

ESTABLISHING A QUORUM: RAINBOW MEETING

What is a Quorum?

A quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present to conduct business.

In Rainbow, a quorum for a Rainbow meeting is defined in the Uniform Code of By-Laws (Section 5) as follows:

“A quorum necessary to transact business shall be five (5) members. If five (5) members of this Assembly are not present, visiting members and/or Majority members may be included, but have no vote. The Supreme Inspector / Supreme Deputy in the Jurisdiction shall determine the ratio of active members to Majority members necessary to constitute a quorum.”

What is the allowable ratio of Assembly, visiting, and Majority members?

Ideally, the quorum should consist entirely of members of the Assembly. However, on those occasions when five (5) Assembly members are not present, the percentage of the five who need to be active members (vs. Majority members) appears to be situation dependent. For example:

Winnemucca #10: During a recent trip to Winnemucca for an Initiation, it appeared that Winnemucca may have not have five (5) members present. In that case, it would have been reasonable to allow visiting members to count towards the quorum. The visiting members had traveled for 3 hours to assist with initiation, and the new members (and their families) were waiting to be initiated. Had a quorum of Assembly members not been achieved, a Special Dispensations should have been requested and issued to allow the Assembly to meet without five (5) of their members present for the purpose of initiation.

Carson #7: During the past year, this assembly has been struggling with membership. At one point, the Assembly had five (5) active members, which meant that one girl being absent could jeopardize the Assembly's ability to hold a meeting. It would not fair to the four who showed up to not be allowed to have a meeting; it would also unfair to the one girl who was too sick to be at the meeting. In this situation, it seems reasonable (and in the best interest of the girls) to allow visiting members and Majority members to count toward the quorum, so the meeting could be held.

In a situation such as this, it would be prudent to limit the business conducted during the non-quorum meeting to urgent issues, such as new business, reading of Applications for Membership, and Balloting. Other major decisions should be deferred until such time as a quorum of the Assembly's members are present, if at all possible.

If it appears that an Assembly may struggle to have a quorum consistently, such as during a rebuilding phase, the Grand Deputy may request a Special Dispensation for the term or the year. This allows the girls to know that they may continue to meet and conduct their business, without the additional worry of having a quorum of Assembly members present. It also alerts visiting members and Majority members that they may be called upon to assist during meetings.

Summer Vacation/Supreme Assembly: In some instances, it can be difficult to have a quorum during the summer months. Likewise, it is hard to keep girls motivated if they never have meetings and never get to exemplify their ritualistic work. In this event, a Special Dispensation should be requested and the quorum should be established, based on the members, visitors, and Majority members present. Again, it may be in the best interest of the girls to limit the business conducted during non-quorum meetings to essential activities, such as Reading of Applications for Membership and Balloting.

Which offices should be filled when a quorum is not present?

Statute does not specify which five (5) offices must be filled; however, it appears that the following would be essential for opening and closing a meeting:

- ✓ Worthy Advisor (a presiding officer)
- ✓ Hope (to open and close the Bible)
- ✓ Chaplain (to lead the Assembly in prayer)
- ✓ Drill Leader (to present the Flag)
- ✓ Confidential Observer (to secure the doors)

In Nevada, our tradition is that only Line Officers, Worthy Advisors and Past Worthy Advisors may fill in as Line Officers.

While Majority Members may assist in filling offices, it is recommended that they serve in offices that do not require them to perform floor work, offices such as Chaplain or Recorder.

Again, discretion should be used to create the best experience for the girls.