

**Committee on Rules of Order and Dispatch of Business
Report to the 222nd Diocesan Convention**

Members: The Rev. Peter Manzo, Chairman
The Rev. Dean Henry, Vice Chairman
Paul Ambos, Esq. (Chairman, Resolutions Committee and Constitutions and Canons)
Mrs. Dee Burdett
The Hon. Eugene Haring, Esq. (Chancellor and Parliamentarian)

A meeting of the committee was held on February 2, 2006 at diocesan headquarters. Fr. Manzo, Mr. Ambos, and Mr. Haring attended. The Rev. Elmer Sullivan also attended.

After discussion, the committee agreed upon the following items:

- #1. Insert into the Rules of 2005, at section VIII.2, after the third sentence, these words:
“Proposed resolutions must not include any “whereas” clause or other preamble.”

This proposal was requested by the Bishop. It follows the practice at the General Convention. Most of the resolutions submitted this year were already in this format. What is important in a resolution is the “Resolved” clauses which call for action. The basis for the action may be set forth in “a short explanatory statement by its proponent,” as already provided in Rule VIII.2 in the existing third sentence.

- #2. Replace the existing parenthetical statement in Rule VIII.1 with the following parenthetical statement:
“(other than those made through another committee)”.

This language used to read: “(other than those required by canon to be submitted to some other committee)”. The purpose of this change is to recognize that resolutions may come from existing committees, such as Clerical Compensation, or from Ad Hoc committees appointed by the convention president. Such resolutions should not be channeled through the Resolutions Committee, but may go directly to the Convention.

- #3. Add to Rule X.2 the following language: “In the case of a motion or resolution moved by a committee, the proposer of the motion or resolution (or if there is more than one proposer, one representative of the proposers) shall have the rights of a mover under the preceding sentence.”

Some proposals do not come before the convention directly from a proposer, but the proposal goes through a committee, which then brings the proposal before the Convention. Technically, the committee is the mover of someone else’s proposal. Our rules rightly allow the mover to speak more than twice, if in reply to another’s statement or question. Since the committee is a mere channel for such a proposal to reach the floor, the committee is not able to speak for the proposal in the way that only the proposer can. Hence, we have proposed the revision of our rules, as set forth above, to grant to the proposer of a motion or resolution the rights of a mover.

- #4. The committee, in exercising its responsibilities for Dispatch of Business, reviewed Convention Document 22, the Report of the Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons. Fr. Sullivan asked that his written proposals for changes in Canons (1) be presented directly to the convention and (2) be listed as separate agenda items.

As to items (1), the committee compared Fr. Sullivan’s proposals to the text of the committee report, and found that Fr. Sullivan’s text was included in Document 22 verbatim. Hence, the committee concluded that it would be a waste of paper to circulate three more sheets of paper to the 900 delegates when the text was already in their hands in Document 22.

We note that with the change proposed in #3 of this memo, Fr. Sullivan will have the rights of a mover, including to make an opening statement, to answer questions, and to speak more than twice if necessary to reply.

To facilitate this change, the committee makes the following language for the Convention script:

Committee Chair: "On behalf of the proposer, the committee moves [identify the proposal],
without recommendation;
OR: with recommendation against approval;
OR: with recommendation for approval."

Convention President:

"The chair recognizes X as the proposer of this [motion or resolution] under Rule X.2
for an opening statement of up to three minutes."

As to item (2), that matter is handled under #5 below.

#5. We also agreed that on the written Agenda of the Convention, items requiring action by the Convention should be specifically listed and so noted, so that members can be aware of when significant items will be brought before the convention for a vote.