

Have a Question on An Item Up for Discussion? Here's how to find help

Delegates often use “Requests for Information” during debate to get information on an item up for discussion. But, did you know that there are other ways to find answers to your questions before debate? If you have a question on an item that has been printed in the *RA Today*:

- **Start with your State Caucus Chair** – He or she might have the answer or might be able to point you to someone who does.
- **Ask your NEA Board members** – Board members are familiar with NEA programs and policies and may often be able to find the information you need.
- **Contact the maker** –E-mail addresses are printed in the *RA Today* for all NBI makers who consent.
- **Ask the NEA staff** – Knowledgeable staff members with broad expertise are seated to the side of the stage ready to answer your questions.
- **Request for Information** – If you are unable to find an answer to your question, or something said by the maker or other speakers raises a new question for you during debate, you can call in on a “Request for Information.” This will allow you to ask a question through the Chair to the maker of the motion or to ask the Chair to provide information about the item. Requests for Information must not be used to enter debate, or to ask a question to which you already know the answer. Delegates are encouraged to avoid excessive use of Requests for Information for questions that can be answered ahead of time using the other options outlined above.

Want other delegates to hear the answer to your question? Don't use Requests for Information to convey to other delegates information you have received. Instead, get the answer in advance using the above options. Then, call in to speak for or against the motion and use the information in your remarks.

These processes will help ensure a full, effective debate with well-informed delegates.