

The Process

- Member submits payment and completed member form to VPM
- VPM makes motion “I move to accept John Doe as a member of Prince George Toastmasters”, 2nd
- VPM makes motion “I move that we enter executive session to discuss this matter”
- Guests leave
- VPM says (for example) “I speak in favor of John joining. He is a keener, has past public speaking experience. I’m aware of no barrier to entry.”
- Entertain any discussion against accepting member into club
- After sufficient discussion, call for a vote in favor of the motion
- Move to exit executive session, 2nd, vote
- Secretary instructed what to record in the minutes. Generally “John Doe was accepted as a member of Prince George Toastmasters”

Why would an organization force members to be voted in?

Generally speaking, the vote is a rubber stamp as most candidates are not controversial. It is a positive affirmation that the organization accepts the member. Legally, the executive members and the club president have no authority to accept a new member. Per the Club Constitution, executive members “shall take no action binding upon this club without either specific prior authorization or subsequent ratification by this club.”

The requirement is common to most non-profit societies.

But we don't have club business meetings every week...

Motions can be made at any meeting at any time at the discretion of the chair. Some motions require special notice (i.e. money matters and bylaw changes in particular) but most motions like a membership vote can occur at any time on the agenda if you have quorum present. Generally a membership vote takes 2-3 minutes at most.