



## **TYPES OF DISCUSSION IN LARGE GROUPS**

### ***Parliamentary Procedure (e.g. Robert's Rules of Order)***

Parliamentary procedure has been found to be an effective means to reach a decision on highly controversial issues. It represents a formal method of following a body of practical rules strictly.

### ***Lecture Forum***

The main purpose of the Lecture Forum technique is to share information. People who have engaged in some research or investigation or who have some special competence in an area of interest make speeches. The speech is received by the group without judgment and followed by a period of discussion. Sufficient time should be allotted for discussion, so members can clarify in their own minds what has just been presented.

### ***Round Table Discussion***

Round Table Discussion is used to increase understanding about ways of approaching and investigating a new problem in which all members of the group are involved. A sub-group of the organization whose task it is to set policy or direction (e.g., the executive committee) leads discussion by breaking the body into small groups so that everyone can participate in the discussion.

### ***Debate Forum***

After a problem has been discussed at length and a particular proposal is being considered for adoption, a Debate Forum is appropriate. Speeches for and against the proposed policy can help members crystallize their thinking.

### ***Small Group Discussion***

After hearing a presentation or general discussion by a whole group, or prior to a program, the large group is divided into units of six or eight persons. Each of these small groups is asked to consider some specific question or concern. All the small groups may be answering the same question or each may have a different problem. Each group selects a leader and/or recorder and decides what it will report to the whole assembly. At the end of the allotted period, the large group hears from the recorder of each small group. In this way, every individual takes an active role in deliberation. Member satisfaction is almost certainly increased by this process, and usually there is a noticeable increase in interaction with the large meeting following this type of session. Success of this method depends largely on the quality of questions assigned to each small unit and to the urgency of the issues.