



Freedom of Road Riders®

President Handbook

A BRIEF GUIDE FOR LOCAL PRESIDENTS

The priority of a President or Chairman of any organization is to ensure the organization as a whole is healthy. If this is done, the life span of the organization can be greatly extended. The catch to this is that you must do so within the boundaries of the By-laws of the organization.

When a President is presiding over a Local meeting there are certain things he or she should try to do or not do.

Try to run the meeting as politely and fairly as possible. The By-laws say that the Central Committee meetings shall be conducted per *Roberts Rules of Order* as interpreted by the Chairman. However, this does not necessarily apply to the Locals. Each Local is different and you must use your best judgment in deciding how structured your Local meeting must be.

Local meetings should be fun and informative. Try not to get bogged down with every little detail. The details can always be worked out once you have decided your basic course of action.

Try to be impartial when conducting the meeting. Be sure that everyone who wishes to speak has a chance to do so (without interference from others).

Try to encourage your members to get more involved, by asking for and respecting their opinion on issues or their help on a project.

Be open-minded and at least listen to all points of view and or ideas. You never know, the idea may be an old one with a new twist that makes it work. **Don't hold a grudge** – Please remember that all FORR® members have a say in how things are done within the organization. If someone has a different opinion than yours it is his or her right to do so. It should not be a reason to alienate a member.

When running the day to day business of the Local a President should:

*Abstain from any voting in the local meetings. His or her duty as the President is to be the tie breaking vote, should a tie vote occur.

*Keep in mind what the Local will say when they hear what decisions you have had to make outside of the meeting. Yes, you must tell them about your decision and the reason behind it. Be prepared to accept either the pat on the back or the kick in the ass. It can go either way or even both at the same time; don't be discouraged – stuff happens.

*If there comes a time when you must decide and don't wish to do so on your own, get on the phone and/or e-mail and ask your fellow officers and members for input. I am sure they will have no problem letting you know just how they feel.

*Try to ensure (without being rude) that the other officers of the Local are performing their duties. Keep in contact with them between meetings.

Have social get-togethers, rides; meet for dinner or whatever; other than the meeting. Your Local is like an extended family – the more you play together the stronger your Local will be.

Before I close I would say that a Vice President should pay very close attention to this because one day you may be in charge. Not only are you the ex-officio of all committees you are second in command and if the President is out sick or cannot complete his term you will be there to fill his/her shoes. One thing that is for sure is that your job is important no matter how you feel about it at the time.

The last point I would like to make is that both the President and Vice President become familiar with *Roberts Rules of Order* because it will help you streamline the meeting.

When a motion comes on the floor it is important that you stay on topic and not vary from the motion. Sometimes members can go off topic and then it will lengthen your meeting time. So, it is important to keep them on topic and after the vote is taken then you can open discussion on other matters.

In closing I would like to say that I am proud and humbled by this experience as being your current Chairman of Freedom of Road Riders®. I would also like to say that I am proud to have you all as my brothers and sisters. I have not met all of you but have met many of you and it is a humbling experience. If any of you need my assistance in any matter, please don't hesitate to contact me I will assist you as best I can and wish you all the luck in continuing our fight for our freedoms. Ken Lewis, Chairman 2020-2022
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