



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: April 2, 2021

FROM: Cathy Bouchard, national chairperson of resolutions

TO: Parish chairpersons of resolutions

CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

“Resolutions play a major part in the League’s work. Through them, policy may be established, programs planned, or concerns and views expressed to governments.” (*Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*) It is important that as many members as are able and wish to participate in adopting resolutions are present when a resolution is presented and discussed.

The 2020 annual general meetings for diocesan, provincial and national council will be held in combination with the 2021 conventions. At the 2021 combination of virtual and in-person annual meetings, members will only consider necessary business. Resolutions will not be presented. Any resolutions, unless they are urgent, will be deferred to 2022. Deferring resolutions that move through the different levels of the League gives the opportunity to allow for the full participation of interested members.

If a parish council adopted a resolution at its level in 2020, directed to another level of the League, the process will continue in 2022.

Question: In 2020, a parish council began a resolution regarding loneliness. The council that created this would like to include new information that has arisen from the COVID-19 pandemic. As this resolution was not brought forward to a diocesan convention, it is still the parish council’s property. After the council changes its original resolution, the resolution can be submitted with all the information for 2022.

The parish council can amend the motion (resolution) within its council.

- The motion to rescind is used to cancel a motion altogether.
- The motion to amend something previously adopted is used to change a motion (resolution) either by making a simple change or two or by substituting something else in its place. In the case of this parish council’s resolution, the council would want to amend something previously adopted.

Possible wording of this motion could be: “I move to amend the motion Resolution 2020.01 Action on Loneliness...”

- by inserting (or adding, if placing at the end) words, sentences, or paragraphs
- by striking out words, sentences, or paragraphs
- by striking out and inserting words (with the words inserted replacing the words struck out)
- by amending by substitution (a form of strike out and insert applied to paragraphs or entire motions)

Rules for this motion:

- may be proposed only when no other motion is pending
- must be seconded
- may be debated

After the motion has been seconded, the debate can begin, saying why the resolution should be changed. For example, that members would like to include new information that has arisen by the COVID-19 pandemic.

If the council wishes to change the brief of its resolution, no motions to make a change need to be made. Members vote on the actual resolution clause itself, not the brief or action plan.

Vote requirements

Three possible variations of vote requirements allow a council to amend something previously adopted:

- **Two-thirds vote without previous notice**
- **Majority vote with previous notice:** If a member has given notice that she will make the motion at the next meeting, it can be adopted by a majority vote.
- **Majority of the entire membership:** In a situation in which there is no notice, a motion to amend something previously adopted can be adopted if it receives the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire membership.

Suppose a council has 15 members, and 13 are present at the meeting. If all 13 vote, a two-thirds vote would require nine votes, but a majority of the entire membership is only eight. Sometimes, it is easier to achieve a majority of the entire membership than to get a two-thirds vote.

Helpful Resources:

- *Parliamentary Procedure*, page 28, found at cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/617-Parliamentary-Procedure-May-2020.pdf.
- “Robert’s Rules for Rescinding or Amending Something Previously Adopted,” located at dummies.com/careers/business-skills/roberts-rules-for-rescinding-or-amending-something-previously-adopted/
- “Amend Something Previously Adopted,” from *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th Edition*, Section 35 Rescind; 1-13, pgs. 289-319.

*Please note there is a new version, *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th Edition*.