

Robert's Rules of Order

Provided and Presented by Sue Mokler,
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Henry Martyn Robert

- 1837-1923
- Engineering officer in the US Army
- Asked to lead community meeting – complete disaster - Massachusetts 1873
- Worked to create a “common rule” of meeting procedures which would be followed national wide

Henry Martyn Robert

- January 1874 – snowed in in Milwaukee for three months – used time to write
- Began to write the manuscript for rules
- Ready in October to find a publisher
- No publisher would accept – so he self published 4,000 copies
- Printed sixteen pages at a time

Henry Martyn Robert

- Continued self publishing through 1875
- A publisher, S.C. Griggs and Company of Chicago, agreed to publish the Rules if Robert would agree to pay for binding and donate 1,000 copies to parliamentarians across the country. February 1876
- Currently in the 10th edition published in 2000.

Robert's Rules of Order

- Purpose is to provide universal rules for operating meetings
- Provides for fairness and ensures the rights of the majority to determine the action and the minority to be heard
- Opportunity for deliberate process of full and free discussion

Types of Motions

- Main Motions – outline an action to be taken by the membership or approval to be given
 - “I move that” OR “I move to”
 - Must be seconded by another member
 - Can be amended or changed by another
 - All discussion must pertain to motion

Types of Motions

- Main motion may be made by a committee or from a committee report
 - This motion does not require a second because it is assumed there is more than one member of the committee

Types of Motions

- Subsidiary Motions – assist the assembly to deal with main motions
 - Amend
 - Refer to committee
 - Postpone definitely or indefinitely
 - Limit or extend limits of debate
 - Move the previous question
 - Lay on the table

Types of Motions

- Privileged Motions
 - Do NOT relate to pending business of the membership
 - Have to do with immediate and overriding importance that are allowed without debate to interrupt the consideration of the group

Types of Motions

- Privileged Motions
 - Call for the orders of the day
 - Question of personal privilege
 - Recess
 - Adjourn
 - Fix time at which to adjourn

Types of Motions

- Incidental Motions
 - Take precedence over the motion related to
 - Relate to a motion on the floor and must be decided immediately
 - Enforce rules
 - Suspend rules
 - Submit matter to assembly

Procedures

- Proceed – perhaps with caution
- Remember the purpose of Robert's Rules
- Treat each other with respect and allow for discussion
- Be willing to listen to each other and be patient if some issue has to be researched