



**CoDA Service Conference (CSC)
2024 Motion Form**

Check one:

___ **Motion submitted by:** Board - CoDA Inc.

___ **Motion submitted by:** Board - CoDA Resource Publishing (CoRe)

X **Motion submitted by:** (Committee)

Committee Name: ___Issues Mediation Committee_____

___ **Motion submitted by:** Voting Entity (VE) Name:_____

Submitted Date: ___4May2024_____

Motion Number: 1. () 2. (X) 3. () 4.() 5.() (Check One)

Revision #: _____

Revision Date: _____

Note: Please refrain from using CoDA acronyms such as VE, CEC, IMC, etc. when completing this form unless you make a reference such as: CoDA Events Committee (CEC) then use CEC.

Motion Name: ___Abstention Vote Count Amendment_____

Motion – effectively immediately for the CoDA Service Conference 2024, to change the text of the Bylaws (Article V; Section 4; Paragraph 2) as follows:

Current Text:

Section 4. Quorum and Resolution at the CSC

{...}

Motions {...} CSC. A motion passes if it is accepted by a simple majority of the total number of Voting Members *present*. If it passes by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of Voting Members *present*, it is binding upon the Trustees, except to the extent the implementation of such a motion would cause the Trustees to be in violation of the Board of Trustees' legal responsibilities to the Corporation and its members or would put the fiscal integrity of the Corporation at risk. A simple majority is not binding on the Board of Trustees, although they may agree to be bound by the vote.

New Text:

Section 4. Quorum and Resolution at the CSC

{...}

Motions {...} CSC. A motion passes if it is accepted by a simple majority of the total number of Voting Members *voting in favor of or against the motion*. If it passes by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of Voting Members *voting in favor of or against the motion*, it is binding upon the Trustees, except to the extent the implementation of such a motion would cause the Trustees to be in violation of the Board of Trustees' legal responsibilities to the Corporation and its members or would put the fiscal integrity of the Corporation at risk. A simple majority is not binding on the Board of Trustees, although they may agree to be bound by the vote.

Also, this motion will change the corresponding text in the Fellowship Service Manual – Part 4 Service Conference Procedures – Section 04 Conference Election Procedures – Voting Procedures at CSC

Current text (Starting on Page 15):

Voting Procedures at CSC

(Ref. CoDA Bylaws Article V, section 4 and CoDA Board Policy and Procedure Manual section 4.3)

1. General Business ...

2. Simple vs. two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority

A motion passes if it is accepted by a simple majority of the total number of Voting Members *present*. If it passes by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of Voting Members *present*, it is binding upon the Trustees, except to the extent the implementation of such a motion would cause the Trustees to be in

(Text continues on Page 16)

violation of the Board of Trustees' legal responsibilities to the Corporation and its members or would put the fiscal integrity of the Corporation at risk. {...}

3. Accounting for Abstentions

According to our Bylaws a vote required for a motion to pass is a simple majority or two thirds of the Voting Members *present (not just votes cast), therefore; an abstention will have the same effect as a "no" vote. Although an abstention is not counted as a "vote", an abstention is included as a Voting Member present. For example, 24 votes are cast, plus six voters abstain. A simple majority of the 30 members present constitutes 16 yes votes. A two-thirds majority would require 20 yes votes.* {...}

New text (Starting on Page 15):

Voting Procedures at CSC

(Ref. CoDA Bylaws Article V, section 4 and CoDA Board Policy and Procedure Manual section 4.3)

1. General Business ...

2. Simple vs. two-thirds (2/3) majority

A motion passes if it is accepted by a simple majority of the total number of Voting Members *voting in favor of or against the motion*. If it passes by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of Voting Members *voting in favor of or against the motion*, it is binding upon the Trustees, except to the extent the implementation of such a motion would cause the Trustees to be in

(Text continues on Page 16)

violation of the Board of Trustees' legal responsibilities to the Corporation and its members or would put the fiscal integrity of the Corporation at risk. {...}

3. Accounting for Abstentions

According to our Bylaws a vote required for a motion to pass is a simple majority or two thirds of the Voting Members *voting in favor of or against the motion*. *If the Voting Member is uncertain of the will of their Voting Entity or the committee they represent on the motion being deliberated, this will allow them to decline casting an affirmative vote or a negative vote when the "Community Problem Solving Method of Decision Making" is at the Vote casting stage.* {...}

Intent, background, other pertinent information (Do NOT attach a file. If you have reference documents, please embed them here): The Issues Mediation Committee believe that Abstention Votes cast during CoDA Service Conference should count neither as a 'YES" nor as a 'NO' vote. Since a Delegate's vote is counted as part of the total votes cast, the net result of the current wording of the Bylaws is that the simple majority or the two-thirds (2/3) majority is calculated strictly as "Yes" votes divided by the total number of votes. The result is that the Delegates to the CoDA Service Conference have effectively only a binary choice. This amendment to the Bylaws and clarification in the Fellowship Service Manual will allow for Voting Members to take a position of neither for nor against motions that are being voted on.

This motion requires changes to the following: (check all that apply)

CoDA Bylaws: Article 5 – Section #4 (Page 9) _____

FSM Part 1 – Structure and General Information: Section # _____

FSM Part 2 – Meeting Handbook: Section # _____

FSM Part 3 – Guidelines for Other Service Levels: Section # _____

FSM Part 4 – Service Conference Procedures: Section # 4: Voting Procedures at CoDA Service Conference; 2. Simple vs. 2/3 Majority (Page 15) & 3. Accounting for Abstentions (Page 16)

FSM Part 5 – World Level Service Details: Section # _____

Change of Responsibility: _____

Other: _____

Specific details:

Section # and title:

Copy and Paste from most current FSM on coda.org

Motions are to be sent to: submitcsc@coda.org

Bylaw changes/amendments are to be sent to: secretary@coda.org

If you want assistance writing your motion, please send email to Board@CoDA.org

(Data Entry Use Only)

Motion result: _____