

Who Can Vote?

Chapter Board of Trustees Meetings

The Chapter president presides over chapter board meetings, although board meetings may vary by county. Generally, the county bylaws will identify the board members. In most chapters, voting members consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees and Immediate Past President. Only actual board members can make a motion, second a motion, and call for the question and/or vote. The board has legal accountability to chapter members for its decisions.

There can be issues that come up on a county level that can be thrown open to the general membership at the discretion of the President. In those cases, it needs to be made clear that all members present have a vote. Examples of this would be asking if members want to host a seminar, participate in a fund raising event, pick colors for decorations, etc. Since a show of hands or simple voice vote can decide the matter, a formal motion is not required; the results can simply be recorded in the meeting minutes. Guests who may be in attendance should not vote even on "unofficial" chapter business.

It is important that issues voted on do not conflict with the chapter, state or national bylaws. Anything that has a financial impact on the chapter would require a board vote since the board is accountable to all members for the funds it holds.