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TO: Barbara Blauvelt
FROM: Maynard Mansfield *Maynard Mansfield*
SUBJECT: Robert's on Ex-Officio Members
DATE: November 11, 1985

Ex-officio members of committees: "The rules affecting ex-officio members of committees are the same as those applying to ex-officio members of boards." [Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, p. 414]

Ex-officio members of boards: "...if the ex-officio member of the board is under the authority of the society (that is, if he is a member, officer, or employee of the society) there is no distinction between him and the other board members. If the ex-officio member is not under the authority of the society, he has all the privileges of board membership, including the right to make motions and to vote, but none of the obligations -- just as in a case, for example, where the governor of a state is ex officio a trustee of a private academy. The latter class of ex-officio board member, who has no obligation to participate, should not be counted in determining if a quorum is present at the meeting." [Robert's, p. 402]

And, finally, let's hear it for the parliamentarian:

"[The parliamentarian's] role during a meeting is purely an advisory and consultative one -- since parliamentary law gives to the chair alone the power to rule on questions of order or to answer parliamentary inquiries." [Robert's, p. 388]

MJM:mv