Floor Motions
Replacement Motions
for 2026 ABC

BACKGROUND

Current Process/Criteria:

- Must be time sensitive
- Presented by Delegates to the Conference Secretary within one hour after the close of business on Day 1 of the 2-day ABC
- Reviewed to ensure that they meet the criteria
- All are posted before the start of Day 2, noting whether they are conforming or not.
- Morning of Day 2 - Delegates polled to decide the order of priority for all conforming motions.
- Processed like any other motion, with a decision made whether to send them to world-wide online voting for adoption.

BACKGROUND

Recent Changes:

- At the 2022 ABC, three ½ day Quarterly Delegate Meetings (QDMs) were created to address spillover business from the ABC.
- At the 2025 ABC, QDMs were replaced with Conference Business Meetings (CBMs) with the passage of the following motion:
  With regard to voting, debate, introducing new business, and addressing old business, other than as required under California law for the ABC, all Conference Business Meetings will have identical rights and authorities.

ISSUE

With these new rights and responsibilities granted to the Conference Business Meetings (CBMs), questions were asked:

- When can Delegate floor motions be presented at CBMs?

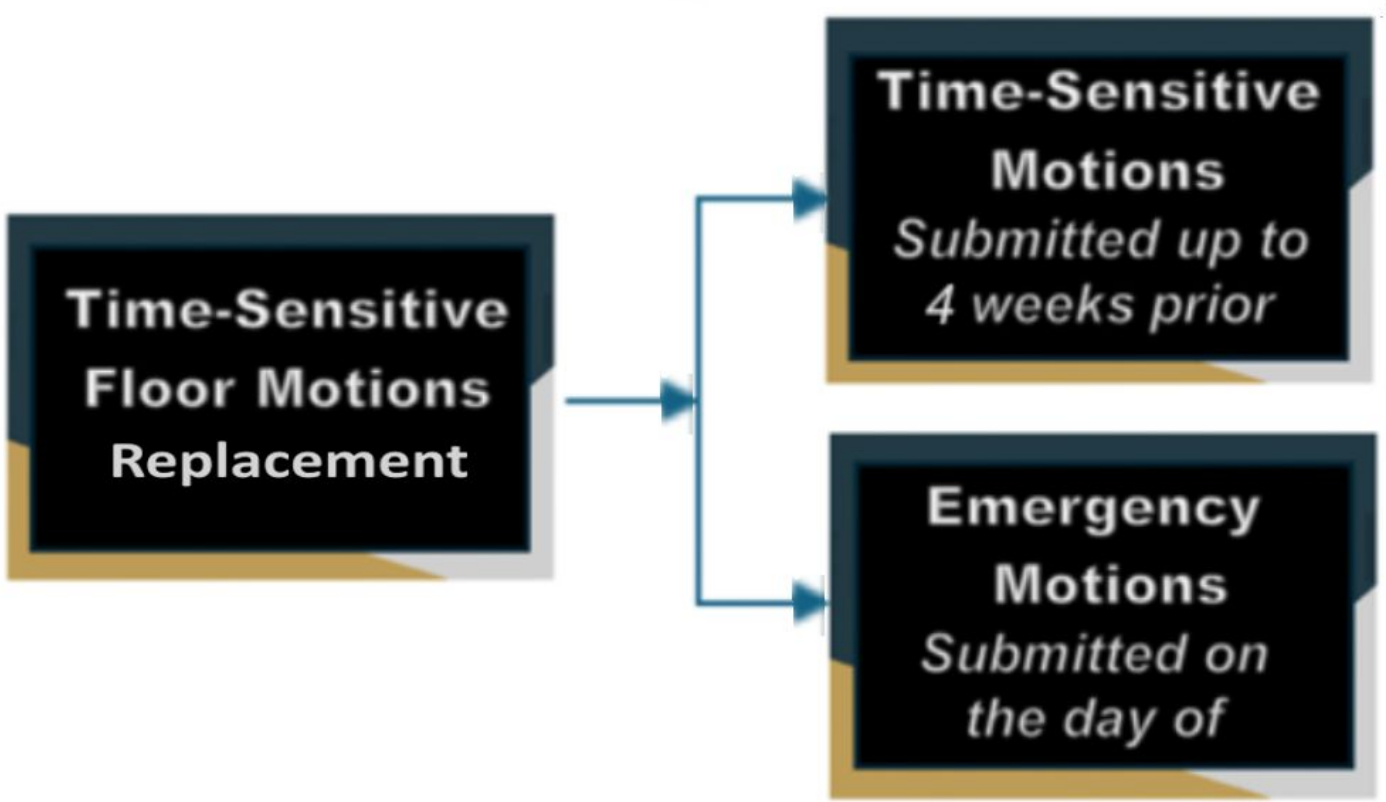
- How can they be done effectively for a one-day CBM that does not have the option of “overnight” processing that happens during the 2-day ABC process?

If we do not resolve this, the CBMs will be unable to address any form of floor motion. We believe that what is being proposed by this motion will resolve this problem.

RESPONSE

The Floor Motion task force, established by the ABC committee, proposes

A new process that includes Time-Sensitive Motions and Emergency Motions



PROPOSED CHANGES

1. Change the floor motion name and process to **Time-Sensitive** and **Emergency** Motions.
   - **Time sensitive motion**s must be submitted four (4) weeks prior to the Delegate meeting.
   - **Emergency motions** are submitted during the business meeting.
2. That these changes to the process be applied to **all** Conference Business Meetings, including ABCs.

DEFINITION

Time Sensitive Motions

- Must have some form of great significance to or greatly affect the Fellowship or Conference as a whole.
- Urgent matter of large policy or finance.
- Cannot wait for the ballot proposal process.

  Examples: Creation of racial trauma service group, motion to separate the ABC related sections of the OPPM into another document.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

Time Sensitive Motions

1. Delegates must email to the ABC Committee no less than 4 weeks before the start of a the ABC or CBM by emailing them to the ABC Committee.
2. Should be written in the form of a motion (“I move that . . .”) with a background that includes reasoning and why the issue is of a time-sensitive nature.
3. Should include the resources that will be needed to accomplish and who that might be.
4. Should be brief – not to exceed 75 words for the Motion, with up to 150 words for the background.
5. Indicate the best way that the submitter may be contacted.

CRITERIA TO ASSESS FOR CONFORMITY

Time Sensitive Motions

1. Must have some form of great significance to or greatly affect the Fellowship or Conference as a whole.
2. Cannot wait until a future Business Meeting due to its time sensitivity or urgency, meaning there is insufficient time to be considered adequately by the Ballot Proposal Process, a Committee, or the Board prior to the Business Meeting.
3. May not contain the sum and substance of any Proposal that was among Ballot proposals sent to groups for consideration at the ABC. They may also not be similar to motions expected to be presented at the upcoming Business Meeting.

PROCESS AFTER SUBMISSION

Time Sensitive Motions

1. The Conference Chair(s), the Parliamentarian, and ABC Committee members will jointly review them within one week before the start of the CBM to determine if they meet the criteria.
2. Submitters may be contacted for clarification.
3. A written opinion about conformity will be generated and posted.
4. The first item of business at the Delegate meeting will be to poll Delegates to determine if they believe the conforming motions are time sensitive.
5. If there are any, Delegates will then be polled to determine placement on the agenda for the meeting.
6. Any such motions that cannot be processed during the meeting due to time constraints will be referred to the Board.

DEFINITION

Emergency Motion process

- Have some form of great significance to or greatly affects the Fellowship or the Conference as a whole.
- Is an urgent matter of large policy or finance.
- Requires immediate decision.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

Emergency Motions

1. Shall not contain the sum and substance of any Proposal that was on the Ballot sent to groups for consideration at the ABC.
2. Shall not be similar to another motion expected to be presented at the Meeting.
3. Not to exceed 75 words for the Motion, with up to 150 words for the background.
4. Shall be written in the form of a motion (“I move that . . .”) and include clear reasoning about why it is an emergency.
5. Background: why it is necessary to be considered at this time, i.e. **why it can’t wait**.

EXAMPLE
Emergency Floor Motions

- Prior to the 2018 ABC in Toronto, the Board had passed a motion that the 2019 ABC in Malmo, Sweden, would not be accompanied by the ACA World Convention (AWC), which thus far had occurred immediately after the ABC. Instead the AWC was going to be held at a later date in North America.
- Several Delegates proposed that breaking this tradition was not in the best interest of the Fellowship. A subsequent Floor Motion was made: “That the Board of Trustees hold both the ABC and AWC in Sweden in 2019, if the Swedish host group is willing.”
- This was an emergency because the Swedes needed clarity immediately as this would have a major impact on their preparation time.

SUBMISSION AND PRESENTATION PROCESS

Emergency Motions

Submitted to the Point of Order and Reviewed by the Parliamentarian for conformity.

Process if deemed conforming:

- Presenter is recognized by the chair
- The motion and background are shown on the screen and read
- 3-minute silent reflection
- Requires a ⅔ affirmative vote of the conference to suspend the agenda so that the motion can be immediately considered.
- The motion will then be processed.
- By necessity, any minority opinion will be heard during the meeting to enable a final decision on the motion.

Motion to now be voted on

We move that the current Delegate Meeting Floor Motion Process be replaced with two new processes:

1. Time Sensitive Motions - to be submitted at least four weeks prior to a Delegate Meeting
2. Emergency Motions - to be submitted during a Delegate Meeting