

**The Master's Guide
to
Masonic Parliamentary Law**



The Grand Lodge of New Mexico

MASONIC PARLIAMENTARY LAW Simplified

Forward

"Masonic Parliamentary Law" by Brother Albert G. Mackey governs the deliberations of the constituent Lodges in the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, except so far as it is not repugnant to the peculiar character of the institution and is not in conflict with any of our laws or accepted practices.

This guide is published by the Grand Lodge so that those called to preside may have the opportunity to become familiar with the necessary fundamentals of parliamentary procedure governing Masonic Lodges, without the necessity of the original research.

The key to its successful use is to recognize that the sheets are so arranged and the motions so listed as to reflect the ranking or the order of precedence of those motions.

Thus, when any motion is immediately pending, any motion above it is in order and any below it, is out of order. That is to say, if the Lodge had already first received a motion to table a question, a motion to amend it is out of order at that point.

The manner of treating each motion is stated under each heading. Since motions to amend are those most frequently encountered, it is recommended that these at least be given special study.

The sections relating to business, debate, voting, etc., have been included for study and reference in the hope that they may fill a possible need.

This guide will be of considerable assistance to the Masters, Wardens, other officers and Brethren of New Mexico Lodges. Refer to it often, use it wisely.

This guide was first compiled in 1964 under the direction of M.:W.: Brother George O. Thorne. The guide was subsequently revised in 1975 and 1993, then again in 2013 under the direction of M.:W.: Brother Joshua B. Lightle.

The 2013 changes consist of language relating to quorums to comply with a Grand Lodge code revision, added code references to the voting chart, moved the voting chart to the front, and formatted for on-line publication.

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VOTING CHART

PAGE #		REQUIRES A SECOND	DEBATABLE	AMENDABLE	TABLE, POSTPOSNE	VOTING			METHOD	
						REQUIRES				
						MAJORITY	UNAN.	2/3		
<u>PRIVELEGED QUESTIONS</u>										
12	Rights & Privileges of the Lodge or any member (not a motion)									
13	Special Orders	Y	Y	Y	Y			X		Show of Hands
<u>INCIDENTAL QUESTIONS</u>										
14	Adjourn Debate	Y	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
17	Withdrawal of a Motion									
	Before Stated by the Worshipful Master	N	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
	After Stated by the Worshipful Master	N	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
17	Consideration by Paragraph	Y	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
18	Division of a Question	Y	N	Y	N	X				Show of Hands
19	Reading of Papers									
<u>SUBSIDIARY QUESTIONS</u>										
20	Table	N	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
20	Postpone Indefinitely	N	Y	N	N	X				Show of Hands
21	Postpone to a Certain Time	N	Y	Y	N	X				Show of Hands
21	Commit	N	Y	Y	Y	X				Show of Hands
10	Amend	Y	Y	Y	Y	X				Show of Hands
<u>PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS</u>										
9	Motion	Y	Y	Y	Y	X				Show of Hands
<u>UNCLASSIFIED QUESTIONS</u>										
22	Filling the Blanks	N	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
23	Reconsideration	Y	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
24	Take from the Table	Y	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
	By-Laws Change (Code 129)	Y	Y	Y	Y			X		Show of Hands
	Construct New Lodge Building (Code 138)	Y	Y	Y	Y			X		Show of Hands
	Honorary Member - Elect (Code 394)	Y	Y	N	Y	X				Show of Hands
	Life Membership - Grant (Code 391)					X				Show of Hands
	Lodge Trial - Conviction (Code 409)	N	N	N	N			X		Written
	Lodge Trial - Punishment (Code 410)	N	N	N	N	X				Written
	Trial by Commission (Code 412) <i>(No vote if requested by the accused)</i>					X				Show of Hands
	Minutes, Approve (Code 155)	Y	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
	Objections to Advancement (Code 361)	N	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
	Officers, Elections (Code 172)	N	N	N	N	X				Written
	Petitions, Ballot (Code 311 & 312)	N	N	N	N		X			Ballot Box
	Proficiency (Approve Examinations)	N	N	N	N	X				Show of Hands
	Surrender Charter (Code 126)					X				Show of Hands
	Waiver of Residency, military (Code 190)	X	Y	N	N		X			Show of Hands
	Waiver of Jurisdiction Over EA or FC (Code 204)					X				Show of Hands
	Waiver of Jurisdiction Between Grand Jurisdictions (Code 205)						X			Ballot Box

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BUSINESS

1. "Masonic Parliamentary Law" by Brother Albert G. Mackey shall govern the deliberations of the constituent Lodges and the Grand Lodge, except so far as it is not repugnant to the peculiar character of the Institution and is not in conflict with any of our laws or accepted practices.
 - Parliamentary procedures, however, are applicable only in the conduct of the true business of the Lodge (fiscal affairs, etc.) and are not concerned with the work or labor of a Lodge (the reception of Candidates, conferring of degrees, etc.) which is sole responsibility of the Worshipful Master and is done at his will and pleasure.
2. The business of the Lodge must be transacted while the Lodge is at labor on the Third Degree, except examinations, voting on the proficiency of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, conferring of degrees and such business or work as cannot properly be performed on that degree. The business of the Lodge may be transacted on the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft degree provided there be an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Mason present (Code 154).
 - Special Communications may be called at the pleasure of the Worshipful Master, but at such communications no business shall be transacted other than that which is specified in the call.
3. The Order of Business prescribed by this Grand Lodge for use in constituent Lodges is:
 - Reading of Unapproved Minutes
 - Unfinished Business
 - Reports of Standing Committees
 - Reports of Special Committees
 - Presentation of Petitions for Degrees and for Affiliation
 - Reports of Committees on Petitions and Balloting Thereon
 - Communications and Presentations of Bills
 - Miscellaneous Business
4. The Worshipful Master, or the Senior or Junior Warden or a Past Master presiding in his stead, is in complete control of the Lodge.
 - In the conduct of moderating discussions, controlling debate and deciding on all points of order, he is governed by parliamentary procedures.
 - His decisions are final and there is no appeal from such decisions except to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.
5. No Lodge shall be opened unless there be present seven Master Masons, nor shall any business be conducted unless there be present five Master Masons, members of the Lodge.
6. No Lodge shall be opened or stand open in the absence of the Worshipful Master and the Wardens.
 - The Worshipful Master, or in his absence, the presiding Warden, may call another Brother to the East, such presiding officer also being present.
 - On funeral occasions, any Past Master may open and preside.
7. In case of the absence, death or disability of the Worshipful Master, the Wardens, in order of seniority, shall assume the powers and prerogatives of the station, except during installation of officers.
 - A vacancy caused by death may be filled by election or appointment as provided by law.
8. When the Grand Master, or his Deputy, or other duly authorized representative appears in the Lodge, the right of the Worshipful Master to preside temporarily disappears, unless superior authority should waive that right.

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9. The Grand Master has the power to convene any constituent Lodge under his jurisdiction, preside therein, inspect the records and work and require its conformity to Masonic law and usage,

10. No By-Law may be temporarily suspended by a constituent Lodge, but any By-Law may be changed as provided by law.

11. The Worshipful Master shall require any Master Mason to leave the Lodge whose conduct therein disturbs its harmony and must subsequently prefer charges of un-Masonic conduct.

DEBATE

1. The purpose of debate in any Masonic assemblage is to elicit truth and not simply to secure victory.

Therefore, peace, harmony and charity of thought and deed are paramount to all else.

- The Worshipful Master must assure that debate is at all times conducted in complete harmony with the principles of the Fraternity and that the strictest courtesy, decorum and good order are observed.

2. The Worshipful Master always possesses the power to suspend further discussion on any subject when in his judgment such discussion would impair the peace and harmony of the Lodge or otherwise injuriously affect the interests of Freemasonry.

3. The business of the Lodge must of necessity be regulated by the Worshipful Master, who is in complete control of the debate and from whose decision, while presiding, there can be no appeal, except to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

4. The accepted Rules of Order for the conduct of debate are fully covered under "Question of Order."

5. Any member may call attention to the violation of a rule.

- To do so he should rise, address the Worshipful Master and say, "I rise to a point of order."
- The Worshipful Master should then request him to state his point, the speaker objected to having taken his seat where he remains until the point is decided.
 - If the Worshipful Master decided the point not well taken, he so states and directs the speaker to resume.
 - If he decides the point well taken, he so states and either prevents the speaker from further discussion, if it was the discussion itself which was objected to, or directs the speaker to resume his argument with the necessary caution, if the objection is to the manner or scope of his speech.

6. When any member desires to make a motion, he should rise and address the Worshipful Master.

After put, seconded if required, reduced to writing, if requested, and not overruled by the Worshipful Master on a point of order, the Lodge is then placed in possession of the motion.

- The Worshipful Master must state the question from the chair and asks if there is any discussion.
- The vote is then taken and the result announced.

7. As soon as the Worshipful Master has stated any motion which is debatable, the maker of that motion is entitled to the floor to commence debate if he so desires.

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- The maker is also entitled to close debate, provided every member wishing to speak has already spoken, after which it is out of order for any other member to speak.
 - In exercising this prerogative, the member closing the debate must confine himself to an appropriate reply only and not introduce any new topic, otherwise, other members are then at liberty to speak to the question again.
8. Since his is the only and final arbiter of questions of order, the Worshipful Master may, if he wishes, declare that any motion is not in order and decide that it shall not be received.
- There is no appeal to the Lodge from this decision, only to the Grand Master or to the Grand Lodge.
 - If the Worshipful Master neglects or omits to make such a ruling, it is in order for any member to make a similar objection, which objection should be duly considered by the Worshipful Master.
9. A motion for adjournment is un-Masonic and cannot be entertained.
10. No motion for the "previous question" can be admitted.
11. So-called "dilatory motions", whose object is to delay the progress of business, are always out of order, because the duration of debate or the conduct of business are under the direct control of the Worshipful Master

VOTING

1. On all decisions coming before the Lodge for decision, only members may vote and voting shall be by show of hands except for:
- Election of Officers
 - Balloting on Petitions for membership
 - Waiver of jurisdiction (See Codes 204 and 205)
 - Determine conviction and punishment in a Lodge Trial
2. Unless otherwise provided, a simple majority shall decide all questions. See accompanying voting chart.
3. Members present and not voting (show of hands) are presumed to acquiesce with the majority vote.
- On a written ballot, those not voting are not counted in deciding a majority, two-thirds or unanimous vote.
 - Blank ballots are ignored and are not counted when determining a majority.
4. After conclusion of debate, the Worshipful Master shall "put the question."
- The affirmative shall always be put first, then the negative.
5. In announcing the result of the vote, the Worshipful Master shall say in substance, "The ayes have it – the motion is adopted," or "The nays have it – the motion is lost."
- If a specified majority is required, the announcement shall be in substance, "Two-thirds (or such majority as is specified) of the members present having voted in the affirmative (or negative), the motion is adopted (or lost)."
6. The vote on any question is not complete until both the affirmative and the negative have been put.

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- Therefore, it is in order for any member to speak, if he has not spoken before, after the affirmative vote has been taken and before the negative vote is taken.
7. If the number of votes is so nearly even as to leave the issue in doubt, the Worshipful Master may direct that the vote be taken again; or if, after the result is announced, any member is dissatisfied, he may immediately call for a division.
- This request must be entertained.
 - A request for a division after other business has intervened is out of order.
 - To satisfy a call for a division, the Worshipful Master states the question a second time, requesting those members voting in the affirmative to stand and requesting the Senior Deacon to make a count and communicate the result to him.
 - Those members are then seated, and those voting in the negative are requested to stand in order that the Senior Deacon may likewise secure the count and communicate it to the Worshipful Master for his final announcement, from which there is no appeal to the Lodge.
 - When a division is called, every member present is required to vote, unless formally excused by the Worshipful Master or unless he was not present when the question was begun to be put.
8. The Worshipful Master is entitled to vote on any question coming before the Lodge.
- In all cases of a tie vote, he is also entitled to an additional casting or tie breaking vote.
 - As a matter of courtesy, he should explain the reason for such vote.
9. No member who was not present when the question was begun to be put can be allowed to vote or take part in the proceedings.
10. No question can again be offered at the same communication which is substantially the same as the one upon which the Lodge had already expressed its judgment but it may be reconsidered in its same form in accordance with the appropriate provision for Reconsideration.
10. Calling for the ayes and nays (recording individually the vote of each member) is out of order.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

1. The minutes of a Lodge are supposed to be, and ought to be, a “just and true record of all things proper to be written.”
- Thus, if altered by the expurgation of any part whatsoever, they cease to be a true record.
 - Therefore, if any business has been transacted of which the minutes purport to be a record, which it is desired to rescind or repeal, it is not in order to move that such reference to such business be stricken.
2. After the minutes have been read, it is the duty of the Worshipful Master to inquire if there are any alterations or corrections prior to their approval or confirmation by the Lodge.
- The question on approval of the minutes relates to the correctness of the record only, and no motion or suggestion for alteration can be made except to correct a mistake or supply an omission.
3. It is an accepted principle of Masonic law that the proceedings of a regular communication cannot be reviewed or overruled at a special communication.
- Hence, no minutes are read at special communications, except perhaps at the close and then only for the information of the members and for the correction of errors or the supplying of omissions. The minutes can be presented for approval only at a regular communication.

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COMMITTEES

1. Committees of a Lodge are appointed by the Worshipful Master for the purpose of expediting business by dividing the numerous labors among its members or to obtain the investigation or study of a particular subject more conveniently.
2. Committees are divided into two classes: standing and special. This is done in relation to the duration of their functions and the subjects committed to them.
 - Standing Committees are those to whom all propositions relating to a particular subject, as they arise from time to time, as referred for action and report.
 - They are appointed at the beginning of the year by the Worshipful Master and continue in office until its close.
 - The mode of their appointment depends upon the provisions of the By-Laws, which sometimes designate the members or number of members and their method of appointment.
 - Special Committees are appointed by the Worshipful Master.
 - By universal usage, appointment of all such committees is vested in the Worshipful Master.
 - There is no rule as to the number of members on a Special Committee, other than the pleasure of the Worshipful Master.
 - Custom has restricted committees to as few as can conveniently and judiciously discharge the duty, on the grounds that a few can be more easily brought together, are less unwieldy to organize and can more readily agree upon matters.
 - An odd number is also selected in preference to an even one because a majority of the committee makes the report. An odd number always secures a majority on one side or the other, if there should be a difference of opinion.
3. In the motion for the creation of a committee, the number of members is sometimes left blank. After adoption, it becomes necessary to fill in the blank with some specified number.
 - This may be done by several motions for different numbers, in which case the Worshipful Master will put the question, commencing with the highest or lowest, until one of them is adopted by the Lodge.
 - More frequently, the blank is filled upon the mere suggestion of a member, which suggestion is informally adopted if there is no opposition.
4. The Worshipful Master appoints a committee by reading out the names of its members.
 - He may do this at once, or he may need time to consider his selection and consequently will make the announcement of his appointment at his leisure.
5. There is no positive rule to regulate the choice of members of a committee but courtesy has always indicated that the person who makes the motion for the creation of a committee should be the first one on it and not to so name him, might be considered an act of discourtesy.

In naming the remaining members, the Worshipful Master should take into account their particular views on the subject.

- It is a parliamentary practice not to appoint members on a committee who are opposed to the proposition being considered. The enemies of a proposition would be more likely to stifle it than give it a proper form for future consideration by the Lodge.
- But where the proposition consists of several parts there is no objection to the appointment of a member who might be opposed to some of these parts, so long as he is favorable to the general proposition.

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- His particular opposition, in this instance, might lead him in the committee to make such alterations and amendments as would give the entire subject a more acceptable shape in the Lodge when it was reported for discussion.
6. By courtesy, the first-named member of a committee is considered its chairman and he is recognized as such, at least so far as to call the committee to order in its first meeting.
 - Mackey states that although it is not in general usage, the committee has the right to select its own chairman; and it may, at its first meeting, displace the one named and elect another in his stead.
 - The more general accepted usage, of course, is to accept the first-named member as the chairman.
 7. It is generally regarded as good parliamentary law that a majority of the members of a committee will constitute a legal quorum to do business.
 - The opinions of members should not be taken separately by the chairman.
 - Everything agreed upon must have been submitted in committee and an opportunity given for free and full discussion.
 8. Unless the time and place for the meeting of a committee have been specifically expressed by the body appointing it, those matters are left to the discretion of the committee.
 9. A committee is restricted to consideration and investigation of the proposition with which it is concerned and must confine itself to that object.
 10. Business is transacted in a committee with less formality, of course, than in the Lodge.
 - The members are permitted to speak as often as they desire and are not required to stand when addressing the chair. However, all the rules which govern motions in Loge are equally applicable to the committee.
 11. A committee may adjourn from time to time, until a majority of its members have come to an agreement on the matter referred for action and report.

REPORTS

1. Reports of Standing Committees are always in order, when called for and the reception of such reports during a Masonic year does not affect the continuance of said committees.
2. Reports of Special Committees, however, are governed by different rules.
 - When a Special Committee has completed its investigation and come to an opinion, it directs its chairman or some other member to prepare an expression of its views for a report to the Lodge.
 - This report may contain only an expression of an opinion on the subject referred. Or it may contain, in addition, a definite resolution or series of resolutions, or one or more resolutions without any preliminary expression of opinion.
 - The reading of the report to the Lodge constitutes its reception.
 - The report having been read and received, the committee is thereby discharged, in the case of a final report, from any further consideration of the subject, and is virtually dissolved.
 - It is unnecessary, therefore, to make a motion for its discharge. However, preliminary reports may be made by the committee at anytime during the particular period or session without affecting its continuance.
 - By practice, the member making the report usually moves its adoption. However, it is possible and permissible for a friend of the motion so to move.

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- Mackey states that if the report be a mere expression of opinion, it does not seem necessary to move its adoption, since the opinions of a deliberative body can be expressed only in the form of resolutions, and the adoption of a mere opinion can have no binding effect.
 - He states further that it is perhaps best to let such a report pass without any motion at all, and then it would go into the records simply as the opinion of the members of the committee. However, this is not always followed in Lodges. In fact, a motion to adopt a mere declaratory report is often made.
 - If the motion to adopt a report having resolutions annexed, or consisting only of resolutions, be carried, then the adoption of the report is also the adoption of the resolutions, which thus become the expression of the Lodge.
 - If the motion is lost, the matter is defunct unless later revived by parliamentary procedures.
 - If, instead of a motion to adopt, a motion is made to recommit, the committee, which had become functus officio by the reception of the report is instantly revived if the motion carries.
 - Its later report passes through the same stages and is governed by the same rules as its initial report.
 - If the report of the committee is objectionable to the majority, the better course is to reject the report rather than to recommit it.
 - In this way, new resolutions can be offered to better meet the views of the majority independently of the committee.
 - If the report were only the expression of an opinion without any resolutions, the mere reception of it does not give the sanction of the Lodge to the views expressed in it.
 - However, if it is deemed necessary, a declaratory resolution in opposition to the report might be offered and adopted.
- Sometimes the stated period arrives for a committee to make its report, which, however, it is not prepared to do.
 - The usual practice is simply for the committee "to report progress."

3. It sometimes happens that one or more members of a committee will not agree with the views of the majority and will desire to express their views in a written paper.

- This paper is usually called "a minority report."
- Mackey states, however, that the term is actually an inaccurate one, since the decision of parliamentary law is that the minority of a committee cannot make a report – a minority not being the committee.
 - It has been usual, although not strictly parliamentary, in popular assemblies, when there are two reports, to permit a motion that the report of the minority be adopted.
 - Such a motion is only admissible on the grounds that it is to be viewed as a motion for the substitute, by way of amendment to the report of the majority.
 - If such a motion is adopted, its effect is the change of the character of the majority report, and the change of the report as so amended.
 - But at this stage a motion might be made to table, to postpone or to commit. In other words, the report of the minority does not so adhere to that of the majority, that a vote to lay the former on the table would carry the latter with it.
 - This is one of the few exceptions to the general rule that whatever adheres to the subject of the motion goes to the table with it.

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PRINCIPAL MOTIONS

PURPOSE: To introduce consideration of some matter of business.

1. A principal motion proposes: to express some fact, opinion or principle which, on being adopted, expresses that fact, opinion or principle.
2. Two principal or independent motions cannot be before the Lodge at the same time.
3. Requires a second.
4. When any motion on this page is under consideration – whether principal or subsidiary, any motion above it is in order and below it is out of order.
5. Any member may require that it be presented in writing.
6. It is debatable and amendable.
7. All subsidiary motions hold over it and can, by Lodge action, change its character or control its disposition.
8. Requires a majority vote, unless otherwise provided.
9. It yields temporarily to Privileged Questions; also to Incidental Questions, if related.
10. A motion to reconsider cannot be entertained unless it is made at the same communication the original question was determined and unless the motion is made by a member who voted with the majority, or the winning side.
 - For example, on a question requiring a two-thirds vote, a majority may vote in the affirmative and yet there may not be enough of them to make the required two-thirds. Thus, in this instance the minority is actually the winner and a motion for reconsideration must come from one of them.

MOTION TO AMEND

PURPOSE: To consider amending or modifying a motion.

1. When a motion is pending before the Lodge, it is in order for any member to propose an amendment thereto.
 - This amendment must then be considered and adopted or rejected before the question can be put on the original motion.
 - If the amendment is adopted, the question must then be put on the original motion as amended. If this question fails, the motion fails.
 - If the amendment is rejected, the question must then be put on the original motion as presented.
2. A motion to amend can be made in one of three ways: To strike out certain words, to insert certain words or to strike out certain words and insert others.

To strike out certain words:

- If a motion is made to strike out certain words, the sentence left should be grammatically correct.

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- If adopted, no subsequent motion can be entertained to insert the same words or any part of them in the same place. However, a motion may be entertained to insert them or any part of them in another place, or to insert them or any part of them with other words in the same place, provided that the addition of the new words constitute a substantially new proposition.
- If rejected, no subsequent motion can be made to strike out the same words or any part of them. However, a motion can be entertained to strike out the same words or any part of them, with other words, provided the new proposition differs substantially in meaning and effect from the one rejected.

To insert certain words:

- If a motion is made to insert certain words, the sentence to be considered should be grammatically correct.
 - If adopted, no subsequent motion can be entertained to strike them or any part of them out. However, a motion may be entertained to strike out these words or any part of them, with other words, provided that by this action a substantially new proposition is presented.
 - If rejected, no subsequent motion can be entertained to insert the same words or any part of them in the same place. However, it may be moved to insert the same words in another place, or to insert them or any part of them, with other words in the same place, provided the additional words make a substantially different proposal.

To strike out certain words and insert others:

- If a motion is made to strike out certain words and insert others, the sentence to be considered should be grammatically correct.
- On demand of any member, the question may be divided – first on striking out, then on inserting.
- The proper manner for the Worshipful Master to state the question is first to read the original passage as it stands; then, the words proposed to strike out; next, those to be inserted; and lastly, the whole passage as it will stand as amended.
- If desired, the question is then divided and is put first on striking out.
- During the discussion of the motion to strike out, it may be amended by motion to modify it so as to retain part of the words.
 - If adopted, the next question will be on inserting the proposed words. Here again, amendments may be proposed to change those words, by leaving out a part of them or by inserting new words. If the motion to insert prevails, then the words so ordered to be inserted will constitute a part of the main motion. If it is rejected, the main motion remains with the words stricken out and none substituted in their place.
- If the motion to strike out is rejected, then the motion to insert cannot be put. However, a new motion can be made to strike out, for the purpose of inserting other words differing in substance from the first proposed. Or a motion may be made to strike out without any motion to insert.

3. It requires a second.

4. It is debatable.

5. It is amendable, but to the second degree only. Additional attempts to amend are out of order.

- For example, during the discussion of a question an amendment proposes to insert a form of words which may be represented by AB. Thus it is proposed to amend again by inserting CD after AB. This is admissible. But if it were desired to amend CD by adding E so as to make

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CDE, this would be an amendment to the third degree and would not be admissible. The proper approach would be to reject the proposition in insert CD after AB and then move an amendment to the amendment AB by adding CD.

6. Any number of amendments may be proposed to a motion and be all offered before the question is taken on any of them.
 - Amendments must be put in the order in which they were offered.
 - Amendments to amendments, or amendments to the second degree, must be put first.
 - If one of these is adopted, or rejected, the question is again on the amendment.
 - If this is adapted, the question is on the motion as amended.
 - If rejected, the question is then on the original motion.
 - All of the rules which affect an amendment to the first degree are equally applicable to one in the second degree, except that the latter cannot be amended
7. An amendment need not necessarily be of the same character as the original motion.
8. It requires a majority vote.
9. It yields temporarily to Privileged Questions; also to Incidental Questions, if related.
10. A motion to reconsider cannot be entertained unless it is made at the same communication the question to amend was determined and unless the motion is made by a member who voted with the majority, or winning side, as previously explained under Principal Motions.

AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

1. It is an accepted rule, and is covered by law in this Jurisdiction, that no By-Law may be changed without due notice having been given.
2. If the By-Laws of a Lodge require that no alteration shall be made unless it is proposed in writing at a regular communication, laid over until the next regular, then read a second time and adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present, it is the duty of the Worshipful Master to see that these provisions are met.
 - The amendment thus proposed takes the character of a Special Order, and as a privileged question it has precedence over every other proposition when the time for action on it arrives.
 - No repeal, alteration or amendment to the By-Laws having been proposed as above can at any future time in the proceedings be subjected to any change or if it exceeds the limitations set forth by the By-Laws being amended and the amendment.
 - That is to say, if annual dues are \$40 and an amendment to increase the dues to \$50 is made, an amendment may be proposed to change the original amendment if the proposal stays within the \$40 to \$50 parameter. The proper time for offering an amendment to the amendment would be when the proposition was first read. Both the amendment and the rider to it would thus go through the regular course as required and come up for a second reading and for action at the appropriate time.
 - The amendment to the amendment would, of course, be first in order of consideration.
3. No change in By-Laws can become operative until approved by the Grand Master as provided by law.
 - If a Lodge cannot repeal or change any of its By-Laws without the approval of the Grand Master, it is evident that it cannot suspend it, since this is, for all practical purposes, a repeal for a definite, although temporary time.

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PRIVILEGED QUESTIONS

PURPOSE: To secure the immediate attention of the Worshipful Master, to ask a question or to attend to some important matter relating to the Lodge or to one of its members.

1. Privileged Questions are of such paramount importance that they take precedence over any pending question although it may not be necessarily related to that question.
2. Concern and relate to:
 - Rights and Privileges of the Lodge or any member
 - Motions for reconsideration
 - Special Orders
3. Privileged Questions are not to be confused with Questions of Privilege; for although all Questions of Privilege are Privileged Questions, it does not follow that all Privileged Questions are Questions of Privilege.
 - Strictly speaking, Questions of Privilege relate to the Lodge or to a member while Privileged Questions relate to matters of business.
4. When, during the pendency or discussion of a main question, a privileged motion is made and entertained, these two motions then constitute what are termed co-existing questions.
 - For example, during the pendency of any discussion, if the hour for a Special Order has arrived and that Order is taken up, the pending question is suppressed for a time but may be renewed when the Special Order has been determined.
 - The main question is also affected, of course, by other motions, such as to table, to postpone, to commit or to amend, all of which may co-exist with it and must be taken up in the order of their rank or order of precedence.
5. Have no rank or precedence among themselves but are disposed of as raised.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

PURPOSE: To secure the immediate attention of the Worshipful Master to ask a question.

1. Questions of Privilege relate to matters affecting the dignity of the Lodge or the rights and privileges of one of its members.
2. Are always in order and must be considered and disposed of at once when raised.
3. Concern and relate to:
 - Any matter which affects the character of a member, such as charges of misconduct. It is a custom of parliamentary courtesy to grant unusual latitude to a member who is making a personal explanation because of its importance to his reputation.
 - Any matter which affects the character of the Lodge, such as false and scandalous reports of its proceedings.
 - Any matter affecting the secrecy or safety of the Lodge and a Brother deems it necessary to give proper precautions.
4. When a member rises and says, "I rise to a Question of Privilege", the Worshipful Master should ask him to state the Question.
 - He must then decide whether it is or is not such a question.
 - If he decides that it is, then the business under discussion must be suspended until the Question of Privilege is disposed of, which may be accomplished by

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- Entertaining it at once and deciding on its own merits, or
 - Disposing of it in the manner to which any other question is subject; that is, it may be moved to table, to postpone or to commit.
 - If committed the committee report itself, when presented, will take precedence over all other business and must be considered at once. Like any other report, it may be laid on the table, postponed or recommitted.
5. When the Question of Privilege has been disposed of, the discussion on the question which had been interrupted is at once resumed at the precise point at which the interruption had been made.

SPECIAL ORDERS

PURPOSE: To make a matter of business a Special Order or to return to a matter previously made a Special Order.

1. On the presentation of any proposition, whether it be a motion or any other matter of importance, any member may rise during the discussion and say, "I move that this motion (or whatever else it might be) be made the Special Order for the _____", inserting the time he may select, either the day or the hour.
 - The limited time of a Lodge communication makes it unusual to adopt the practice of Special Orders, although a proposition introduced in the early part of the evening might be, and sometimes is, made the Special Order for a later hour.
2. The motion, being seconded, is put by the Worshipful Master.
 - If adopted by a majority vote, it becomes the Special Order when the time so fixed arrives, and it then takes precedence over all other business.
3. When the specified time arrives, the Worshipful Master or any member may call it up, as a right but not as a duty, and to do so may interrupt anyone even though the latter may have the floor.
 - Whatever business is then before the Lodge, must be suspended at once to consider the matter.
4. If the Special Order cannot be determined before Lodge closes, it can be renewed at the next regular communication as unfinished business, having the preference over all such business unless postponed or discharged.
5. A Special Order, by motion, may be postponed or discharged.
 - If postponed, it retains its special privilege and may again be called up at the new time, however, it is still subject to the same motion for discharge or further postponement.
 - If discharged, it ceases to be a Special Order and subsides into the class of motions to which it may properly belong. It may then be called upon the regular order of business at the time when a motion to call it up would be in order.
6. If the time fixed for the Special Order passes without action being taken, the Special Order is dropped and can come up thereafter only as unfinished business and as an unprivileged question. A motion is required to call it up again.
7. If several Special Orders should be made for the same day, the one first made takes precedence.
 - If the entire communication were to be consumed by consideration of it, the other Orders lose their specialty, for they cannot be considered Special Orders for any ensuing time.

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- Mackey states that although it is not the form generally used by Grand Lodges, it would still be appropriate to frame the motion making a Special Order so that the propositions are made the Special Orders "for the ____ day of ____ and from day to day until the same are disposed of."
- In this way, if the first day were to be consumed in the consideration of the first Special Order previously made, the second and succeeding ones would not lose their specialty.

8. A motion to create a Special Order yields to Question of Privilege if raised during discussion of said motion.

ADJOURN DEBATE

PURPOSE: To terminate debate on a question under discussion.

1. Although the Rules of Order adopted for use in Grand Lodge permit a Motion for the Previous Question, which terminates debate if adopted, a Motion to Adjourn is used in constituent Lodges.

2. The usual form of the motion is "that the debate be now adjourned." It may be presented at any time during the debate.

- If adopted, it terminates debate on the question under discussion only. It does not call the question.
- 3. The Worshipful Master may, in the exercise of his prerogatives, decline to entertain the motion.
 - If entertained, it is governed by these rules:
 - It may not be offered by a member who has already spoken to the question.
 - It must be seconded.
 - Unless withdrawn by general consent, it must be put to a vote at once and debate suspended until the motion is determined.
 - If adopted, when debate on the original question is resumed, it assumes the exact status it had when the debate was adjourned. Therefore, no member who had already spoken before the adjournment can afterward speak to the main question.
 - If rejected, debate is resumed at once.
 - A member may not renew the motion unless there has been some intermediate discussion, which is interpreted to mean that some period of time must elapse. The Worshipful Master is the sole judge as to the sufficiency of the interval.
 - Although a member had already spoken to the original question, he may also speak to the question of adjournment, since that is really a new question.

INCIDENTAL QUESTIONS

PURPOSE: To secure the immediate attention of the Worshipful Master to raise a point concerning the propriety of current proceedings or to expedite business.

1. Incidental Questions are those which arise out of and are connected with other questions to which they relate and which, for the time being, they supersede or outrank, although they do not necessarily dispose of them.

2. Incidental Questions most frequently encountered:

- Question of Order
- Question on Permission to Withdraw a Motion
- Question on Consideration by Paragraph

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- Question on Division of a Question
 - Question for Reading Papers
3. Other Incidental Questions which may be encountered:
- Requests Growing out of Proceedings
 - Parliamentary Inquiries
 - Requests for Information or Clarification
 - Other Requests
4. Incidental Questions considered out of order:
- Suspending a By-Law*
 - Calling for Yeas and Nays
 - Recording individually the voice of each member.
5. Incidental Questions are always in order and temporarily outrank or suppress the question before the Lodge provided they refer to that question.
6. They have no rank or precedence among themselves.
7. Incidental Questions are subject to the rule as to subsidiary motions; that is, it may be moved that they be tabled, postponed or committed.
- This rule, although general, is not universal, and the exception must be determined by the nature of the question raised.
8. When the Incidental Question raised is disposed of, the main question is then resumed at the precise point at which it was interrupted.
- *Since the Grand Master must approve the By-Laws of a constituent Lodge, and since a Lodge cannot thereafter alter, amend or repeal such laws without his permission, it cannot suspend them, which is, for all practical purposes a repeal, however temporary.

QUESTION OF ORDER

PURPOSE: To secure the immediate attention of the Worshipful Master to raise a point concerning a rule of order.

1. Rules of Order relate to the present action of the Lodge. They prescribe the character of motions, the time at which they ought to be read, the ranking or precedence of one motion over another, the necessary limits to debate and the bounds beyond which a speaker must not pass.
2. The Worshipful Master should always be on the alert for any breach of conduct but it is always in order for any member to rise to a point of order.
3. To do so a member should rise, address the Worshipful Master and say, "I rise to a point of order."
 - The Worshipful Master should request him to state his point and then decide upon it before permitting the proceedings to continue.
4. These are the accepted Rules of Order for the conduct of business in a Masonic Lodge:
 - Two independent original motions or propositions cannot be presented at the same time. Subsidiary motions may be presented, but one independent motion must be decided before another can be considered.
 - A subsidiary motion cannot be considered outside its rank of order or precedence.

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- That is, when a motion has been made to table a matter, it would be improper to entertain a motion to postpone, commit or amend until the motion to table has been decided.
- A member must always stand and address himself to the Worshipful Master and not to any other officer or member without express permission.
- Should two or more Brethren arise nearly at the same time, the Worshipful Master shall be the sole judge of who is entitled to the floor.
- A member must not be interrupted except for the purpose of calling him to order or by permission of the Worshipful Master. While the member has the floor no motion can be made or put.
- If called to a point of order by any member, the speaker should immediately take his seat until the point is stated, when the Worshipful Master will make his decision without debate. The speaker may then rise and continue, if not ruled out of order by the Worshipful Master.
- No member except the original proposer, who may close the debate after all others have spoken, shall speak more than once to the question except with the permission of the Worshipful Master.
- No member shall disturb the speaker by any unseemly conduct.
- No personal, abusive or other improper remarks or language shall be used.
 - The Worshipful Master may speak at any time, and a member who has the floor should sit down that he may be heard, unless his remarks are merely in the nature of a question directed to the member.
- Every member who secures the floor must speak to the question under consideration.

5. Parliamentary courtesy permits a Brother, who is about to make a motion, to speak in its favor before he actually proposes it, but always with the understanding that he will speak to the question and that he will conclude by formally proposing his motion. It is better, however, that the speaker makes the formal motion and secure the necessary second before speaking to it.

6. Questions of Order yield temporarily to Privileged Questions.

QUESTION ON PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW A MOTION OR PAPER

PURPOSE: To secure consideration of the withdrawal of a motion or a paper.

1. Once a motion is stated by the Worshipful Master, it becomes the property of the Lodge and can be withdrawn only by unanimous consent.
2. The maker of any motion has the right to modify it or to ask to withdraw it, with the consent of the Lodge, before it is stated by the Worshipful Master, or at any time before the final vote is declared.
 - However, if an amendment has been proposed to the motion, the original motion cannot be withdrawn until the amendment has been withdrawn or defeated.
 - If an amendment has been adopted, it is not in order to ask to withdraw the original motion, since by its adoption the original proposition has changed its form and ceased to be the same question. Therefore, the proposer no longer has any control of it.
3. Only the maker of the motion may ask to withdraw it, and it is not necessary to secure the consent of the member giving the second.
4. The Worshipful Master should announce the request to withdraw the motion.
 - If no one objects, consent is considered to be granted.
 - If any member says, "I object", the matter is dropped and the discussion continues.

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5. A question for the withdrawal of a paper is in the nature of a question for the withdrawal of a motion, and it is subject to the same rules.
 - Reports of committees, protests of members and other documents of like nature, when once presented to the Lodge (whether they be read and received as information or not read but merely laid on the table and their consideration postponed or referred to a committee) become the property of the Lodge and can be withdrawn only upon a motion duly made and granted by a majority of the members present. An exception to this, of course, would be withdrawal of a petition, which must be handled in accordance with Masonic law.
6. A question to withdraw a motion or paper yields temporarily to Privileged Questions.

QUESTION ON CONSIDERATION BY PARAGRAPH

PURPOSE: To secure expeditious consideration and disposition of a matter before the Lodge.

1. Mackey makes no reference to the Question on Consideration by Paragraph, however, it is considered acceptable by general practice.
2. When used, it is governed by these rules:
 - The Worshipful Master, or the member making the report or presenting the resolution, generally recommends consideration by paragraph if in his opinion the question to be considered is rather lengthy and involved.
 - If no one objects, consent is considered granted.
 - If objection is raised, a motion must be duly made and acted upon before the report or resolution can be considered by paragraph.
 - If the Worshipful Master or the member making the report does not recommend consideration by paragraph, any member may so move, which motion must be duly seconded and carried by a majority vote.
 - If adopted, the proposition will then be considered paragraph by paragraph, but no paragraph is subject to any of the subsidiary motions except amendment. That is, it may not be moved to table or to postpone. The question is on adoption – as presented or as amended.
 - If rejected, the proposition will be considered as a whole.
 - After action is complete on all paragraphs, the member making the report then moves its adoption as a whole – as presented or as amended as the case may be – for formal disposition by the Lodge.
3. A Question of Consideration by Paragraph yields temporarily to Privileged Questions.

QUESTION ON DIVISION ON A QUESTION

PURPOSE: To secure expeditious consideration and disposition of a proposition before the Lodge.

1. When a question contains more parts than one it may be divided into two or more questions and considered under the following rules:
 - Any member may, at any time before the final vote is taken, call for a Division of the Question.
 - If no one objects, and the call is not overruled by the Worshipful Master, the question will be divided.
 - Each clause of the division will be treated as a separate and independent question, and neither clause so divided is subject to any of the subsidiary motions except amendment. That is, it

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may be amended, but it may not be tabled or postponed. The question must be direct on its adoption – as presented or as amended.

- If objection is raised, a formal motion as to whether the question shall be divided must be put to the Lodge and carried by a majority vote.
 - To be divisible, the question must contain independent propositions so distinct and entire that one of them being taken away, the other may stand perfect and complete.
 - Thus, a motion to appropriate money for the relief of a member is not divisible, because if the clause "to appropriate money" should be stricken out, the clause "for the relief of a member" would be without meaning.
 - The Worshipful Master may overrule a call or demand for division if in his opinion the question is not capable of intelligent division, and this puts an end to the matter.

2. A call for division yields temporarily to Privileged Questions.

QUESTION FOR READING PAPERS

PURPOSE: To secure consideration of the reading or the re-reading of a paper.

1. No member can be required to vote on any paper the contents of which are unknown to him. Therefore, any member has the right to call for the reading of any paper which constitutes the subject matter of the proposition being discussed.

- No formal motion is required.

2. If the paper has already been once read, or if referring only indirectly to the matter at hand, then it should not be read except upon motion duly made and acted upon.

3. A call for the reading of a paper yields temporarily to Privileged Questions.

SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS

PURPOSE: To consider disposition of a principal motion, either temporarily or permanently without coming to a direct vote on it.

1. Subsidiary motions are intended to change the character of a principal motion or to control its disposition.

2. Can be considered only in their accepted rank or order of precedence, as follows:

- Table
- Postpone Indefinitely
- Postpone To a Time Certain
- Commit
- Amend

3. When any subsidiary motion is pending, any motion above it is in order and any below it is out of order.

- Thus, while a principal motion is being considered, a motion may be made to amend it. It might then be moved to commit it, with the amendment to committee for action and report. It might then be moved to postpone indefinitely or to a time certain. And lastly, before any of these questions has been put, a motion might be made to let the whole matter lie on the table.
 - If adopted, it puts an end to the matter until it is taken from the table.

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- If rejected, each of the others is put until the question is decided. If an amendment be adopted, the question is on the original proposition as amended. If the amendment is lost, then the question is on the original motion.
 - Should a motion to table be put first, no other subsidiary motion can be considered until the motion to table is disposed of by action of the Lodge.
- 4. A subsidiary motion must be disposed of before the main or principal motion can be determined.
- 5. Any member may require that a subsidiary motion be reduced to writing.
- 6. No second is required for subsidiary motions, except for a motion to amend, but by general practice it is generally given.
- 7. Subsidiary motions yield temporarily to Privileged Questions; also to Incidental Questions, if related.

MOTION TO TABLE

PURPOSE: To consider laying a matter aside.

1. Since it acts to close debate, a motion to table is rarely used in a Masonic Lodge, however, if offered, it must be considered before all other subsidiary motions.
2. No second is required, but by general practice it is generally given.
3. Undebatable. The question must be put immediately.
4. Requires a majority vote.
5. If adopted, the matter going to the table carries with it all adhering motions.
 - That is, a principal motion being before the Lodge, a motion may be made to amend, followed by an amendment to that amendment. Then it may be moved that the amendment to the amendment lie on the table.
 - If adopted, not only the amendment to the amendment but the first amendment also, as well as the original motion, all go to the table.
6. Yields temporarily to Privileged Questions; also to Incidental Questions, if related.
7. If rejected, it cannot be renewed unless some new matter pertaining to the question has been introduced,
 - Thus, if on the failure of the motion to lie on the table, a new amendment is offered to the original question, then a motion to lay on the table may be made again.
8. Any matter tabled remains there until taken up in the manner described under "Take from the Table."

MOTION TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY

PURPOSE: To consider delaying disposition of a matter to some indefinite time in the future.

1. A motion to postpone indefinitely acts to close debate and is the equivalent, for all practical purposes, of a rejection.

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2. Debatable.
3. Any question pending when the motion is made can be discussed.
 - This motion is sometimes made in order that a member who had already spoken may be heard again. In such cases, after the member has been heard he usually proposes to withdraw his motion, but such withdrawal does not prevent its renewal by any other member.
4. Requires no second but by general practice it is generally given.
5. Requires a majority vote.
6. A postponed motion carries with it all adhering motions.
7. May be brought up by any member as unfinished business at any regular communication.
8. A motion to reconsider cannot be entertained unless it is made at the same communication the question to postpone was determined and unless the motion is made by a member who voted with the majority, or winning side, as previously explained under Principal Motions.
9. Yields temporarily to Privileged Questions; also to Incidental Questions, if related.

MOTION TO POSTPONE TO A TIME CERTAIN

PURPOSE: To consider delaying disposition of a matter to some set day or hour* in the future. Seldom used.

1. When a proposition is presented to the Lodge and the Lodge is not prepared for some reason to consider it, a motion may be made to postpone its consideration to some other time, or to make the Special Order for that time.
 - If adopted, the proposition, with all that is connected with it, is removed from further consideration until the time specified when it comes up as a privileged question and takes precedence over all other business.
2. No second is required for a motion to postpone to a time certain, but by general principle it is generally given.
3. Debatable, but only on the expediency of postponing. No reference to the merits of the original proposal is in order.
4. Amendable, but to set time only.
5. One form of postponing to a time certain is to move that the question be made the Special Order for a certain time, for which a second is required. See "Special Orders."
6. Requires a majority vote.
7. A postponed question carries with it all adhering motions.
8. Yields temporarily to Privileged Questions; also to Incidental Questions, if related.
9. A motion to reconsider cannot be entertained unless it is made at the same communication the question to postpone was determined and unless the motion was made by a member who voted with the majority, or winning side, as explained previously under Principal Motions.

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*If used In Lodge to postpone to a later hour in the evening, the rules which govern such a motion are precisely the same as those which apply to postponement to a day certain, except that "hour" is substituted for "day."

MOTION TO COMMIT

PURPOSE: To consider referring a matter to a committee for further study and investigation in order to conserve the time of the Lodge.

1. When it is desired to make a fuller study or investigation of a proposition than is likely to be obtained by a discussion in Lodge, a motion may be made to commit the matter to a committee.
2. No second is required but by general practice it is generally given.
3. If the motion is to refer the matter to a standing committee, the mover should indicate which committee; if to a special committee, mover should so state.
4. Debatable, but only to the expediency or propriety of referring. No reference to the merits of the original proposal is in order.
5. Amendable within limits, as for instance, to add "with instructions to report."
6. Requires a majority vote.
7. Adheres to the principal motion and cannot be tabled or postponed without taking the main question with it.
8. If adopted, all pending amendments are referred with the main questions. No further consideration is given the matter, or any similar to it, until the committee makes its report.
9. If the report .of the committee is not satisfactory, a motion may then be made to recommit, with or without instructions, for the purpose of having an amended report.
 - Such motion may be made at any time prior to the adoption of the report.
 - If adopted, the entire matter is brought back to the Lodge in the condition it was at the time of the original appointment of the committee, and an amended or revised report is presented at a later time.
10. Yields temporarily to Privileged Questions; also to Incidental Questions, if related.
11. A motion to reconsider cannot be entertained unless it is made at the same communication the question to commit or recommit was determined and unless the motion was made by a member who voted with the majority, or winning side, as previously explained under Principal Motions.

FILLING BLANKS

1. A proposition may sometimes be presented to the Lodge, and adopted, in incomplete form.
 - For example, a motion may be made and adopted to appropriate a sum of money without stating the precise amount at that time. Or a motion may be adopted to undertake some project or activity at some future time, leaving the exact time for subsequent consideration and determination. In these cases a blank occurs which must be filled in by the Lodge.
 - It is customary to leave the filling in of the blanks until the motion is adopted, because if it should be rejected any further discussion would be unnecessary.

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- After adoption, the question to be put by the Worshipful Master is, "How shall the blank(s) be filled?"
 - Since a motion to fill the blanks is not considered an amendment to the original motion, any number of motions may be made.
 - In determining the order in which they should be considered, the Worshipful Master should commence with the highest sum and/or the longest time and continue putting the motions in this order until the Lodge comes to one on which the majority can agree.
2. If the sum or time is inserted by the mover of the original motion but it is not satisfactory to all, an effort may be made to change it.
- This can be done only in the form of an amendment and the principal of the largest sum or the longest time does not apply.
 - The parliamentary law of amendments will be in force.
 - That is, one amendment only, and one amendment to that, is permissible and the latter must be put first.
 - Thus, the original motion may be to "appoint a committee of three members."
 - An amendment may be made to strike out three and insert five.
 - And that may be amended to strike out five and insert seven instead five.
 - The motion to strike out and insert may be divided.
 - If the motion to strike out be lost, the motion to insert cannot be put. But a new motion may be made to strike out three and insert nine or some number other than five and seven.
 - If the motion to strike out be adopted, then the amendment to insert seven will be put in order.
 - And, that being lost, then the question will recur on inserting five.
 - If this also be lost, then proposition will remain incomplete, because three has been stricken out and nothing inserted in its place; and a new amendment must be offered for the insertion of some other number.
 - The proceedings will continue by the introduction of new figures until the original proposition is perfected by the adoption of some number which will be satisfactory to the majority.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

PURPOSE: To bring up a question again for further consideration and a new vote.

1. A motion to reconsider is a privileged question.
 - In Lodge, it can be entertained only at the same communication at any time before Lodge is closed.
2. Must be made by a member who voted with the majority – that is, the winning side, as previously explained under Principal Motions.
 - If it were permitted that those who had been defeated might seek to renew the contest in another test of strength, then the time of the Lodge might be wasted by the repeated efforts of the few, who were discontented, to obtain a reconsideration and a new discussion of a question which had already been determined by the many to their satisfaction.
3. Requires a second.
4. Requires only a majority vote, even though the original question may require a two-thirds or other vote for adoption.
5. Un-debatable, unless the original question was debatable.

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6. Can be made only in reference to matters which remain within the control of the Lodge.
 - For example, when an appropriation has been approved and the Lodge has paid out the money, it would be too late to move reconsideration of the motion making the appropriation.
7. The first effect of a motion to reconsider is that during its pendency the operation of the original motion is suspended and cannot be executed until the Lodge has disposed of the motion for reconsideration.
8. May be tabled or postponed, which leaves the original proposition in force.
9. If adopted, the original proposition comes up for immediate action in the precise form adopted. It may be discussed (if debatable), amended, postponed, laid on the table or subjected to any other operation to which it was liable during its original passage.
10. When a motion to reconsider has been decided, either in the affirmative or negative, or while it is still pending, no second motion for reconsideration can be made. However, if on its reconsideration the proposition has been altered by new amendments, a motion to reconsider again would then be in order.
11. If, at a future communication, it is desired to undo that which was previously done, the proper motion would be to rescind or repeal, not to reconsider.
12. Yields temporarily to Questions of Privilege.

MOTION TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE

PURPOSE: To renew consideration of a matter previously laid aside by action of the Lodge.

1. A motion to take from the table is considered to be more like a principal motion than a subsidiary.
2. Takes precedence over any principal motion not yet stated by the Worshipful Master, but it can be made only when there is no other unfinished business before the Lodge.
3. May be made by any member.
4. Requires a second.
5. May not be debated or amended.
6. Requires a majority vote.
7. A question taken from the table is exactly as when tabled, with all adhering motions.
8. Yields temporarily to Privileged Questions; also to Incidental Questions, if related.
9. A motion to reconsider cannot be entertained unless it is made at the same communication the question to take from the table was determined and unless the motion is made by a member who voted with the majority, or winning side, as previously explained under Principal Motions.