

Progressive Parliamentary Pointers

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Parliamentarian – Connectional Lay Organization

Join the Movement!!!

Do not bring these **3** to the meeting.

1. “So move.”
2. “I move.”
3. “Question.”

When making a motion, a member must obtain the floor during the time that no other business is pending and when business of this kind is in order. The member then makes his motion, announcing what he proposes in a complete sentence that is to become the assembly’s official statement of action to be taken which is recorded in the minutes. An example would be “I move to have a picnic.”

Remember the goal of the maker of the motion is to have other members agree with his proposal therefore the wording of the motion should be precise. Items 1 and 2 above do not meet this requirement and should never be used. **Please see RONR page 33 lines 4-7.**

Once a motion has been made the presiding officer states the question so everyone is aware of the proposal, then turns to the maker of the motion, since the maker of the motion has the first option to speak. If the maker does not speak, and after a pause, no one else does, the presiding officer will ask one of the following: 1. “Are you ready for the question?” 2. “Is there any debate?” **This means:** “Is everyone ready to vote immediately or does anyone wish to speak about it, offer amendments, other motions or continue debate before voting?” Members please do not respond to this by saying **Question** but rather proceed as outlined above. If there is still no attempt to get the floor to express that they are unready to vote the presiding officer puts the question to a vote as follows:

1. Chair: Those in favor of the motion, say aye.
2. Chair: Those opposed, say no.
3. Chair: Announces the results of the vote.

Please see RONR 11th Edition page 37 lines 27 through page 38 line 1.

RONR- Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition

Virginia Henderson Harris is a Registered Parliamentarian certified by the National Association of Parliamentarians®.