

# Parliamentary Session

## CSAP Pacific Area – January 28, 2012



### Suspend the Rules (not 'Suspend the Orders of the Day')

When an assembly wishes to do something it cannot do without violating its regular rules, it can adopt to '**Suspend the Rules**' that interfere with the proposed action. This motion cannot be debated or amended, however it does have other restrictions.

#### Restrictions:

- I. A Standing Rule may be suspended with a majority vote.
- II. Rules of Order (Robert's) may be suspended with a 2/3 vote (except FPPL).
- III. The following may not be suspended even with unanimous consent.
  - A. Bylaws or Constitution unless they provide for their own suspension, or...
  - B. Federal, State, or local laws
  - C. Fundamental Principles of Parliamentary Law (FPPL):
    1. Rule that allows only one question at a time
    2. Rule that allows only members to vote
    3. Rule that prohibits absentee or cumulative voting
    4. Rule that protects absentees or basic rights of individuals
      - a. Rule requiring presence of a quorum
      - b. Rule requiring a notice
      - c. Rule protecting the right to attend meeting, make motion, speak in debate, and vote

#### Drill

"I move to suspend the rule that interferes with listening to the committee's report."

#### For each of the following,

1. Move a motion to **suspend the rule that prohibits** the action;
2. State if the rule can be suspended; and
3. State what the necessary vote for adoption would be.

You want to **suspend a rule that prohibits** the following actions. Make the motion:

- a. To allow delegates to sit wherever they wish
- b. To allow a speaker to debate an additional 2 minutes
- c. To allow smoking in the assembly room
- d. To allow voting by mail
- e. To allow election of officers by a show of hands
- f. To take up 2 motions at one time
- g. To allow the voting in the absence of a quorum
- h. To allow members at the convention without their required name tags
- i. To dispense with the listening to the Treasurer's Report
- j. To not require a resolution in writing at the convention