

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR THE 2021 AFT-MARYLAND VIRTUAL CONVENTION

PREAMBLE

AFT-Maryland's concern for the health, safety and welfare of our delegates and surrounding communities because of the COVID-19 pandemic has led us to convert the AFT-Maryland's 2021 Convention to a virtual convention. The challenges of using an all-virtual platform has caused this convention to operate with modified rules and scheduling. The executive board adopted these rules on April 20, 2021, in order to allow the committees to operate in this virtual environment.

VIRTUAL SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS

- a. Delegates shall check in for the convention using the links/codes provided by AFT-MD.
- b. Delegates shall not be permitted the display of caucus or political signs or placards on their home screen, profile or as background.

"FLOOR MICROPHONES"

- a. Delegates shall use the digital options to participate in the debate and voting.
- b. When a question before the convention is put to a vote, all delegates who are in queue awaiting their turn to speak shall be cleared.

RECOGNITION TO SPEAK

- a. A delegate desiring to speak to a question before the convention shall not speak until recognized by the chair.
- b. A delegate recognized by the chair must state his or her name and local number before speaking.
- c. No delegate shall be allowed to speak twice on any issue until all who are desirous of doing so, and are entitled to do so, have had a chance to speak.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Proposed amendments or additions to the Constitution, or a resolution shall be submitted by email to convention2021@aftmd.org no later than 5 p.m. on May 1, 2021.
- b. Amendments to the resolutions shall be submitted by email to convention2021@aftmd.org by May 19, 2021, at 5 p.m.
- c. In light of the limitations presented by the virtual convention, the chair shall determine the number of prioritized resolutions put before the delegates.
- d. Resolutions brought to the convention on which no action has been taken by the delegates shall be referred to the executive board when the convention adjourns.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

- a. Special Orders of Business must be emailed to convention2021@aftmd.org at least one business session prior to consideration and, if in order, will be made available to all convention delegates prior to

the business session in which it will be considered. The special order shall only be considered if approved for consideration by two-thirds of the delegates who vote.

b. Special Orders of Business must address issues that because of timeliness could not have been dealt with through the Resolutions procedure outlined above.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS

a. No seconds are required for any motions.

b. Motion to suspend the rules shall only be in order to allow new motions to amend. The motion to suspend shall explain the purpose (e.g., a proposed amendment not timely submitted), shall allow one speaker “for” (the movant) and one speaker “against” and requires a two-thirds vote of those voting to pass. If the motion to suspend passes, then the movant shall immediately email the proposed amendment to convention2021@aftmd.org and while that is being submitted and posted, the chair shall move on to the next resolution or business item. After that next resolution is decided or business item is completed, the chair shall return to the previous resolution and post the motion to amend to be considered.

c. The following motions are out of order: motions to table, motions to postpone indefinitely, motions to postpone to a certain time, motions to rescind, motions to limit debate, motions for reconsideration and motions to divide the question.

d. Delegates may appeal the ruling of the chair (challenge the chair). No second is required for consideration. After debate, the appeal shall be sustained only if a majority of those voting vote in favor of the appeal.

e. The chair may summarize or repeat the motion or amendment before the convention immediately prior to the vote thereon.

LIMITATIONS ON DEBATE

a. A delegate shall be allowed to speak to any question for a period not to exceed three minutes. He or she shall be notified when two minutes have elapsed and again at the close of the third minute, at which time the speaker will be muted.

b. The debate on any resolution or amendment shall be limited to 10 minutes total unless the chair, by her discretion, allows further debate, or a motion to expand debate is made and passes. The motion to expand debate requires a two-thirds vote of those voting to pass.

VOTING

Voting shall only be conducted by delegates selecting either the “for” or “against” digital option. As a result of the digital tabulation of votes, there shall be no division of the house and no roll-call votes.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest speakers invited by the executive board or the convention shall be introduced at their convenience by the chair, provided, however, that no speaker currently speaking before the convention shall be interrupted.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- a. The chair of each committee shall, at the opening of the committee meeting, appoint a secretary to record the proceedings.
- b. Only those delegates properly assigned to the committee in question shall be permitted to attend and to participate in committee business.
- c. All the foregoing Rules of Conduct that can be made applicable to committee meetings shall apply, such as the limitations on debate, and voting procedures.
- d. Each proposed amendment shall be considered and the movant shall be the first speaker. If more than one delegate submits a proposed amendment that is the same or very similar, then the first person to have submitted the motion shall be the movant. No one shall speak until the motion is displayed on the screen.
- e. It shall be the responsibility of the chair and secretary of each committee to see to it that the resolutions that the committee wants to report to the convention are submitted to Matthew Smith at MSmith@aftmd.org for distribution to delegates on or before May 14, 2021.
- f. For purposes of clarity and consistency, committee recommendations should be presented in a uniform manner: The committee recommends adoption, adoption as amended, defeated, precluded by other resolutions or referred to the executive board.
- g. The number of resolutions to be prioritized for consideration by the committee shall be determined by the committee chair. The motion for priority does not require a second and is not subject to amendment. The motion for priority shall be limited to the number of resolutions that the committee chair has determined.
- h. The committee chair shall report the recommendations of the committee to the convention on the basis of a majority vote of its members present and voting.