

Business Meeting Quorum and Majority Vote Information

For discussion at 2019 Fall Assembly

During the Spring 2019 Assembly vote to accept the Convention Excess Surplus Guideline it became apparent the Area should look at reviewing, updating and establishing better guidelines/procedures/policies for both what makes a quorum and what a majority vote is for our business meetings.

The first steps will be to update our existing policy (see below) and possibly add the majority vote to that. Going forward the Secretary will then have procedures to follow for informing the business meeting of what the actual number is for a quorum and the number needed for a majority vote at that meeting.

The Policy Committee and AWSC discussed all of this at their last meetings and put together information for our discussion. As with all policies, the Assembly will make the final decision.

Quorum

Current policy from our Policy Manual, page 2, General Policies #3:

“A quorum consisting of 15% of the registered groups must be present to do business and 15% of the members of the AWSC must be present to do business.”

Note:

15% is the current quorum stated in our policy. Although at first it may seem low, that percentage was mainly established to make sure that business could be conducted even when there is a low turnout. It has worked well for many years now and we have always had a good representation of members at each meeting. *As an interesting side note, if anything, some members of the Policy Committee would see it changed to an even lower percentage rather than higher.*

New possible wording for Policy Manual:

A quorum consisting of at least 15% of the total members must be represented at a business meeting to do business. At Assembly ‘member’ means active registered groups.

Majority Vote

Currently the Area does not have a policy or procedure regarding what is needed for a majority vote. Do we want a general policy or just a procedure to follow, such as deciding at the start of each meeting, or discussion, what a majority will be? Here is some information to help start the discussion.

Majority Vote: Types and *Sample* Numbers

Mere Majority: most votes decides

Simple Majority: at least one more than half needed to decide

2/3 Majority: at least 2/3 needed to decide

Other fraction/percentage: i.e. 3/4

Straw Poll: show of hands used to get clarification/understanding but not an official vote

Chart with *sample* numbers of members needed for a quorum and three different examples of members being present:

	Active Groups/ Members (sample)	15% needed for Quorum	Number Present (sample)	2/3 for Majority Vote	Simple Majority (1 more than half)	Mere Majority (Most Votes decides)
Assembly	300	45	58	38	30	58 total: 25-yes, 23-no, 10-abstain (yes is the decision)
			50	33	26	
			45	30	23	
AWSC	30	5	27	18	14	27 total: 10-yes, 14-no, 3-abstain (no is the decision)
			20	13	11	
			5	3	3	

Possible wording for a general Policy:

If a quorum for the meeting has been met then a majority vote will be ___ (TBD-i.e. 1/2; 2/3) of voting members represented unless, for a specific issue, the body votes ahead of time to have a different majority.