



California Parliamentarian

President's Post

June 2021

Sally F. LaMacchia, PRP



Now half over, this year remains plush with promise and possibility for CSAP friends, students, and parliamentarians! **Zoom Hall 3** is coming up on Friday, July 9, 2021! Your idea, suggestion, compliment, or question for the board is solicited, needed, and appreciated. To encourage maximum participation in Zoom Hall, each event has offered two sessions: noon to 1 PM & 7 to 8 PM. See the Zoom Hall Announcement elsewhere in this issue and please *Sign Up!*

Soon we will gather for the **2021 District 8 Biennium** via Zoom on Friday and Saturday July 30-31st. CSAP is honored to be the Host Association for this sure-to-be-awesome event.

Next, is the **43rd Annual NAP Convention** in September. Based on the NAP membership list as of March 2021, CSAP is allocated 20 delegates to the convention. Delegates and alternates are needed. Service as a delegate is an exceptional learning opportunity for students of parliamentary procedure. All NAP members are encouraged to pursue appointment or election to the Convention as a delegate and representative of your special constituency. Questions? Ask your Unit President, Area Director or CSAP Vice-President Kimo Gandall for help and information.



(Photo: District 8 Director Mike Peck, and Host Association CSAP President Sally LaMacchia.)

And finally, the **2021 CSAP Annual Meeting** is scheduled for October in Fresno. However, nothing is certain in these still uncertain times. An informal survey (Zoom poll) was conducted at the last Zoom Hall. Attendees were asked "If the state opens for business in July and remains open, will you plan to attend an IN-PERSON Annual Meeting in Fresno, CA Oct 22 to 24?" Forty-six percent (46%) answered they would not attend in person, "not even with precautions." A similar poll will be taken at Zoom Hall 3 July 9 so sign-up! *CSAP, the CSAP Board, and the Annual Meeting Planning Committee want and need your input!*

The CSAP leadership team is resolute that ALL members who wish to attend the 2021 Annual Meeting scheduled for October will be able to attend – one way or another.



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**CSAP Calendar 2021
 Meetings Scheduled**

Southern Area
 July 10, 2021
 November 13, 2021

Northern Area
 July 17, 2021
 November 6, 2021

Annual Meeting
 October 22-24, 2021
 Fresno, California

D8 Conference
 July 30-31, 2021

National Association of Parliamentarians
 Biennial Convention
 September 7-9, 2021 (Virtual)

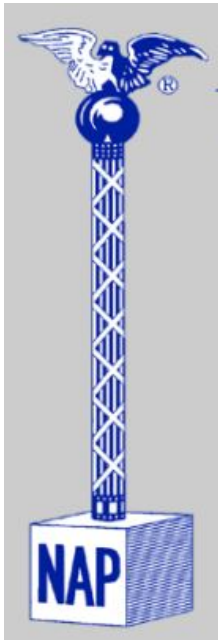
*Go to the website
californiaparliamentarians.org/events/
 for more dates*

Website Navigation Information Station

By Sally LaMacchia

CSAP's website is found at www.californiaparliamentarians.org. Downloadable learning opportunities made available to ALL visitors in the last 60 days include the following:

- ◆ **"2021 In Brief Lesson"**, a walk through chapters 1 through 7 & 8 through 11 of RONRIB. Use this together with the *In Brief* book to study for the NAP membership exam or for a refresher on basics;
- ◆ **"Your Poll Results"** shares the results of CSAP's "Three Parliamentarians" challenge presented to members at our April 24, 2021 on line Parliamentary Law Month celebration;
- ◆ **"A Parliamentary Lesson based on RONR *In Brief* (Chp 1-7)"** for getting started;
- ◆ The **"March 2021 California Parliamentarian"**, CSAP's Newsletter;
- ◆ **"Presiding Means Deciding"** on the responsibility of the chair to rule, and of the members who disagree, to appeal the ruling of the chair, and
- ◆ The **"2021 District 8 Conference Announcement"** for a terrific event, July 30 & 31.



The District 8 Biennium is one you will not want to miss. CSAP is the Host Association this year. One area of responsibility is publicity. The D8 Planning Committee decided to reach out to NAP members everywhere with an invitation to join us for this biennium. The point here is, in compiling an email distribution list for the flyer, I visited each NAP state association with a link on the NAP website. Some had websites, some had Facebook pages; some had both, I think one had something else altogether! Some were basic, some quite elaborate. It was a fun excursion, and it reinforced my belief that CSAP has an outstanding website with lots to offer.

The CSAP website reflects NAP's and CSAP's commitment to bring parliamentary procedure to the world. New content – new parliamentary lessons and experiences – are needed to keep the site fresh and engaging. YOUR lessons and articles are wanted and welcomed. Both the website and the newsletter belong to us, the members. Please consider trying your hand at creating content for CSAP. And just *do it!* Submissions are welcomed every day of the year!

CSAP ZOOM HALL 3

Third Zoom Hall

JULY 9, 2021

Session 1: Noon to 1 PM

Session 2: 7 to 8 PM

JOIN IN on our Third Zoom Hall. This is your open forum! A time and place to visit with your CSAP leadership team and colleagues within the Association. Zoom Hall is an informal and welcoming hour. Every member is encouraged to drop in for 5 minutes, 10 minutes, any number of minutes - even 60! At our last Zoom Hall in April, attendees were asked in a poll about in-person attendance at the Annual Meeting in October.



(See President’s Post, this issue.) Attendees to the 3rd Zoom Hall will also be asked to take a quick poll. Your input is needed! We want to put on a terrific Annual Meeting this year, and member participation in CSAP events like Zoom Hall can help make that happen! **Mark your calendar and Sign Up!** Simply send an email to sally@losfl.com with CSAP ZOOM HALL in the subject line and you will receive the ZOOM LINK on the morning of Friday, July 9, 2021. You may attend any part of one or both sessions on July 9. We want your input and will conduct a poll. Don’t Miss It! By attending Zoom Hall, **you can help** make 2021 a terrific year for CSAP and inform our planning for the 2021 Annual Meeting. We hope to see you on July 9th!

Presiding is Deciding!

“The chair should always be courteous and fair, but at the same time she should be firm in protecting the assembly from imposition.”

RONR (12th ed.) § 39.4 (Last sentence)



(And see the RONR Short Take under our drop down menu!)

Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief (RIB) lists six steps to effective presiding which offer excellent suggestions for presiding officers of any organization. The steps are listed and explained on page 138-143 of RIB (but no peeking right now!). Using the following list of possible terms, fill in the blanks to complete all of the effective practices as recommended in RIB:

- a. amendments
- b. Appeals
- k. motion
- l. nominations

c. books
 d. daily
 e. debated
 f. Information
 g. matters
 h. meeting
 i. members
 j. memorize

m. Order
 n. parliamentary
 o. presiding
 p. read through
 q. studied
 r. voted on
 s. voting
 t. wordings

1. _____ constantly used procedures and standard _____ for them.
2. Make sure all (members) know what's being _____ and being _____.
3. Learn how to conduct _____.
4. Know the steps in a _____.
5. Learn to handle Points of _____ and _____.
6. Know more about _____ procedure than other _____.

ANSWERS:

1. Memorize (j) constantly used procedures and standard wordings (t) for them.
2. Make sure all know what's being debated (e) and being voted on (r).
3. Learn how to conduct voting (s).
4. Know the steps in a meeting (h).
5. Learn to handle Points of Order (m) and Appeals (b).
6. Know more about parliamentary (n) procedure than other members (i).

NOTE: These are based on the Six Steps to Effective Presiding in RIB. Check out pages 138-143 for more detailed information, especially - for instance - on how to accomplish #2. Also note that the word motion (k) isn't the correct entry for #4 in this RIB based quiz, but it's still good for any presiding officer to correctly know the steps in a motion!

“A Secretary’s Say”

This reporter recently had the pleasure of meeting Georgiann Henry, who subsequently and graciously agreed to this interview. I met Ms. Henry at an NAP Unit meeting that brought two units together (more about that later).

At the time, she mentioned her experience as secretary for more than one organization and in the telling, I felt her enthusiasm for parliamentary procedure.

I was delighted to sit for an interview with Ms Georgiann Henry on the morning of March 2, 2021.

Everyone - meet Georgiann Henry, aspiring parliamentarian and provisional member of the Coastal Counties Parliamentarians!



Georgiann’s proclivity for note taking reaches back to high school. While others gave speeches and rapped gavels, Georgiann leaned into her natural note-taking talent. Note-taking, she said, “just kind of brings it and keeps it in my head a little bit longer.

Georgiann is currently secretary for three well-known groups: Ventura Elks Lodge, the Ventura Emblem Club, and the San Buenaventura Women’s Club. She has seen that “most people put entirely too much in the minutes!” And she’s discovered that “you can’t get through to” some folks on this point, even though “you can get yourself in trouble by putting in too much information.

For one these groups, all of whom name RONR as the official parliamentary authority, Ms. Henry served as Parliamentarian for one year and, “fortunately nothing drastic happened!”

So far, Channel Islands Parliamentarians and Coastal Counties Parliamentarians have met together twice. The group is focused on having as many provisional members as possible sit for the membership exam in October. Unit lessons between now and then are focused on that goal, and on the joy that comes with welcoming new members to our Association!

Georgiann was introduced to NAP and to Coastal Counties Parliamentarians by friends and respected parliamentarians Joyce Opjorden and Rosalee Asbell. She has wanted to pursue the study of parliamentary procedure for many years. Now in her third year with the Coastal Counties Unit and retired, Georgiann says she can finally

devote the necessary time. She is preparing to take the membership exam in October and welcomes the confidence that parliamentary prowess can deliver.



Over the past year, Georgiann has come to appreciate the power of virtual meetings, specifically, that more organization members can attend and participate. She looks forward to in person meetings, but welcomes the opportunity to meet by Zoom, especially when the alternative is not to meet at all! If you see Georgiann, say “Hi!

by CP Staff Writer

ARE - EYE - BEE

David Meigel, President Epsilon Unit
David Mezzera, PRP, past-CSAP President

What are the verb forms of SING? Sing, sang, sung. What are the verb forms of SWIM? Swim, swam, swum. What are the verb forms of RIB? Rib, rab, rub. Huh??? Wait, RIB isn't a verb; it's a compound noun - and it's a very special compound noun for all of us parliamentarians; not only does it refer to a person but also an important tangible item at the same time. Important item indeed! Do you have a copy of RIB in your library? Do you recommend RIB for clients who ask you what resource they should obtain in order to run better, more efficient meetings? The answer to both of these questions should be a resounding YES.

Recent issues of the *California Parliamentarian* and Quick Quizzes on the [CSAP website](#) deal with helping parliamentarians (and presiding officers) gain a better grasp of the value of using RONRIB (*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief*) - or simply RIB (*Robert's in Brief*). Check out the prior issue of the *CP* on pages 9 and 12 for a challenge to grasp the content of RIB and its Index. And check out the newly designed [CSAP website](#), especially the Quick Quizzes that test your knowledge of RIB.

Speaking of RIB, how do you pronounce that acronym? When we refer to *RONR*, we say “Are - Oh - En - Are,” but when we refer to *RIB*, do we simply say “Rib?” Some parliamentary aficionados are adamant that the pronunciation should only be “Are - Eye - Bee” and not “Rib.” But if we get too worried about pronunciation and take parliamentary procedure too seriously, where's the fun in that? Speaking of fun, here are a couple of RIB stories to keep you smiling and keep you on your toes. Feel free to include a zinger or two in your unit presentations when discussing or teaching RIB. Enjoy!

√ If you wrap your copy of *Robert's In Brief* with chicken wire, is that considered a RIB CAGE?

- √ If you wrap your copy of *Robert's In Brief* with twine and hang it from the ceiling, is that Suspending the Rules?
- √ If you write the word "Aye" in big bold letters on the front cover of a *Robert's In Brief* and then place the book on a piece of meat, does that make it a RIB AYE STEAK?
- √ If you place a couple of copies of *Robert's In Brief* slathered in sauce on a grill, does that make them BBQ RIBS?
- √ If you tear the "spine" off a copy of *Robert's In Brief* book so that all the pages are not connected, do you call it a BONELESS RIB?
- √ If you vigorously brush a copy of *Robert's In Brief* with a feather, is that considered a RIB TICKLER?
- √ And how about the frog with a degree in Information Technology who also happens to be an RP, reading a copy of *Robert's In Brief*. Ready for it? Would it sit around all day saying "RIB-IT....RIB-IT?"

Note: David Meigel says that if you find the puns to be too corny, you should blame David, and David Mezzer says that if you find the puns to be too corny, you should blame David! But back to the serious information:

The parliamentary community seems split on the validity of having both the "legitimate" 700-plus-page 12th Edition as well as the RIB "CliffsNotes™" version of the big book available for use. *RONR* purists claim that a real parliamentarian, upon memorizing and internalizing the entire content of the big book, is duty-bound to weaponize that knowledge for all deliberative theatres of conflict. To them, any and all uses of RIB under similar circumstances constitute "cheating" or worse, gross misconduct punishable by expungement of one's parliamentary credentials and banishment so as never to be a welcome member of the sacred NAP alumni ever again. Ouch!

However, to these authors, possession and use of RIB currently should not constitute a Class A felony, as substantial evidence shows that newcomers to the study of *RONR* and parliamentary procedure - and especially newcomer presiding officers - find the book extremely useful! Many CSAP units actually base educational sessions during their regular meetings on RIB content for the betterment of their provisional members wishing to eventually take the membership exam. Not surprisingly, these lessons have been highly successful, and there have been a number of individuals who have passed the NAP membership exam using this method of study. After all, one of the forms of the membership exam asks 40 questions based solely on RIB.

Even on a day-to-day basis, provisional and regular members of a not-so-inferior stamp like the fact that RIB offers a quick reference and refresher on various procedural points which they can look up quickly as opposed to the mind-numbing exercise of looking in the big book for the biblical “chapter and verse” reference for the answers to their questions. If for that reason alone, RIB has its value as a reference work. So get it . . . use it . . . share it!



“ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER IN BRIEFS”

Musings From the CSAP President:

Recently while presenting a lesson on **RONR In Brief** to a council full of members with a renewed committed to parliamentary procedure, one member asked, **How can the Chair say a motion is out of order if she doesn't know... what she doesn't know!?**

This is a great question, and relatable! The fact is, there is always something else to learn about parliamentary procedure. Another fact: practice, *practice*, **practice** is, in my experience, the best confidence builder for an aspiring presider. But honestly – does *anyone* aspire to preside at a meeting called to make group decisions? Can you think of anything more frightening? 😊

Folks become leaders in their club or organization for many reasons. Some planned on it and welcomed it as warmly as a lost jewel; others stepped into it with trepidation; and, faced with the “new” and “unknown”, naturally lacked that warm, fuzzy feeling.

Members might wonder - what to do? **What To Do???** From chair or member alike, the question is apt. **Members can and must help the Chair!** Helping the Chair helps you and your favorite organization to thrive. **But how?**

First - JOIN CSAP of course! But beyond that, support your club and your Chair by accepting your responsibility as a member to abide by the parliamentary authority named in your bylaws. **(What? You haven't consulted the bylaws?)** If that parliamentary authority is

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, then you are in luck! CSAP has educational opportunities for you! CSAP members are students of parliamentary procedure who Support Your Learning Goals.

NAP/CSAP Membership is awarded on the successful completion of a proctored Membership Exam based on **RONR In Brief**. If you want **to join this AMAZING organization and help your FAVORITE club** move into the future together, get yourself a copy of **RONR In Brief** and contact a CSAP board member to proctor your membership exam!

SEE THIS WEBSITE for prepared lessons on RONRIB, Chapters 1 thru 11
Brought to you by CSAP

Thoughts on ... Changing Times

Esther A Heller, PRP
Northern Area Director

For fourteen years, I wrote monthly op ed columns for another organization's newsletters using the above title. Madam CSAP president suggested sharing my point of view with all of you so I've resurrected the title and style. Right now, the Northern Area Executive Committee is working on a speaker for our July 17 meeting. We did decide to continue with Zoom; I have such mixed feelings about that.

It's not news that the pandemic has impacted so many people so many ways. I'm no exception. While being the rare person who loves Zoom and embraces its possibilities, in day-to-day life, I love talking to people in person and want to hug friends, share meals and have some meetings without internet delays. I draw energy and inspiration from being around others. Without that energy, I'm dropping balls and want to stop having to do things which no longer bring me joy.

I have served on the CSAP Board of Directors for all but two years since the fall of 2013. I've been an Area Director, the Vice President and the President, at least once doing double duty. As VP, per the Bylaws, I chaired two committees and was ex officio on another. As President, my desk was where the buck stopped and the emails, the spreadsheets, the complaints, the occasional positives. Am I sorry? Of course not. I was ready for it, I learned a lot, I traveled, I expanded my network and made friends. Because of my engineering background, I was able to assist in upgrading our technology, our website, our mailing system, and yes, even our Zoom account. This in turn enabled me to champion and move forward a new unit. I'm very excited that the Golden State Electronic Unit [GSEU] is beginning the chartering process.

When I first joined the board, there were long-time voices in CSAP who weren't as excited about changes or couldn't find positive things to say to move us forward, not backward. There are times now when I find myself struggling to not be one of those. Instead, I need to focus on my clients and want more uninterrupted time for all things teaching and education. That's what I've always loved best since in the seventh grade, I started tutoring younger kids. Over the decades, I've taught mathematics, photography, outdoor camping skills (including fire-building and archery), First Aid, leadership, networking and more. Currently as a parliamentarian I am an NAP Body of Knowledge trainer; I mentor high school parliamentary procedure teams; I coach and train clients. Some of these opportunities have come about because of my time on the CSAP Board.

This will be my final year on the Board. I will remain active in the Area. Wherever I have volunteered and especially as a president, I have prioritized mentoring and motivating others to step up. In CSAP as in so many other organizations, we need more new people, with fresh ideas and energy for taking on today's challenges, to be active. Some of you reading this are saying, been there, done that. Thank you, for all you've done. Those of you who haven't been as involved, consider it now! An all-volunteer organization is only as good as its people. So, my challenge is to you: join a committee, organize an event, teach a workshop, ask my favorite question "what can I do to help?" I may not be on the board when you get there, but you know how to find me. I still mentor and give perspective as needed. I make a good wall to bounce creative ideas against. You can do this!

NOTICE from the Communication Committee

CSAP maintains a MailChimp email list of members, including provisional members. If you would like to receive CSAP MailChimp notices and announcements but have not been seeing them in your in-box, send your email address and a request to be added to the CSAP Distribution List to CSAP Communications Committee Chair Barbee Heiny by email to barbeehieny@gmail.com, or CSAP President Sally LaMacchia to sally@losfl.com.

We will use MailChimp more going forward, and I would like to include as many members as possible in the notices and announcements.



NAP District Directors, Association Presidents, NAP Members and friends near and far- District 8 Director Mike Peck, PRP, & Host Association President Sally LaMacchia, PRP, cordially invite you to



District 8's Upcoming 2021 Conference on July 30 & 31!

2 Days – Friday and Saturday – Mark Your Calendars!!

7 Workshops!

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|
| #1 | Carl Nohr, PRP presents | <i>Nominations: Pitfalls and Practices</i> |
| #2 | David W. Meigel presents | <i>Parliamentary Jeopardy!</i> |
| #3 | David Mezzera, PRP presents | <i>Let's Play Hardball with Minutes</i> |
| #4 | Lorenzo Cuesta, PRP presents | <i>Two Misunderstood Concepts – Abstain and Intrinsicly Irrelevant Negative Vote</i> |
| #5 | Scott Burns, PRP presents | <i>Sometimes the Best Decision is NOT Doing Anything</i> |
| #6 | Vivian Vincent, PRP presents | <i>A PRP – A Client – A Pandemic – A Virtual Meeting</i> |
| #7 | Mike Peck, PRP presents | <i>So You Want to Be a Presiding Officer?</i> |



This is a fantastic learning opportunity for *all attendees*. For professional parliamentarians - continuing education units; for all NAP members - varied lessons and new ways of thinking; for our guests and provisional members and all with an interest in parliamentary procedure - access to invaluable learning opportunities and shared knowledge of practiced and polished parliamentarians. And for every single person an affordable conference chock-full of parliamentary lessons and pointers. Greet familiar friends and make new connections!

More details, see the District 8 website:

<http://NAPDistrict8.org/district-8-2021-conference/>

For members and guests who prefer mailing in registration forms and/or fees, see the information labelled "**Can't Register Online?**" on the web page above to download a PDF registration form with pay-by-check instructions.

NAP DISTRICT 8

2021 Conference

Friday & Saturday, July 30-31, 2021

REGISTRATION FORM

USE TO PAY BY CHECK ONLY

Registration by credit/debit card must be done online and is not available by mail.

MAIL EARLY! DEADLINE TO REGISTER BY MAIL:

Must be received by July 23, 2021 to allow time for processing

Questions? E-mail: Ray@AAFU.org

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Full Name _____

In case of questions: Phone/Cell: _____

Required for Zoom invitation – Email Address: _____

How did you hear about the conference? _____

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Membership Status: | <input type="checkbox"/> NAP Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-NAP Member |
| Registration Fee: | \$15 | \$25 |
| Membership Type or Affiliation: | <input type="checkbox"/> District 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other District ____ | <input type="checkbox"/> No affiliation <input type="checkbox"/> Provisional Member |
| In what state or country is your primary NAP membership? | 2-letter state/province code or country code: _____ | |
| NAP Credential (if any): | <input type="checkbox"/> RP <input type="checkbox"/> RP-R <input type="checkbox"/> PRP <input type="checkbox"/> PRP-R | |

REGISTRATION FEE:

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to “CSAP” (California State Association of Parliamentarians is the host association for the conference). Return completed form with check to:

Beverly A. Chandler
PO Box 191361
San Diego, CA 92159-1361

**Officers and Appointees
FY 2020-2022**

Contact information for each member of the board is provided below and on the CSAP Website. Click on “About Us”, and then on Board of Directors. Your 2021 board members are:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| President | Sally F. LaMacchia, Esq., PRP |
| Vice-President | Kimo Gandall, PRP (also: Membership, Growth & Service) |
| Secretary | Vicki Walter, RP |
| Treasurer | Maria Trujillo-Tough, RP |

Directors elected annually by the Areas:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Northern Area | Esther A. Heller, PRP |
| Southern Area | Beverly Chandler |

Appointed voting members of the Board:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Parliamentarian | Gail Lover, PRP |
| Governing Documents Committee | Pano Frousiakis |
| Budget/Finance | Rick Sydor, RP-R |
| Communications Committee Chair | Barbee Heiny |

Key appointed (non-voting) Roles:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Financial Review | David Meigel |
| California Parliamentarian (CP) Editor | Maria Trujillo-Tough, RP |
| Webmaster | Alex Wang |
| Annual Meeting 2021 Coordinator | Vacant |