



Origins of a Main Motion

1. **Item on an agenda:**
 - a. The chair introduces the item briefly and even introduces the appropriate person.
 - b. The called upon member introduces a Main Motion (seconded).
 - c. Debate/Vote.

2. **Item not on an agenda (if bylaws allow 'New Business'):**
 - a. A member introduces a Main Motion (seconded) and it is within the association's scope (or not) during 'New Business'.
 - b. Debate/Vote.

3. **Committee is charged with returning a recommendation (Main or Secondary Motion):** [Motion presented by a committee is immediately pending.]
 - a. Committee Chair presents a report.
 - b. Committee Chair concludes the report by stating the committee's recommendations. The Committee Chair may not make the motion.
[Resolutions committees are not charged with moving a motion. They are asked for a recommendation, "Resolved that". A member must then move a motion.]
 - i. Any member moves the recommendation as a motion (no second required), or
 - ii. Any member moves a slightly different motion (second required), or
 - iii. Any member moves a completely antagonistic motion (second required)
 - c. Debate/Vote.

4. **Committee has the bylaw authority to introduce a Main Motion (e.g., Standing Committee):** [Motion presented by a committee is immediately pending.]
 - a. Committee Chair presents a report.
 - b. Committee Chair moves the committee's motion (no second required).
[A chair may read this expected resolution in the form of a motion, and even handle it as an assumed motion. Debate would follow without the need of a second. Any member may amend, but may not introduce a different motion.]
 - c. Debate/Vote.

5. **Chair assumes a routine motion:**
 - a. Chair states, "If there is no objection, a motion to ... will be adopted."
 - b. For example, adopt agenda, adopt minutes, take a recess, adjourn, skip to a different part of the agenda, lay/take from the table, refer, postpone, adopt an amendment, extend time of debate, close debate, suspend the rules, etc.
 - c. If there is no objection the motion has been properly adopted without a second, debate, or voting.
 - d. If there is an objection, the chair handles the motion according to Robert's Rules' 6 formal steps.



Wording and Examples of Main Motions Introduced by a Committee

1. Form of reporting - Standing Committee, p. 515:

The standing committee reports, and concludes with ***“Mr. President, by direction of (or on behalf of the) standing committee, I move the adoption of the resolution just read.”***

2. Form of reporting - Special Committee, p. 516:

- ***“The committee to which was referred ... reports that (or recommends that) ...”***
- ***“The committee appointed to ... reports that ... (or submits the following report).”***
- ***“The committee to which was referred the resolution to ..., recommends that the resolution be adopted (or not be adopted).”***
- ***“The committee to which was referred ... has not been able to arrive at a recommendation.”*** [The motion becomes immediately pending!]
- ***Chair may state, “The question is on the adoption of the resolution. The committee recommends that the resolution be rejected.” p. 518***

3. When to Report:

In accordance with the order of business –

- Standing Committees in sequence listed in the bylaws;
- Special Committees in order of their appointment.

4. If Report not listed on the Agenda:

If not included in the order of business, the reporting member obtains the floor when no business is pending and announces that the committee is prepared to submit a report. The chair may handle the report or if another member objects, puts the submission of the report to a vote.

“Shall the report be received now?”

5. Committee Report without Recommendations:

If a committee reported and made recommendations without a motion, any member of the assembly could state:

“In accordance with the committee’s recommendations, I move that ...”, p. 516.

6. Partial Report, p. 527:

If a committee was assigned to make recommendations, the committee may make recommendations during a partial report before the final report. And the committee may be discharged with a majority vote during a partial report.

7. Minority Report, p. 527:

The assembly may grant some committee members who did not concur with the opinion of the committee (= with the committee report) to present a minority view. This is a privilege that the assembly may accord, and not a matter of right. No one may disclose what occurred during the committee’s deliberation.

- ***“The undersigned, a minority of the committee appointed to ..., not agreeing with the majority, desire to express their views.” p. 528***



Greater Sacramento Parliamentarians
Rancho Córdova Library -- March 24, 2016

8. **'Committee of the whole'** and the **'quasi committee of the whole'**, p. 529, vote on motions, but are mere recommendations to the assembly's final vote. The committee rises and reports to the assembly.
 - ***"Mr. President, the committee of the whole has had under consideration ... and has instructed me to report as follows to the assembly..." p. 536.***

During **'Informal Consideration'**, the votes taken reflect the decision of the assembly and no reporting is necessary.

9. Reports by Officers:

It is customary to hear reports from officers only at Annual Meetings. The rest of the year, officers make reports only if they have something to present. In either case, an officer should not be making a motion based on his own recommendations. (p. 356)

Drill:

Based on the reporting formats described on the previous pages, please seek recognition, and then perform the actions listed below:

- 1) Present a Standing Committee report.
- 2) Present a Special Committee report.
- 3) Make a motion based on a committee report that made no motion on its own.
- 4) As the Committee Chair that was assigned a task, report that the committee cannot reach a decision.
- 5) As a chair, put a motion base on a committee's recommendation to reject.
- 6) Introduce a Minority Report.
- 7) As the chair of a 'Committee of the Whole', report the committee's recommendations.
- 8) As an officer making an annual report to the assembly present a motion based on your recommendations.
- 9) As the Presiding Officer propose that a report be heard, even though it is not on the agenda.
- 10) As a member, propose that the decision by the assembly during Informal Consideration be adopted.

[Q1-A1; 2-2; 3-5; 4-2; 5-2; 6-7; 7-8; 8-9; 9-4; 10-6]