

## Board Decorum

### Eight rules of decorum based on Roberts Rules of Order

1. Remarks must be relevant to the topic at hand.
2. Members may not speak about the motives of others. (A member can condemn the nature or likely consequence of a proposed measure in strong terms, but must avoid personalities and under no circumstances can he attack or question the motives of another member.)
3. No arguing. (Vigorous - even heated - debate about controversial issues is entirely appropriate.)
4. No inflammatory language (use neutral language instead).
5. A member may not speak against her own motion. (Withdraw it instead.) (The member can still listen to others and change her mind for the vote.)
6. A member may not explain his vote while voting. (According to Robert, a member has no right to "explain his vote" during, voting, which would be the same as debate at such time.)
7. A member may not criticize a prior action of the group. (This is part of general duty of loyalty that members owe to the organization. If a member is not going to take steps to change a situation, do not discuss it at meetings.)
8. A member must support the group. (A member may not make statements which tend to injure the good name of the organization, disturb its well-being or hamper in its work. If a member is not unable to support the group, its work and its decisions then it is time for the member to leave the group.)