



# California Parliamentarian

August 2021

## President's Post

We've all heard it: "There is no such thing as a free lunch." It's true. The world and we who share it will inexorably seek and find balance. Equilibrium rests at all levels, from the height of dreams to the certainty of substance. One way or another, if it moves here, it moves there and vice versa. Actions and inactions have consequences.

It continues to be an interesting, challenging, sometimes heartbreaking – and for some, an exhilarating time. It's weird, isn't it? Just like the use of contractions in this article. It's not like me. But times are a little strange. The route remains a detour. We're not sure for how long.



Every CSAP member is important. Those who provided feedback and input over the past several months to assist the Board's decision making raised their voices for all of us, and they are very much appreciated.

As parliamentarians, we know more than most that Association members decide how CSAP will present itself to the world, and what kind of port it will offer members in this ongoing storm.

To all members and friends of CSAP, the Board appreciates your patience while together we implement new ideas, navigate still new waters, and prepare for the changes to come. Step by nail-biting step, this officer looks forward to what CSAP will do in 2022!

Based on members' input and the good of the Association, at a Special Meeting of the Board on August 23 the Board decided to hold CSAP's 2021 Annual Meeting over Zoom from Friday afternoon, October 22 through Sunday morning, October 24<sup>th</sup>. All

attendees to the Annual Meeting will participate via Zoom. The Board had hoped for some amount of in-person interaction, but that will not be the case this year.

Just as in years past, CSAP’s incoming Board members will convene for their first meeting of the new year on Sunday morning, October 24<sup>th</sup>. The incoming 2022 Board of Directors will agree on long-term and short-term goals, schedule future meetings and publication dates for the *California Parliamentarian* and carry out its first special orders of the year. Somewhere along the way we’ll all have lunch. It won’t be free.

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**Beverly Chandler**  
**Southern Area Director**

[This article was received on time for the previous issue, however the editor apologizes for omitting it from that issue.]



**SOON, OH VERY SOON, WE ARE GOING MEET IN PERSON!!!**

Greetings from southern California. We have done well. Most of the Southern Area units have continued to meet virtually. We are ready to get back to in person meetings. Everyone is looking forward to and are excited about getting out of our house shoes,

pajama bottoms or shorts, to wear more than tops. We shall put on our entire garment and meet together, again.

I am happy to report that a great Parliamentary Procedure seminar was virtually hosted by the Los Angeles Chi Eta Phi Unit. It featured Robert Duitsman, Deborah Underwood, and Patricia Titus as presenters. Virtual has its' advantages. Participants from distant places were able to attend. Thank you to President Josephine Alexander and the Chi Eta Phi unit for such a seminar.

Coastal Counties Parliamentarians are excitedly looking forward to gathering together for in person meetings, in September. The unit will focus its future lessons on learning how to master meetings. The officers have been installed and the unit is being led by their new president. Congratulations, Shirley Lorraine.

We have good news regarding President Jacqueline Marazzi and the Escondido unit. After a long pandemic break in having meetings, the unit has met for the first time since the crisis began. The unit had a very good hybrid meeting. Other than the fact that the monitor periodically went out, it gave most of the members an opportunity to participate. This unit is getting back on track.

All the southern California units are looking forward to meeting again in person. The pandemic crisis has given us additional options for conducting meetings, electronic and hybrid. With these options comes the necessity to have additional rules. Covid-19 caught everybody off guard. Bylaws must be amended and updated. The 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of Robert's Rules of Order has the plan. Follow the plan. Take care and try to always be prepared.

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**A Quick Report**  
**Esther A Heller, PRP**  
Northern Area Director

Last issue you got an op ed piece from me. This one you're getting just reports because to be honest, I've got some sewing I'd really like to do - including a few of the almost famous parli-bears.

Northern Area: The plus about virtual meetings is we can bring in excellent speakers from near and far. On July 17, Tim Wynn, PRP, the official NAP parliamentarian spoke to us on "Deviating from Robert's Rules of Order." He was excellent! Tim comes at topics from a point of view that always leaves me with something positive to think about and potentially use with my own clients.

## CALIFORNIA PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Nominating Committee gave its report but one of those nominated for the next term withdrew his name. The committee has agreed to continue and try to find a replacement. The current slate is:

Director - David Mezzera, PRP, Assistant Director - TBA, Secretary - Rose Gilardi, Treasurer - Rick Sydor, RP-R.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 6. The Executive Committee is having the usual discussions. Shall we meet somewhere with or without lunch or zoom along? Is the date too close to the CSAP Annual Meeting? Will our members be zoomed or even parliamentaried out? If you are a member of Northern Area and have an opinion, I would love to hear from you. What? You don't know which Area you're in. Check out <http://californiaparliamentarians.org/areas/> for a list of counties in each Area.

Golden State Electronic Unit: We're next meeting on Wed Sept 8 [after the NAP bylaws forum] to finalize our bylaws and hold elections. Once that's done, we file the forms to charter. Any members-at-large [MALs] who would like to join a unit, we'd love to have you.

Mailchimp: People get the email which points them to this great publication via our CSAP Mailchimp mailing account. They also get the Call to Meetings this way, unless they've told us they want paper. I am the primary person who maintains our list. NAP lets us know about new members. BTW, we've had 11 since our last edition - congrats and welcome. I then go out and add them to our list including which Area they're in. That way members get both the Association and the Area mailings. If you get the mailing directly, you can update your own information by following the link at the bottom of the original message. If someone has forwarded it to you and you'd like to receive it directly, email me.

If unit or area officers send me names and contact info for provisional members, I can add them as well.

Contacting me: For interest in the Northern Area, the Golden State Electronic Unit, MailChimp or just to say hi or send kind words, I'm at [esther.heller@gmail.com](mailto:esther.heller@gmail.com).

## C ommittee's Corner by CP Staff Writer

CSAP's Committees are busy at work. The D8 Planning Committee and its sub-committees completed their work, and the D8 Biennium was a great success. Over 100 people attended the two-day Zoom event. Vice-President Kimo Gandall steps up again and again - this time to chair the Annual Meeting Committee. Any member with ideas, opinions, or expectations around this year's annual meeting is encouraged to contact Kimo. We already look forward to working with you.

CSAP would do very well to increase committee membership, there is much to do! Where committee members are not elected, it is typically the responsibility of a club president or chairmen to populate the committee by appointment of members. In CSAP, the President is tasked to "appoint chairman of all committees whose selection is not otherwise provided for, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee", pictured below.



Recently, this writer attended the Annual [Zoom] Meeting of another NAP Association. The President asked for volunteers for a committee and paused. And waited. Eventually, a member stepped up, which inspired another member to do the same. This meant the President had to appoint only one reluctant member which he did without further delay and the meeting continued.

Don't be a reluctant appointee. If you want to inspire and be inspired, if you want to serve yourself and the greater community, *volunteer for a CSAP Committee!* For information, contact president Sally LaMacchia by email to [sally@losfl.com](mailto:sally@losfl.com), or by phone or text to 805.704.4744.

**“SOMEDAY Is Not Another Day in the Week”**

Shirley B. Vanderbeck

CL§, PLS-PP, CLA-CP, NP-CNSA, CCM, PRP

Is **SOMEDAY** in your vocabulary? “A man's reach must exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?” wrote Robert Browning as he urged us to reach for our highest ideals. His is a sentiment echoed many times over through such phrases as “Dream dreams, for as you dream so shall you become;” or “Dreams are the touchstones of character;” and “If you will it, it is not a dream.”

Henry David Thoreau placed a great value on goals, hopes, and dreams. He said, “Build castles in the air, then build foundations for them; happy are they who dream dreams and have the courage to make them come true; *if you advance confidently in the direction of your own dreams, and endeavor to live the life you have imagined, you will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.*”

Such sentiments are at variance with our current era of cynicism and hardness. We don't seem to want to spend our lives on some distant goal, no matter how noble. We don't want to wait. We want what we want when we want it, which was the day before yesterday, if not sooner. To get anywhere in this world today, we are told to be realistic, be practical, compromise, go for the big bucks, settle, get it now, don't aim too high, and first and foremost, what's the bottom line?

There must be a middle road to walk between the weak, ineffectual dreamers on the one side, and the earthbound, leaden, moneymaking machines on the other. There is nothing more heartbreaking than wasting your life on a dream that is not worth your while, unless it is having no dream at all.

By the same token, there is little that is more gratifying to us and inspiring to others than working hard and waiting long for a cherished goal and finally achieving it. Stories of dreams coming true after a long wait and a hard fight are legion.

All of us are very much aware of the days in a week, *i.e.*, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. But **SOMEDAY** is not another day in the week; although in our everyday lives, we have begun to use the term **SOMEDAY** as if it had been added to the others in the list.

How many times have you said to yourself, “**Someday** I'm going to take that long awaited trip to Tahiti” or “**Someday** I'm going back to school and get my degree”? Can you complete this sentence: “I regret that I never . . . .”? The list goes on and on, doesn't it? Have you already filled up all your **SOMEDAYS** with empty promises to yourself? Is there something lacking in your life that has prevented you from reaching that long-awaited

**SOMEDAY?** Ambition? Commitment? The energy it takes to keep moving ahead—no matter what?

Most of us have wonderful dreams for the future. We continually make plans in our minds but fail to put them into motion to achieve the goal. We tend to procrastinate and can usually find any number of excuses or considerations when all of the **SOMEDAYS** finally arrive and the plan or goal has not materialized.

What if there are unexpected setbacks along the way? We have all experienced them. Many are created by our own doing; some are created by others. These setbacks are merely delays and do not mean that we must abandon our commitment for achievement, but simply indicate that it will take a little longer than originally planned to complete the goal. Very few goals are realized over short periods of time, especially when our lives are filled with demands of family and career. However, it can be done with careful scheduling, tenacity, the will to persevere, and the personal desire to keep that promise or commitment made to oneself.

Expect the best of yourself and get it. William James, the famous psychologist, said, “Our belief at the beginning of a doubtful undertaking is the one thing [now get that: **IS THE ONE THING**], that insures the successful outcome of your venture.” When you expect the best of yourself, you release a magnetic force in your mind that by a law of attraction tends to bring the best to you.

This doesn't mean that by believing, you are necessarily going to get everything you want or think you want. But it does mean that when you learn to start believing in yourself, that which has been seemingly impossible begins to move, or will drastically move, into the area of the possible.

When you put the future on layaway rather than confront where you need to stand to deliver on the vision for the future, all you get is what Shakespeare's Macbeth meant when he said, “Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow creeps in this petty pace, from day to day to the last syllable of recorded time.” To me, that is not a future worth having. I want to stand for a future that empowers us to live our vision NOW.

The future is rich with possibilities. That's what I love about it. I can't change the past, and the present seems to be bound up by circumstances, but the future is a blank canvas, a new morning, and a new horizon. What I couldn't do **yesterday** is possible today or even tomorrow. The yesterdays that stretch back to tell the story of my life or yours are nothing compared to the adventure of living it, and a future that merely stretches forward from that past like a continuation of the same story has no possibility.

I once heard insanity defined as: “Doing the same thing over and over, expecting a different result.” In other words, to produce a different future, we will each have to change the way we do things.

Rather than allow circumstances and “stuff” to dictate our stand, we must allow our vision for the future to tell us where to stand, and then operate powerfully NOW in line with that vision. Think back 35 years in history, if you are old enough to go back that far. John F. Kennedy didn't take a poll to find out whether the vision of landing an American on the moon was a good idea. He declared the vision; lived it like there were no alternative, and then generated it into reality.

So, pull yourself up by the bootstraps and get going. Get your application completed (whether it is for the RP exam or the PRP exam) and make the commitment to become a professional parliamentarian. Whatever dreams you have or promise you to have made to yourself for all those **SOMEDAYS**, don't put them off any longer. Don't wait for **SOMEDAY** to knock on your door in order to fulfill your vision for the future, or **SOMEDAY** may become **YESTERDAY**—which is **NOT ANOTHER DAY IN THE WEEK!**

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Shirley B. Vanderbeck has been in the legal profession for over 50 years. She holds certifications as a Certified Litigation Secretary Specialist, Professional Legal Secretary, Professional Paralegal, Certified Legal Assistant, Certified Notary Signing Agent, and a Certified California Mediator, and a Professional Registered Parliamentarian. She is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians; California State Association of Parliamentarians; and served as Area Director for the California Southern Area of Parliamentarians, as well as other positions.

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## Living with a Professional Parliamentarian What's *That* Like?

Whatever it is we do, few of us do it alone. Most accomplishments are won with the support of family and friends. A parliamentarian's pursuit of professional credibility over time does not happen without the support of significant others. My rock is my husband, Dick Meeks. For each of you, someone special comes to mind.

This staff writer is very excited to bring a bit of a different story. You all know Jim Stewart and if we are very lucky, Jim will always find time for CSAP. But this story is not about Jim. It's about the beach to his wave, the clip to his tie, the pin on his lapel, the sugar in his coffee – and she has agreed to be interviewed for the *California Parliamentarian!*

Please welcome to these pages Ms. Lorraine Stewart! Ms. Stewart has had a front row seat to the demands of nearly every office in CSAP - multiple terms as CSAP President over 2 decades, but that's not all! She is still witness to Jim's devotion of considerable time and knowledge to the NAP mission.

## CALIFORNIA PARLIAMENTARIAN

Currently, Jim serves on NAP's Credentialing Committee. So, what is it like living with a Professional Parliamentarian?

Questions and answers are shared below.

👉 Ms. Stewart, when did you first realize that you were living with a dedicated parliamentarian?

Jim has always been a fair and straight-forward thinker. I am very proud of him, and I understand that his fairness is the way he comes across to others. He listens, he evaluates and comes up with a complete and fair resolution. He can be non-judgmental.



👉 What did you know about parliamentary procedure before living with your parliamentarian?

I belonged to a couple of organizations that loosely followed parliamentary procedure. Without it, a room full of women can be dogmatic, and full of controversy. Parliamentary procedure is nothing to be dogmatic about. Fairness is the most important factor. Speaking clearly and fairly is what my parliamentarian does best.

👉 What is it like to live with a professional parliamentarian? What is most fun? What is least fun?

My parliamentarian is a gentleman. He is never overly rude or dogmatic. He is a clear thinker and I respond by trying to be as clear as possible as well.

👉 What is the most useful thing you have learned over the years spent with a parliamentarian?

That there is not just one way to answer a question, or to articulate a challenge, or to solve a particular problem. That discussion is very important, and that much is gained when we listen to someone who thinks and speaks clearly and who is honest and true in wanting to help.

👉 What advice would you give to an unsuspecting person who is drawn to spend time with a Professional Parliamentarian?

To listen carefully because your parliamentarian is a clear thinker who does not "spout" anything. In my experience, a parliamentarian mulls things over and answers to the best of his ability in a calm clear manner.

That concludes this interview. This writer is grateful to James and Lorraine Stewart for spending their time with me and for sharing with all of you. Many thanks to Ms. Stewart for her perspective and Words of Wisdom. And to all who support parliamentarians and parliamentary procedure, *thank you!* You are all heroes to all of us!

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Sally's Tiny List - *RONR* in 100 Words or Less<sup>1</sup>

COMMITTEES RONR (12th ed)



- § 50:1 “one or more persons”  
“not itself ... a form of assembly.”
- § 50:2 “more persons” could be “all [] members present” at a regular meeting.
- § 50:4 “less authority ... than a board.”  
“empowered to act ... only on specific instructions.”  
no “regular meeting times.”
- § 13:23 “the power to appoint ... includes the power to fill any vacancy.”
- § 50:18 “a standing committee should [] provide the strongest possible group” for tasks  
“that may arise.”
- § 50:21 “a committee [] chairman should call it together.”
- § 51:23 Boards, *unlike committees*, must conduct business in a proper meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Title and sub-title are not included in word count.

## A Secretary's Say

By CP Staff Writer

Greetings, scriveners!

For this issue of "A Secretary's Say" Mr. Dave Meigel, outgoing Northern Area Secretary, agreed to an interview on August 20<sup>th</sup> of this year. Mr. Meigel's term as Northern Area Secretary ends in October but his Secretarial duties will continue for the Foothill Toastmaster's Club of which he has been a member since 2014.



Dave started in CSAP as a provisional member in 2006 and passed the NAP membership exam in 2008. Since then, Dave has held every officer position within the Sacramento Parliamentarians – Epsilon Unit and is their immediate past president. As the current secretary for the Foothill Toastmaster Club, Dave says he is grateful for the opportunity and that "it keeps me off the streets and out of trouble." What a pleasure to speak with Secretary Meigel!

### What is the most important aspect of the Secretary's job?

*There are several. First is the overall sense of obligation and responsibility of maintaining the club records. If push came to shove and a secretary is on the stand in court and can't answer questions about the minutes, that's a problem. I don't treat being Secretary lightly. You are dealing with a legal document and will want to be as accurate as possible.*



### Is it ever proper for a Secretary to paraphrase a motion?

*No, I wouldn't do it. But you might be able to paraphrase other content in the minutes.*

### What is the most helpful thing the Chair can do for the Secretary during a business meeting?

*The chair should make sure the Secretary can capture the exact wording of the motion. It is too easy for the Secretary to get overloaded. I like it when the chair "runs interference" for the secretary. If that takes time and repetition, that's fine.*

### How do you feel about requiring motions in writing?

*For a meeting with advanced notice motions should be submitted in writing beforehand. For any meeting, if people are given the CALL well enough in advance, they can submit a motion in writing. New Business should not be a surprise, but often someone introduces a motion under New Business that needs work. If I had my druthers all motions would be in writing.*

**What knowledge must a first time Secretary take to that first assignment?**

*A first-time secretary must know to ignore everything that is said and only capture what was done. In one situation, I saw where the secretary wrote out the minutes in a verbosely narrative form ending up with an eight-page document that looked more like a newsletter than a set of minutes. Unfortunately, when it came time for the reading and approval of the minutes, the assembly had to suffer through hearing the chair read verbatim the entire document!*

**Is there room for an expression of the Secretary's personality in the minutes?**

*Yes! The heading, overall layout and appearance of the minutes is at the discretion of the Secretary, but keep in mind it is a legal document, so you want the end result to appear as professional as possible.*

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**Parliamentary Flashbacks  
California Parliamentarian  
Summer 2001**

- Jean Stallings was President of CSAP
- TennieBee Hall was the CP Editor
- There were 37 units listed
- [www.ca-parliamentarian.org](http://www.ca-parliamentarian.org) was launched as our first official website  
by Lorenzo Cuesta
- Scott Burns became an RP
- S. David Shapiro, PRP, became a Certified Professional Parliamentarian for AIP

How many of you recall this?

Vicki Walter

## *The Joys of Parliamentary Procedure*

By Eleanor G. Nenstiel, PRP

**LEARNING** the specifics of good procedure.

**UNDERSTANDING** rules which govern procedures.

**USE** of correct procedure.

**SAVING TIME** by understanding intent of procedures.

**COMMENCING** a meeting on time.

**ADJOURNING** a meeting on time.

**ASSURANCE** that use of time-tested procedures is my right.

**PRACTICE** improving performance.

**STUDY** opening whole new vistas of opportunity and procedures.

**CONFIDENCE** in one's own ability to be a productive member of an assembly.

**PROCESSING** motions correctly.

**SELECTIVITY** to assure use of best motion to accomplish the desired objective.

**DETERMINATION** to achieve goals amicably and effectively.

**GROWTH** of personal values and orientation to cooperative problem solving.

**RECOGNITION** of one speaker at a time to insure that each exercises his right to be heard.

**TERMINOLOGY** of generally accepted terms with specific meanings such as:

**A** amend, approve, adopt and authority.

**B** bylaws, ballot, boards and breach.

**C** chairman, charter, commit and characteristics of motions.

**FINDING** rationale for motions, procedures, and amendments.

**APPRECIATION** for contributions of other members.

**DEBATING** or **DISCUSSING** politely but explicitly so that every member understands all points of reference before making decisions.

**VOTING** which indicates the will of the majority and concerns of the minority.

**SATISFACTION** of knowing that consideration of motions has been done in the shortest space of time for the greatest good for the greatest number of members.

**HELPING** others resolve problems effectively.

*Eleanor G. Nenstiel lives in Anderson, SC.*

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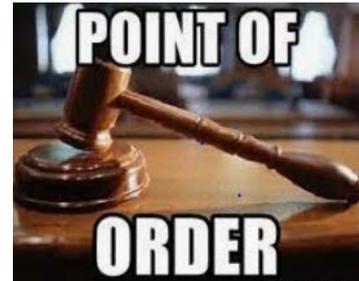
Macchia, Esq., PRP

## Violation of the Right to Vote, RONR 23:7

“The general rule is that if a question of order is to be raised, it must be raised promptly at the time the breach occurs.” 23:5 When the right to vote is involved, usual time constraints on raising a point of order fall to the side. This is so even though “Points of order regarding the conduct of a vote must be raised immediately following the announcement of the voting result (see 45:9).” 23:5, *last sentence*.

Section 45:9, “Time Limits on Efforts to Challenge, Retake, or Change a Vote” names the exception to the rule - “a breach of continuing nature (23:6-9). In that case, a point of order is in order “so long as the decision arrived as a result of the vote has continuing force and effect.” 23:7

The fundamental distinction between 45:9 (points of order must be raised immediately) and 23:7 (points of order can be raised while the result of a vote has “continuing force and effect”) is that in 45:9 the member raising the point *participated in the vote*, and 23:7 the member raising the point of order *did not participate in the vote*.



In 45:9 a point of order has to do with “the conduct of the vote”; in 23:7 the point is that the member was deprived of the **right to vote**. It is the deprivation of a fundamental right that is the ongoing breach or breach of a continuing nature. 23:6. e

If a point of order is sustained based on deprivation of the right to vote in an election of officers, must the result of the vote be declared invalid, and a second election of officers undertaken? When, if ever, would such a rule make sense?

RONR says “If there is any possibility that the members’ vote(s) would have affected the outcome, then the results of the vote must be declared invalid if the point of order is sustained. If there is no such possibility, the result of the vote itself can be made invalid only if the point of order is raised immediately following the chair’s announcement of the vote.”

If the member unable to vote was also unable to raise a timely point of order, the member may choose instead to “move to *Rescind or Amend Something Previously Adopted* (35), move to *Reconsider* (37), or to renew a motion (38)”. 23:7

By CP Staff Writer

**CSAP ZOOM HALL 4 ANNOUNCEMENT**

By President Sally LaMacchia

**Friday, October 1, 2021 \*\* Session 1: Noon to 1 PM \*\* Session 2: 7 to 8 PM**

JOIN IN on the Fourth Zoom Hall!

Let's talk, visit, and anticipate together on Friday October 1, 2021. Zoom Hall is a time and place for CSAP members to talk with and question the CSAP leadership team and colleagues within the Association. Zoom Hall is an informal and welcoming hour. PLEASE be aware that ALL members will receive a MailChimp reminder in their email inbox the week before October 1 which may be used to join either session of the Zoom Hall event (noon or 7 PM) or may easily be deleted. Every member is encouraged to drop in.



With input from members, the Board made final decisions regarding our annual meeting format on August 23. We will put on a terrific Annual Meeting this year, and member participation in CSAP events like Zoom Hall will help to make that happen!

When you see that email in your in-box the last week of September, please be ready to attend any part of the  
OCTOBER 1, 2021  
ZOOM HALL

**Mark your calendar now!**

*Thank you,*  
CSAP Board of Directors