

What does a Parliamentarian do?

A parliamentary **Short Take** by Sally F. LaMacchia, Esq., PRP, based on Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised

During a meeting, a working parliamentarian is usually present to assist the Presiding Officer's efficient and fair handling of assembly business.

RONR 47:6 – This is the first reference listed in the RONR, Newly Revised index under *Parliamentarian*.

“At the same time, any presiding officer will do well to bear in mind that no rules can take the place of tact and common sense on the part of the chairman.”

RONR (12th ed.) § 47:6. p. 427

“The parliamentarian is a consultant ...”.

RONR (12th ed.) § 47:46

The President
Other Officers
Committees
Members

on

Matters of Parliamentary Procedure

“... It is advisable to engage”
a parliamentarian for –

1. Revision of Bylaws
2. A Large Assembly
3. A Convention
4. Complex Business

RONR (12th ed.) § 47:7



**Parliamentarians are
“employed throughout
the year.”**

RONR (12th ed.) § 47:47

- A State or National Organization
- A board or committee of a State, National Organization
- International Organization



“Elizabeth MacDonough is an American lawyer and Parliamentarian of the United States Senate since 2012. She is the first woman to hold the position.”

Source: Wikipedia

“If a parliamentarian is needed by an organization, the president should be free to appoint ... one in whom she has confidence.”

RONR (12th ed.) § 47:48

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“A member of an assembly who acts as its parliamentarian has the same duty as the presiding officer to maintain a position of impartiality, and therefore does not make motions, participate in debate, or vote on any question except in the case of a ballot vote.”

RONR (12th ed.) § 47:55

SEE RONR NEWLY REVISED § 47:49-56 to review various “*Duties of the parliamentarian.*”

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Thank you for your attention.

Prime Parliamentary Services
Because the Assembly Decides



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