



September Bonus Quiz

Here's a slightly different situation than this month's "Quiz Yourself" which dealt with members who might be behind in payment of dues. What about organizations that don't require the payment of dues in order to be a member of the group? How do such organizations maintain a membership roster? How could such organizations establish a quorum for their meetings? How can such organizations insure that only *bona fide* persons participate at meetings? Give yourself some time to answer these before you check out what *RONR* has to say on the subject.

Answer from Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition:

(p. 346, ll. 1-5) "In organizations such as many churches or some societies in which there is no required or effective annual dues and the register of members is not generally reliable as a list of the bona-fide members, the quorum at any regularly or properly called meeting consists of those who attend."

Some rhetorical questions to pose: Do you deal with any groups that are covered by this section? Are they easy to deal with? Do they maintain some sort of membership roster in order to communicate with members? How do they accomplish additions to the roster? Is there a mechanism in place to periodically scrutinize the roster and possibly remove members who no longer participate? Other than specific payment of dues, are there other types of membership requirements that could be in place to establish a membership roster? The quorum requirement in any situation of non-specific membership appears too be the same as at a mass meeting as noted in *RONR*.

Some churches/synagogues/temples do place membership and voting restrictions based on a member's level of financial contribution or a member's participation or their allegiance to the group rather than a specific payment of dues. In such cases, voting restrictions (and a quorum requirement for meetings) should be clearly spelled out in their bylaws or guidelines.