

# 2025 World Service Conference

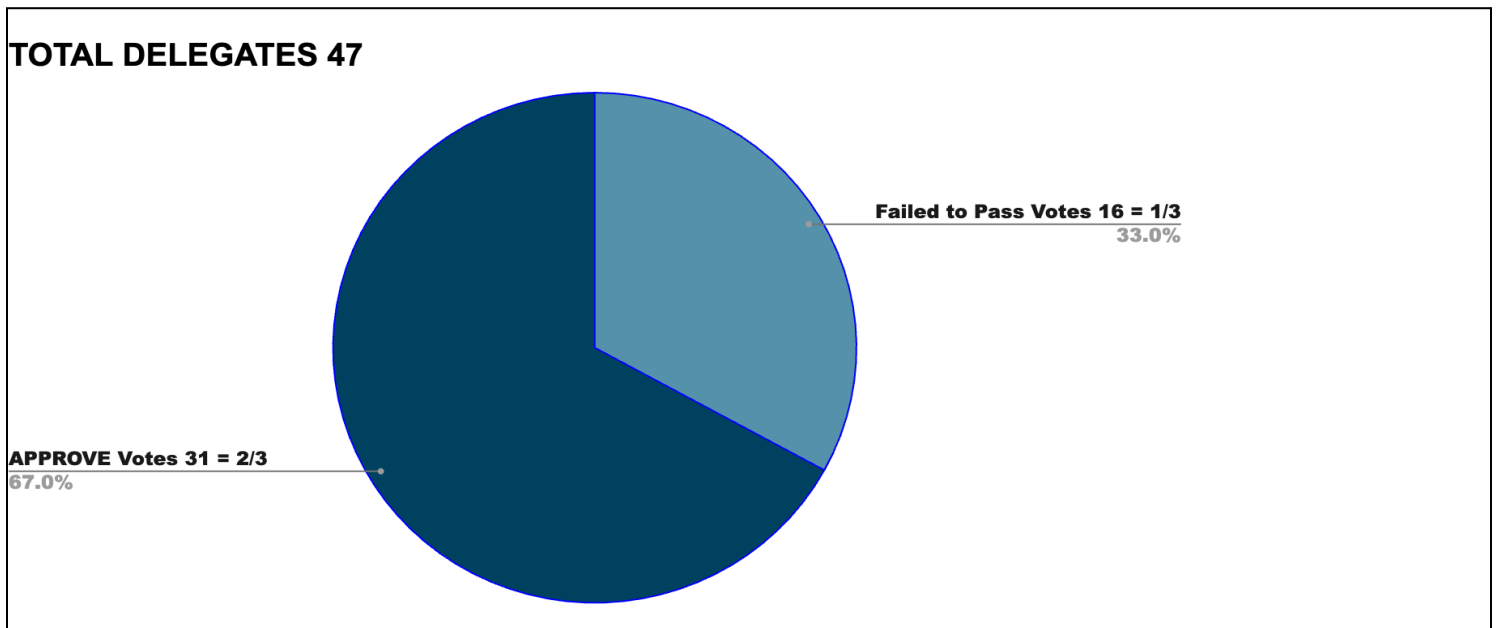
## VOTING PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES

### Updated Procedures

If a Delegate must leave during the conference, the alternate Delegate will be placed in the waiting room and allowed to enter the conference when there is a scheduled break. During the break, when the alternate enters the conference, the present delegate must leave.

While voting is taking place at the conference, please do not leave your computer. Delegates will have four minutes to cast their vote once the vote is called. If a Delegate does not cast their vote within the allotted time, their vote will be considered an abstention by omission.

### Calculations for $\frac{2}{3}$ substantial unanimity



Example: There are 47 Delegates (all voting participants)

Calculation:  $.66 \times 47 \text{ Delegates} = 31.02$  (.01 to .49 rounds down and .50 to .99 rounds up)

A passing vote is **31** persons in favor.

## Calculations for Quorum/Concept Four

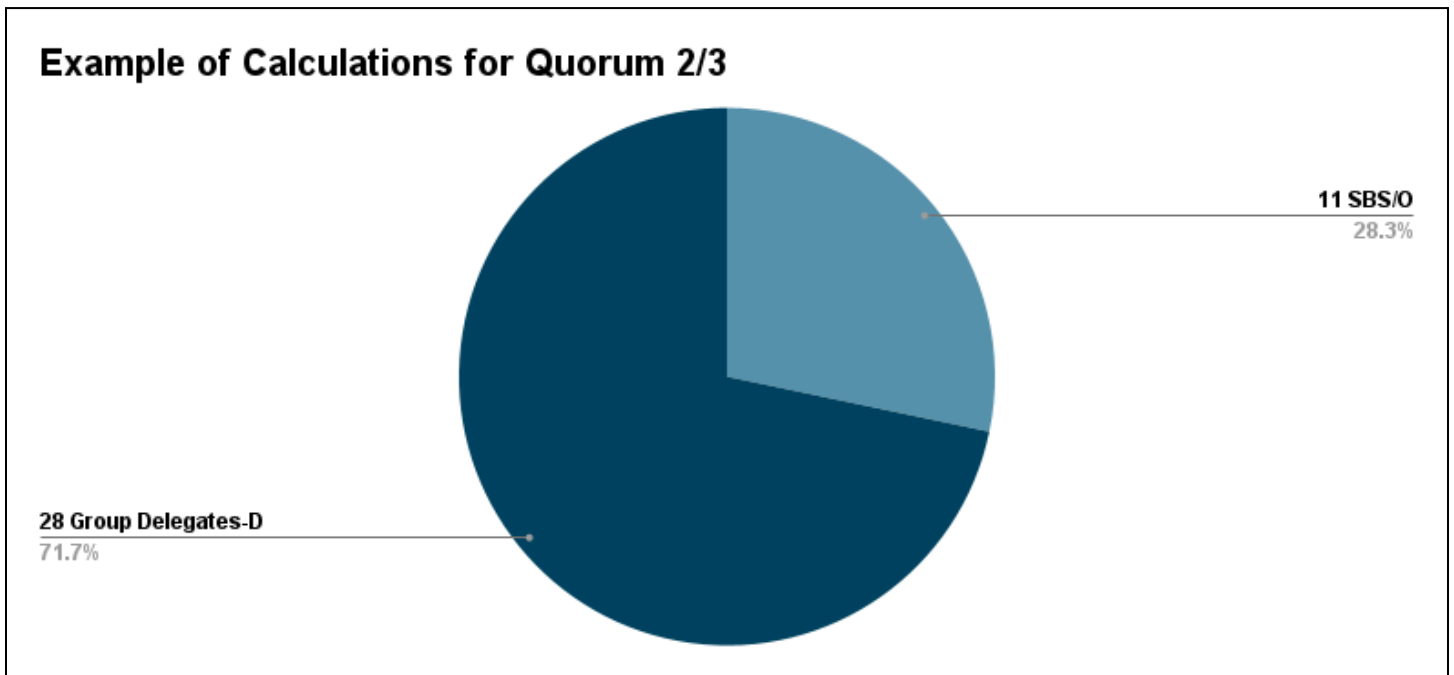
*There is balance in that the Service Board of Trustees and service workers together makeup no more than one-third of the voting at the WSC. So, some Board members and service workers volunteer to surrender their votes. This is so the fellowship has the majority voice during the Conference.*

Example: Let's say the following are Voting at the WSC

	28 Group Delegates (D)
+	5 Service Board (O)
+	3 GAC Officers (O)
+	<u>3 GSVO Service Body Staff (SBS)</u>
	39 Total Voting

28 Total Delegates divided by 39 Total Voting = 71.7%

The Total Delegates is above 66.6%, or  $\frac{2}{3}$ , which means quorum is met and no votes need to be surrendered.



**Warranty Four states “that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity.”**

When possible, issues are discussed until there is certainty that all minority opinions have been heard and most people can support the decision. Usually a two-thirds acceptance means a motion passes, but this ratio is decided at the Conference each year.

## **Substantial unanimity**

Substantial unanimity is the calculation of two-thirds of total members voting on any given item— not the total of registered delegates. Delegates may need to leave during the Conference for self-care or other reasons. The Delegate Liaison must be notified prior to any change of delegate for a voting session. We are guided to consider all viewpoints and strive for substantial unanimity. Differences can be discussed, and a solution can be found. We listen to others and have permission to disagree, and we abide by the group vote.

## **Substantial unanimity explained in a different way.**

Substantial Unanimity is when we have at least two thirds of the fellowship championing what we are voting on. CPA does not aim for just 51% as in the simple majority vote. We strive for greater backing from the fellowship.

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## **What does quorum mean? Why are some people giving up their votes?**

The CPA Service Handbook states in the description section of Concept 4: *There is balance in that the Service Board of Trustees and service workers together makeup no more than one-third of the voting at the WSC.* So, some members of the WSC Planning Committee volunteered to surrender their votes. This is so the fellowship has the majority voice during the Conference.

A quorum consists of two-thirds of the Delegates registered for the WSC. Please note that if, for some reason, 1/3 of all delegates left the conference, we would not meet quorum and would have to end the WSC voting process.

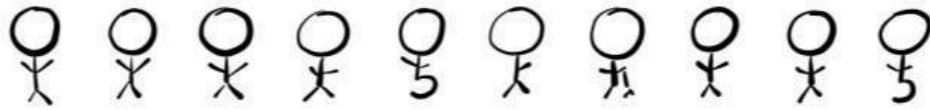
What does it mean when someone abstains? How does that affect the vote count?

Abstention does not count in tallying the vote negatively or positively; when members abstain, they are in effect attending only to contribute to a quorum. This means we need 2/3 bodies of all attendees to be present to vote. Abstentions still count towards substantial unanimity and if the two-thirds is not met the motion does not pass. Decimal points are rounded to the closest whole number.

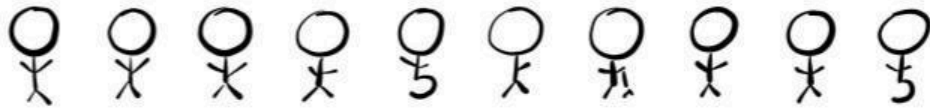
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## **Does an abstention count as a no vote?**

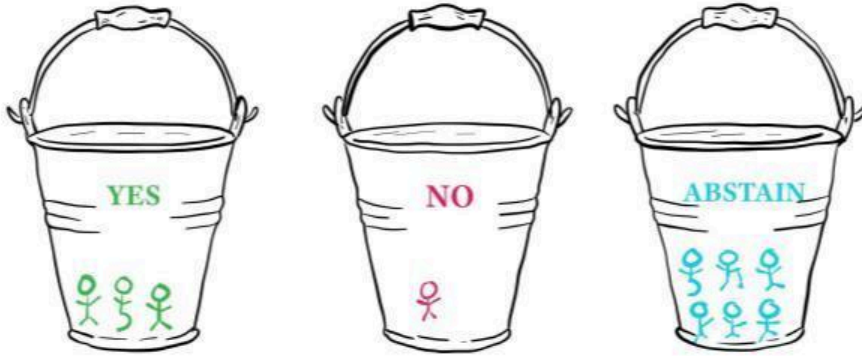
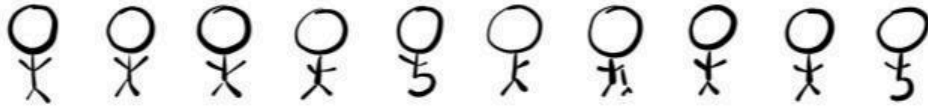
It is important that every delegate present for a vote understands their responsibility to that vote. You are counted whether you vote yes, no, or abstain. Enough abstentions might keep something from passing, however, that means that the item up for vote didn't have enough delegates championing the cause. It wouldn't be an accurate representation of the fellowship's support of something if it passed with only three votes because everyone else abstained. Let me show you...



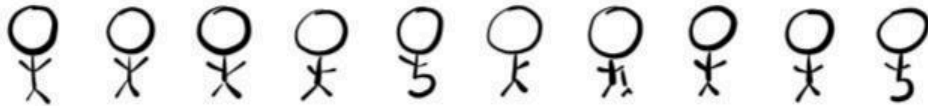
**every voter must be counted**



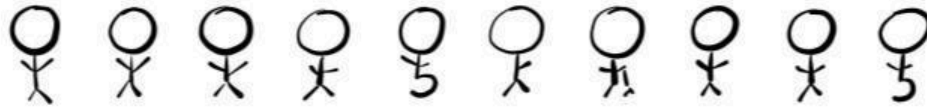
**voted down**



**not enough support to pass**



**PASSES: substantial unanimity**



**consensus or what we strive towards**

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## What is the importance of the minority opinion?

**Concept Five** honors the Right of Appeal/minority opinion. Any Delegate may state their minority opinion which ensures all views are honored and considered.

Once the minority opinion is shared, the chair asks if anyone who voted in accordance with the popular vote wishes to change their vote. If no one does, we move on with the agenda. If even just one person does wish to change their vote, the chair will ask for a motion and a second to retake the vote. Keep in mind that if no one seconds the revote motion, the motion dies and we move on with the agenda. If there is a second to taking a revote, the voting process begins again by the chair calling for discussion time.

And please remember any member is welcome to request a moment of silence or the recitation of the Serenity Pray before any vote, as we seek Higher Power's will for CPA not our own.