Assembly Voting Procedures Reading Before the First Vote

From time to time, items of interest, after discussion, require a formal decision. Motions are presented, seconded, and then discussed.

Who has Voice: Voice is restricted to those who are members of NCWSA. Members include the GRs, and all members of the NCWSC, Committee. These other NCWSC members are not representing groups, but have expertise within their duties that may be important to be heard. Unless they are also GRs, these members do not represent any group’s opinion.

There may be some groups who have sent a “non-voting representative” who is also a member of AA. While a “non-voting representative” is welcome as an observer, that person does not have voice since a member of AA cannot be a member of NCWSA.

The Chairperson may allow voice of specific non-members for specific issues, such as when a invited guest such as a WSO staff member is present.

- All comments are to be made at a microphone and are limited to two minutes and only one appearance at the microphone per person per motion is allowed.
- Only one motion may be discussed at a time.
- The motion can be re-read, if necessary.

Who may Vote: it has been traditional in our Area that only GRs vote at Assemblies.

- Unless otherwise required by the By-Laws, a majority vote is required to carry a motion.
- However, we strive to abide by the Third Warranty principle: “That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible by substantial unanimity.” Here on the one hand we erect a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of simple majority. And, on the other hand take notice of the rights and frequent wisdom of minority views, however small. This principle further guarantees that all matters of importance will be extensively debated, until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision we are called upon to make in the Assembly.

Asking for a Consensus:

- At times, there is a need for a consensus from the Assembly to obtain a sense of direction before moving forward on a project. When a consensus is requested, the Assembly Chair asks for a show of hands indicating yes or no expression from the Assembly members. Since this is not a formal vote, closed ballots are not necessary, nor will abstentions be requested.

The Abstaining Vote

- may be counted as a No if the majority vote is not reached. In addition, these votes may not allow us to reach a substantial majority that we aim for.

This Reading has been excerpted from the A-13 Guideline, last revised 7/23/11. The full A-13 Guideline can be found on the NCWSA Website at https://northerncaliforniaal-anon.org/