

## Making a Motion

Members are given the opportunity to vote on issues of importance to the Assembly, such as the Assembly budget for the upcoming year, approval of an unexpected expense, or changes to the Assembly's by-laws. Generally, the Worthy Advisor will discuss the item that needs approval from the Assembly, then she will ask for a motion and a second for the action being considered. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, the Worthy Advisor will ask if there is any discussion. During the discussion, girls should ask any questions they may have about the item being considered, so they can make an informed vote in favor of or in opposition to the item. Following the discussion, the Worthy Advisor will continue by saying, "It has been moved and seconded that the Assembly...., all in favor indicate by saying "aye" (pronounced "eye") ...all opposed indicated by saying "nay." The Worthy Advisor also has the option of requesting a show of hands in favor and in opposition to the item. Based on the outcome of the vote, the Worthy Advisor will announce that the motion has passed or failed.

**Example** Prior to the start of each calendar year, the Assembly needs to approve its budget for the upcoming expense. The budget was distributed to the members during the first meeting in December and members had the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed budget during the second meeting in December. Now, during the first meeting in January, the members need to vote to approve the budget.

**Worthy Advisor:** The Chair will entertain a motion that we approve the Assembly budget for the upcoming year."

She will then call upon one of the members who has risen, indicating she is prepared to make the motion. The member responds, "Thank you, Worthy Advisor, I move that the Assembly approve the budget for the upcoming year."

The Worthy Advisor will then call on a second member, who has also stood up (indicating she intends to second the motion). After being called upon, the member says, "Thank you, Worthy Advisor, I second the motion."

**Worthy Advisor:** It has been moved and seconded that we approve the budget for the upcoming year. Is there any discussion?

If girls have questions, they should be addressed at this time. The Worthy Advisor is responsible for making sure the girls' questions are answered.

**Worthy Advisor continues:** It has been moved and seconded that we approve the budget for the upcoming year. All in favor? All opposed?

Assuming all voted in favor, the Worthy Advisor continues: The vote being unanimous, the motion passes and our budget is approved.

**When making a motion** If a motion is for an expense, it is important that the motion include the amount of the expense, so that the intent of the motion is clearly understood by everyone who will be voting.

**How many votes are needed to pass a motion?** In Rainbow, motions are approved on a simple majority, which is half of the members present plus one. So, if twelve members are present, a total of 7 would have to vote in favor of a motion for it to pass.

**Can I vote against a motion?** Yes, members may vote against a motion.

If the motion does not pass, the Worthy Advisor will request a new motion. At that time, those who voted against the first motion should stand and make a new motion, one that they would feel more comfortable supporting.

Sometimes, during the discussion process, a better idea is suggested, and it becomes necessary for the Assembly to either amend the motion or to vote against the first motion so the new recommendation can be considered and voted on.