

call to order

Nominations

—J. Michael Blaska, Parliamentarian & Chief of Staff,
Wisconsin Counties Association



When voters go to the polls for a general election they are not limited to voting for the candidates on the ballot. The electorate can vote for whomever they choose by simply writing in a name. When an organization convenes for the purpose of electing their officers, the members can also vote for whomever they wish. However, in most cases there is no ballot and a nomination process is initiated.

Once the election of officers comes up on the agenda, the chair opens the meeting for nominations by declaring, “I will now accept nominations from the floor for chairman of the board (or whatever the office).” If the existing chair expects to be a candidate for the office, he or she should step aside and allow the vice-chair or someone else not likely to be a candidate to conduct that portion of the meeting.

To make a nomination, unlike making a motion, a member need not be recognized by the chair. The member simply shouts out the name by stating, “I nominate John Doe.” If the chair does not state, “John Doe has been nominated,” the person should continue to shout out their nominee until the chair restates the name. It is permissible for a member to nominate him or herself. A second is not required. Very often nominations are confused with motions, nominations do not require a second, as do motions. For those of you who watch the political conventions, it is common practice for a delegate to make a nominating speech and for another delegate to second the nomination with another speech.

Nominating and seconding speeches are a way of showing support for a particular candidate.

The chair should continue to accept nominations until everyone has had a chance to nominate. Does the chair have to ask three times, “Are there any more nominations?” No, this is a misconception. When the chair feels that everyone has had a chance to nominate and there are no more nominations, he or she can declare that nominations are closed.

The chair can accept a motion to close nominations with a second. This motion is not debatable, is amendable, requires a two-thirds vote and is out of order when a member is attempting to make a nomination. Motions to determine the method of nominations and to reopen nominations only require a simple majority.

In situations where there is only one nominee and everyone is supportive, it is common practice for a member to move to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the nominee.

In larger societies, it is not unusual to create a nominating committee. The nominating committee should be elected by the organization or its executive board. It is their job to find qualified members that are interested in serving and are electable. The nominating committee may submit the nominees in advance of the election depending on the committee’s instructions when it was created. At the appropriate time, the committee submits its report by placing the names in nomination. The chair must then ask for nominations from the floor.

A nominating ballot can also be used. It is conducted in the same way an electing ballot except that each member receiving a vote is nominated, votes are not counted. The nominating ballot gauges the sentiment of the body by showing preferences without electing someone. A nominating ballot should never be used as an electing ballot.

Remember, an official nomination “process” is not required because, as was pointed out earlier, members can vote for whomever they wish even if they have not been nominated.

Now that we have a nominee, next month we will move on with the election.

Source: Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition

**JAN25
2016**



**STILL
TIME TO
REGISTER
ONLINE**

WWW.WICOUNTIES.ORG



**January 25, 2016
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**Holiday Inn Stevens
Point Convention
Center
Stevens Point,
Wisconsin**

Educational SEMINAR

THE COUNTY BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

After the county board elections this upcoming April, Wisconsin’s county boards are required by statute to meet on the third Tuesday of April to “organize and transact business.” In preparation for this pivotal post-election meeting, the Wisconsin Counties Association will conduct an educational seminar *The County Board Organizational Meeting* on January 25, 2016 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

The seminar will focus on the general purpose of the Organizational Meeting, which is to elect officers and adopt the rules by which the board will operate for the next two years.

Register today to attend this not-to-be-missed educational seminar at www.wicounties.org/events.

Agenda

1. Welcome & Overview
2. Roles & Responsibilities
3. Conducting the Organizational Meeting
4. Drafting the Board Rules/Policies
 - Officers – number, types, duties
 - Organization of the Board – agendas, committees, resolutions and ordinances
 - Procedural Rules
5. Rules of Decorum