How MLA Will Count the Quorum During the Business Meeting

The MLA Bylaws require a quorum of 200 members for the transaction of business. To facilitate the counting of votes in a face-to-face meeting, voting paddles are provided to voting members attending the annual meeting. In a virtual meeting, MLA will count the quorum using the electronic software technology licensed by the Association.

In support of the May 2020 groundbreaking “virtual” business meeting, MLA Parliamentarian Chris Shaffer reviewed the MLA Bylaws, Robert’s Rules of Order, the Motion to hold the 2020 Business Meeting Online, various documents related to the conduct of previous MLA meetings, MLA’s Parliamentary Procedures, and Sample Rules for Electronic Meetings by the authors of Robert’s Rules of Order.

The Parliamentarian’s assessment, which was supported by the MLA Bylaws Committee, was that holding the MLA 2020 Annual Business Meeting electronically complied with the bylaws and parliamentary rules. The Parliamentarian and the MLA Bylaws Committee recommended that MLA follow the following procedures for counting a quorum.

**Before the Business Meeting:**

* MLA headquarters sends an email invite to MLA members
* Members are asked to RSVP to estimate quorum count
* MLA Bylaws require a quorum of 200 to conduct business
* The quorum information is published on the annual meoneting website

**On the Day and Time of the Business Meeeting:**

* Members log-in using the pre-assigned password sent to them via email and/or provided on the annual meeting website
* The moderator monitors log in counts and names of participants
* The moderator shares the quorum count with the Sergeant-at-Arms & Parliamentarian
* The Sergeant-at-arms announces the quorum count
* The President opens the meeting