled.

Part 2: Discussion: A motion that has been moved and seconded cannot be changed without following some defined actions. Discussion allows debate on its merits but there are only four actions that can be done to move the motion forward:

- Modify the original motion by offering a "**Motion to Amend**" the original motion. This requires a second to the Amendment and a separate vote on the Amendment. If the amendment is accepted, the Chair then restates the motion "As Amended" and discussion continues until the "question is called".
- **Table** it for later action. This requires a "Motion to Table", a Second, and a separate vote. Back in 2006 a motion was made to Table a Motion in our Annual Membership Meeting so that the election could take place. The Tabled Motion was then acted upon at the next Board meeting.
- **Object to the Consideration:** If the motion is something that the group would rather not vote upon, it is possible to "Object to the Consideration" of the motion. A member who objects obtains the floor and offers his objection. No second is needed and the Chairman immediately offers the objection to the body for a vote. A two thirds vote is required to toss out the motion. This has happened once in our history.
- Move it to a vote by "**Calling for the question**". This is the second Gate and marks the end of the discussion phase.

Part 3: Disposition: Usually this is a simple voice vote, but it could be by showing of hands, a tally of proxies, or by secret ballot. Once the voting is complete, the Chairman announces the result and the last of the three Gates have been passed through.