

CONCURRENCE

Concurrence, the act of agreeing with a statement of position, is one method of determining membership understanding and agreement as a basis for League action.

The use of concurrence on any issue is decided by the appropriate League board on the basis of the nature of the subject, the time available for decision-making and the resources or interest present in the League for research. The board sets guidelines for the process, particularly those relating to who will be asked to concur, with whom and how. For example, the board of a local League might ask its members to concur with a position statement arrived at by the League's resource committee or by the board itself. The request for concurrence could be presented at a meeting or by telephone or by written questionnaire.

Concurrence can involve the local League in a limited study to evaluate a statement of position or it can depend on generally available community knowledge to stand behind a decision. Local Leagues receive factual background information which describes both sides of the issue, a statement of position, and an outline of the reasoning that led to that position. Leagues could evaluate the analysis and concur or not concur with the position as stated. Local League boards could decide how to involve their general memberships in the process. In advance of receiving responses, the sets concurrence guidelines.

Another concurrence process is one in which easily understandable general statements are offered to Leagues for their evaluation. Source material can be chiefly information available from the general media and from everyday life, as well as League Publications. Again, each League can decide on how to measure concurrence.

C considerations that could lead to the use of concurrence

The issue in question has been well-studied by many Leagues and position are similar.

The issue is easily understood by the membership and new research would be redundant.

The issue is closely related to other League items, and positions could be transferred or broadened if membership understanding and agreement exist.

The issue is vital to one group of Leagues but peripheral to others.

Whether concurrence or the more structured consensus process is used to seek a League position, the same questions must be answered in the end, "Is there member understanding?" "Is there member agreement?"