

How is KBDM different than Robert's Rules of Order?

- Robert's Rules is rarely followed exactly as written. The *Newly Revised 11th Edition* is 669 pages long. (*the following quotes are from that edition or "In Brief," 2nd edition*)
 - KBDM: No one person or structure is the "expert" that determines how an issue should be decided. There are not "points of order" determined by a book of rules. The group, through conversation and dialogue, decides what is important to discuss and how to proceed on matters of timing, who speaks when, how long to have the discussion, etc.
- In RR, a motion is *necessary* for any discussion to begin. "*To begin the process of making any decision, a member offers a proposal by making a motion. . . . Strictly speaking, there should be no debate on a matter before a motion regarding it has been made.*" (*In Brief*, p. 19)
 - Prior to a discussion using KBDM, there is no predetermined end result. As the discussion moves forward, a solution to the issue may become evident. They may find that they don't have enough information about an issue to make a decision at that time, so they might decide to gather more information and continue the discussion at a later date. The group may also find that there is no need to take any action on the issue.
- A motion describes a specific action to be taken; there is an end in mind from the outset. "*It is very important to say precisely what the words of the motion are to be. The group votes on exact language, not on a vague idea.*" (p. 20)
 - The presenter of the issue "frames" it as clearly as possible, then there is a thorough examination of the issue without a particular end in mind. The "solution" evolves from the discussion.
- The RR process is geared toward efficiency and toward getting the decision made in a timely manner. "*A prime value of parliamentary procedure is that it provides processes through which an organization, large or small, can work out satisfactory solutions to the greatest number of questions in the least amount of time.*" (p. 7)
 - Our aim is to hear our Higher Power's will for us, which is expressed in each participant's question and opinion. In this open dialogue, everyone's needs are heard, expectations and preferences are acknowledged, and ethical dimensions are considered. The process of listening to each other with good will is more important than the decision itself.

- The process of refining and defining alternate possibilities or solutions—or putting off a decision until a later meeting—is cumbersome and requires a series of votes:
 - a) *If the main motion doesn't address the issue at hand, it has to be voted on or amended before a new motion can be discussed. (p. 53)*
 - b) *If more information is needed, another motion must be made and voted on, allowing that to happen. (p. 53)*
- The KBDM process isn't "legalistic" and rule-bound. Through dialogue, our members refine the solution so that it solves the problem at hand.
- Debate (not conversation or dialogue) is the style of communication presumed by RR. *"Debate means discussion on the merits of the action—that is, whether the proposed action should or should not be taken."* (p. 23)
 - We speak and listen in a culture of trust and good will, aware that our Higher Power is present in each person's contribution to the conversation. We are all equal and everyone is valuable. We respect all ideas and do not tolerate domination.

KBDM alignment with Al-Anon Principles

- Tradition #1: Our common welfare comes first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity.
- Concept #4: Participation is the key to harmony.
- Concept #5: The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and insure that they be heard.
- General Warranty #3: All decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by unanimity.