



California Parliamentarian

April 2022



President's Post
Sally F. LaMacchia, PRP

Reflection * Renewal * Reinvention

April 2022. Welcome, Spring! Flush with new beginnings, new firsts, new life, new views. It's Spring! A time for reflection, renewal, and reinvention. This is CSAP's Annual Meeting theme for 2022. **Reflection. Renewal. Reinvention.** Inherent to the success of these pursuits is a capacity for introspection, for honesty, forgiveness (self and others), objectivity, faith¹, perseverance, patience, understanding what a win looks like [!], and recommitting to a path of integrity. When the time for contemplation ends and the time for action begins, commitment, sincerity and enthusiasm will take us 98% of the way.

In the last President's Post I spoke of the gift of service to CSAP. The CSAP president and vice-president serve a two-year term; secretary, and treasurer one year. For each, a condensed education that is effective, trustworthy, relevant, affordable, and, if desired, your path to a respected, notable, noble, and professional career.

In other words, a gift. Service to self while in service to the assembly. In due course, service to the assembly expires; a gift to oneself lasts forever. This year CSAP will celebrate 75 years of existence. A new Leadership Team is needed. I can think of no more honorable way to invest oneself than in service to the democratic process and applied parliamentary procedure as candidate and then officer of the California State Association of parliamentarians.



Members:
Your CSAP Nominating
Committee is
Open for Business! Candidates
are needed for all Annual
Meeting Officer positions –
President, Vice President,
Secretary, and Treasurer.
Elections are in AUGUST!

As CSAP president I have been humbled, embarrassed, and wrong more times than I care to remember. I was afraid. But I leapt, and the net appeared. It will for you, too!

¹ Giving the benefit-of-the-doubt when there are doubts.

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CSAP Calendar 2022 Meetings

Northern Area

July 9, 2022
November 5, 2022

Southern Area

July 9, 2022
November 12, 2022

SAVE THE DATE!

CSAP Annual Meeting

August 12-13, 2022

2022 NAP Training Conference

September 8-11, 2022
Albuquerque, NM

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

Northern Area Report

David Mezzera, PRP
Area Director

Northern Area would like to brag about two items that “almost” happened within our boundaries and one item that will happen:

- 1) A new NAP Study Unit has been formed and is now chartered. It was the brainstorm of Esther Heller (former Northern Area director), Vicki Walter (current Northern Area board parliamentarian), Bruce Bergman and Ron Arruejo. It is a totally virtual unit that has been designated the “Golden State Electronic Unit” (GSEU). For the record, it was formed not as a response to the pandemic and the inability of units to meet in person but was conceived before that as a way of allowing members from a wide geographic area to study parliamentary procedure. At the time, other units had formed (such as the Green Gavel Unit and the eNAP Unit) that were strictly electronic and had nationwide membership.

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The new GSEU currently has members from all over California with a majority being from the Northern Area: 15 primary members, 7 affiliate members and 4 provisional members. The unit meets via Zoom on the third Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm. If you'd like more information about the unit, you may contact its president, Esther Heller.

- 2) The upcoming CSAP Annual Meeting was "almost" to be held within Northern Area. The possible plan was to meet in person (or maybe hybrid) in Fresno. The CSAP Board made the decision to meet again virtually, but Northern Area still considers itself the "host."

When you receive the official call to the meeting (for August 12 & 13), pay special attention to the educational sessions: the presenters will all be past CSAP presidents so the quality of training will be top-notch. Join us in Northern Area (!) for a great virtual event.

- 3) Additionally, keep on the lookout for the call to the next Northern Area meeting to be held on Saturday, July 9th. Gathering via Zoom at 10:00 am with the educational session to begin at 10:30 am. The guest presenter will be Richard Hayes, PRP, well-known Texas parliamentarian and lawyer who is on the ballot for November to become a member of the Texas House of Representatives. His topic will be on "How to handle an unruly presiding officer." You won't want to miss this.

CALL FOR CSAP BYLAW OR RULE AMENDMENTS

Bob Duitsman, CSAP Parliamentarian
Chair, Governing Documents Committee

All CSAP members:

The deadline is approaching for the submission of any proposed amendments to the CSAP bylaws and standing rules. Our annual meeting is now set for August 12, 2022, and the deadline for submission is May 16. Those with proposals to bring forward must get them to the Chair of the Governing Documents Committee by that date. As chair of that committee, you can send them to me, Bob Duitsman, by email at duitsy@yahoo.com or hard copy to me at 5910 La Tijera Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056. For any questions you can reach me at 310.488.2906 (c). Thank you for your continuing interest in and support of CSAP!

CSAP Standing Rule 12. Any amendment or resolution to be considered by the CSAP Annual Meeting shall be received by the Governing Documents Committee no later than 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Emergency amendments or resolutions shall be considered at the Annual Meeting if consent for their consideration is first given by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present.

Committee's Corner Updates

By CP Staff Writer



In the last issue of this newsletter new members of CSAP standing committees were introduced: Jay Jarvis and Patti Titus joined the Communications Committee; Georgiann Henry and Joan Harmon, the Governing Documents Committee.

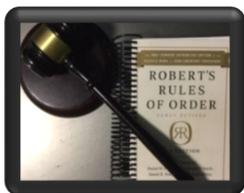
Since then, Dave Mezzera, Northern Area Director, volunteered to Chair the Workshop Committee, a new standing committee and more good news! This article is an update on the great work these Committees are doing.

The CSAP board has prioritized communication this term. The board has focused on CSAP's website, the *California Parliamentarian* newsletter, utilizing CSAP MailChimp subscription list to keep folks informed, and scheduling Zoom Hall events soon after each issue of the *CP*.

Communications Committee Chair Jay Jarvis has deftly presided over many committee meetings via Zoom since the new year. Most recently April 12 and April 19 when the committee considered three quotes from professional web designers for work and maintenance on the CSAP website. Between meetings, committee members stayed in touch and consult one another. Ultimately the committee recommended Pritchard Website Services to do the work. An agreement was reached between President LaMacchia and Mike Pritchard. When the Board of Directors meet next on May 5, the agreement is expected to be approved by the full board. It is anticipated that Mr. Pritchard will provide care and maintenance services for CSAP's website for the foreseeable future. Soon, a MailChimp blast will go to CSAP subscribers to encourage visitors to the website. *We hope you enjoy the changes. If so, please say so!*

Meanwhile, be sure to read CSAP **Governing Documents Committee** Chair Robert Duitsman 's message to members in this issue! Share your ideas for CSAP! Reflection, Renewal, and Reinvention is our Annual Meeting theme for 2022. It is a gentle reminder that change comes and keeps coming.

And now is the perfect time to revisit your CSAP bylaws. The *GDC* awaits your submissions. The *GDC* looks forward to presenting proposed amendments to the 2022 Assembly of CSAP Members.



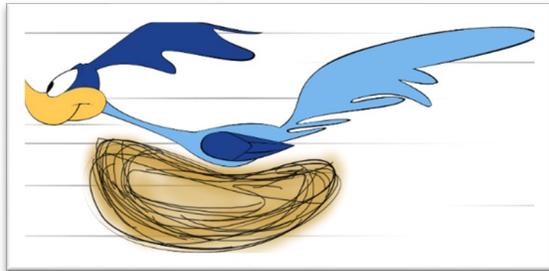
Our 2022 **Workshop Committee** Chair Dave Mezzera with help from Southern Area Director Gail Lover, is assembling a great line-up of presenters for our Annual Meeting, Aug. 12 & 13 on Zoom. *You will not want to miss these workshops!*

And REMEMBER:

The CSAP **Nominating Committee** is on the lookout for leadership candidates for CSAP. Is this *Your Year?*

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BEEP! BEEP!



PLAN TO DROP IN!

- ZOOM HALL -

FRIDAY MAY 6, 2022

For your scheduling convenience there are

2 Sessions

12:00 pm to 1:00 PM - 7 :00 pm to 8:00 PM

A MailChimp email that includes the Zoom link will be sent to all CSAP MailChimp subscribers on Monday, May 2nd

IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING!

You are needed in Zoom Hall
Even for a minute
ZOOM HALL provides a way to show
Your heart is really in it.



Don't want to run for office
Won't be taking that deep dive?
Ok! But without vocal members
No assembly can survive.



ZOOM HALL – just a few minutes
When you're open, day or night,
A convenient way for you to help
CSAP take flight!



The challenges we face are real,
Our mission so important – and perpetually undone.
Drop in! Zoom Hall on May the 6th
To share *your* brand of fun!



A Word from Channel Islands Unit

On Zoom and In Person in Beautiful San Buenaventura, California

Channel Islands Unit, also known as CA-Zeta Chi, held a lively in-person meeting of its members on Monday, April 18, 2022, at the Ventura Elks Lodge. We'll get back to that in a minute.



In January 2022, following months of preparation, our Unit hosted and proctored an NAP Membership Exam event also at the Ventura Elks Lodge. Five individuals took the NAP membership exam, and NAP now has 5 new members! Job very well done, CIPU!!

The photo on the left, dated April 19, 2015, seven years ago, is a reminder of changed and changing times. It is no longer as easy as it once was to place a 'public service announcement' or 'community event' for free in local papers and circulars. For numerous reasons, not the least of which is they are disappearing, or circulation is way down. Free announcements are a luxury they can no longer afford. We need to think outside of the box!

Channel Islands Unit has taken steps in a couple of new directions. For our April 18 meeting, the usual lesson schedule was pushed ahead one month, and a special educational program was undertaken. Mindful of a May 16th deadline (soft) to send proposed CSAP bylaw amendments to CSAP Governing Documents Committee (GDC) Chair, Robert Duitsman, CIPU spent the meeting debating and perfecting five (5) proposed amendments to the CSAP bylaws. CIPU Governing Documents Committee Chair and Unit President Sally LaMacchia will work together to prepare Unit proposals in the correct format before timely submission to GDC Chair Mr. Duitsman.

Our foray into CSAP bylaw amendment proposals turned out to be a great success. Members appreciated the change of pace and the chance to possibly impact CSAP at the state level. Members understood their ownership of the Association in a real, tangible way. It was fun and encouraging and, we think, some help to the Association.

CIPU also sent a letter to the CSAP Board of Directors in February this year on the topic of NAP membership, specifically on a plan to promote and make the NAP membership exam available to provisional members and the public at regular intervals in both Northern and Southern Area. The NAP Board of Directors is expected to respond to CIPU after their next board meeting on May 5, 2022. We appreciate the Board's consideration of our ideas and look forward to hearing back!

Meanwhile, CIPU continues to appreciate the amazing quality of the company we keep. We are

dedicated to the proliferation of applied parliamentary procedure in all group decision making. And we invite you to join us at any of our 11 monthly meetings. December is reserved for a Holiday Party! Until then – Parli On!

*Submitted by CIPU President, **Sally F. LaMacchia, PR***

The Evolvement of San Diego East County Unit

Beverly Chandler



CA San Diego East County (SDEC) Parliamentary Unit is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit educational organization.

Chartered as CA Mu, of Spring Valley in 1953, at that time was the largest unit in the state and was awarded the area unit of the year in 1993.

CA Beta, of San Diego, was chartered in and eventually merged with CA Mu becoming CA Beta Mu.

In 2016, the members of CA Beta Mu got the approval to dissolve CA Beta Mu and form CA San Diego East County Parliamentary Unit; a new name and new bylaws to reflect our growing and changing membership.

The purpose of our meetings is to share with each other and gain the knowledge of parliamentary procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order. The goal is to prepare the members for the attainment of the credentials of Registered and /or Professional Registered Parliamentarians. Our members belong to many other organizations throughout San Diego County.

We meet on the FIRST Saturday of each month with our business meeting, which includes a parliamentary lesson, beginning at 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.



CSAP Presidents Council 2022



Introducing CSAP's Presidents Council! This group is comprised of just whom the name suggests: a CSAP member who holds the title "President". Current members of the Presidents Council are:

Beverly Chandler, San Diego East County Unit	Southern Area
Matthew Dempsy Sigma Phi Unit	Northern Area
Esther Heller, Golden State Electronic Unit	Statewide
Lovene Knight, Chi Eta Phi Unit	Southern Area
Sally LaMacchia, Channel Islands Unit	Southern Area
Shirley Lorraine, Coastal Counties Unit	Southern Area
Jacqueline Marazzi, Escondido Unit	Southern Area
Larry Natrass, Epsilon Unit	Northern Area
Amy Richardson, Theta Unit	Southern Area

Council held its first meeting on February 9, 2022, on Zoom. Four presidents were able to attend, two others called in with regrets. As a quorum was not present, no official business transpired. However, the council's purpose was discussed, as were plans for future meetings.

Council met for the second time on April 19th, 6:30 PM on Zoom. CSAP president Sally LaMacchia presided, and Shirley Lorraine, Coastal Counties, took meeting notes. An agenda, distributed in advance with a meeting Call, was followed.

Esther Heller, Beverly Chandler, Jacqueline Marazzi, Shirley Lorraine, Amy Richardson, Sally LaMacchia, and Larry Natrass were present as members of council; a quorum was present. Southern Area Director Gail Lover and Northern Area Director Dave Mezzera joined as guests. Director Mezzera reported on behalf of CA-Sigma Phi Unit.

A motion that Sally LaMacchia remain in the chair and preside over the council meetings until October 2022 (to coincide with her term as president of Channel Islands Unit) was adopted by the members.

Council will continue to focus on preparing CSAP provisional members as well as members of the public to sit for the NAP membership exam and will coordinate efforts to increase public awareness of the existence of the units.

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In January 2022, after months of structured study, members of the Channel Islands Unit proctored an in-person NAP membership exam opportunity to 5 provisional members and the public at large. All 5 members took and passed the exam.

The Escondido Unit and the San Diego East County Unit will present a joint workshop on May 1, 2022, in San Diego. Everyone is invited!

The Presidents Council will meet again in the first 2 weeks of July, on a date to be determined.



Esther Heller
Golden State Electronic
Unit



Beverly Chandler
San Diego East County
Unit



Shirley Lorraine
Coastal Counties Unit



Jacqueline Marazzi
Escondido Unit



Larry Natrass
Epsilon Unit



Amy Richardson
Theta Unit



Sally LaMacchia
Channel Islands Unit



Lovene Knight
Chi Eta Phi Unit



Matthew Dempsey
Sigma Phi Unit

Walk with Me Through the new NP!

Vol. 83, No. 2
By CP Staff Writer

Page 5

Setting the Standard: Getting it Right by Frances Jackson, PRP

Inter-rater Reliability, IRT, “measures the extent to which two or more raters agree on the scores they have awarded.” The CSAP Commission on Credentialing (COC) established an Analysis Committee populated by Commissioner Frances Jackson, PRP, and Dr. Mona Calhoun, member. Dr. Calhoun recently completed a doctoral degree in psychometric testing, while Dr. Jackson has thirty-two graduate credits in research and analysis. What a team! We thank them and through them wish NAP great success in pursuit of equity, consistency, and integrity in professional credentialing.

Page 11

Purposes of a Consent Calendar by Patricia E. McDougle, PRP

“In order to utilize a consent calendar, an organization must first adopt a special rule of order permitting its use.” The reference is RONR § 41:32, where “special rule of order” appears one time. RONR § 41:32 provides, emphasis in the original, that: “The [consent] calendar is called over periodically *at a point established in the agenda by special rule of order, at least preceding standing committee reports.*” Why do you think a special rule of order is required?

Page 15

Deliberation Dilution by Adrian Stratton, PRP

“Increasingly, more options to communicate, are changing how assemblies deliberate.” Now, members “exchange information in ways that are convenient and far-reaching during meetings.” Mr. Stratton describes persons not in possession of the floor but who nonetheless influence debate on the floor and while maintaining anonymity. This conduct circumvents the parliamentary rule that “Members of an assembly cannot address one another directly, but must address all remarks through the chair.” RONR § 43:22

Page 18

A Majority Elects...How Many? by Harold R. (Bob) Hall, PhD

“When there are multiple positions to be filled, the election is often faster when members cast multiple votes on a single ballot.” RONR § 46:33 Ah, multi-vote election, or MVE. “In an MVE, all candidates receiving votes of a least a majority of the ballots cast are elected.” Mr. Hall recalls the 2021 biennial NAP convention where in the interest of time, “the assembly approved a change in

the convention standing rules to allow MVE's." What is the "significant difference" between MVE's and single-vote elections, or SVE's. Mr. Hall tells us here!

Page 21

Lorenzo R. Cuesta, PRP, The Presiding Officer's Whisperer

"The parliamentarian has an obligation to assist the presiding officer." PRP Cuesta to the rescue in this delightful article! Find top tips for tip top presiding! "This set of whispered prompts is exactly what a Registered Parliamentarian needs to assist the presiding officer of a small and uncomplicated society or board." Don't miss this fun, helpful, practical piece!

Page 23

NP Questions & Answers with Ann Homer, PRP, Rachel Glanstein, PRP, Azella Collins, PRP, Timothy Wynn, PRP

- #5 Did the president's ruling deny a member the right to vote? No.
- #6 Must ALL members receive meeting notifications? Yes.
- #7 Once a majority is achieved, are the remaining voted "intrinsically irrelevant"? No.
- #8 Does financial information belong in the minutes? It depends.
- #9 Bylaws review or revision - what's the difference? Is one passive, one active?

Page 29 & 30

Remembering Ruth Benton Mulholland and Betty F. Tunstall

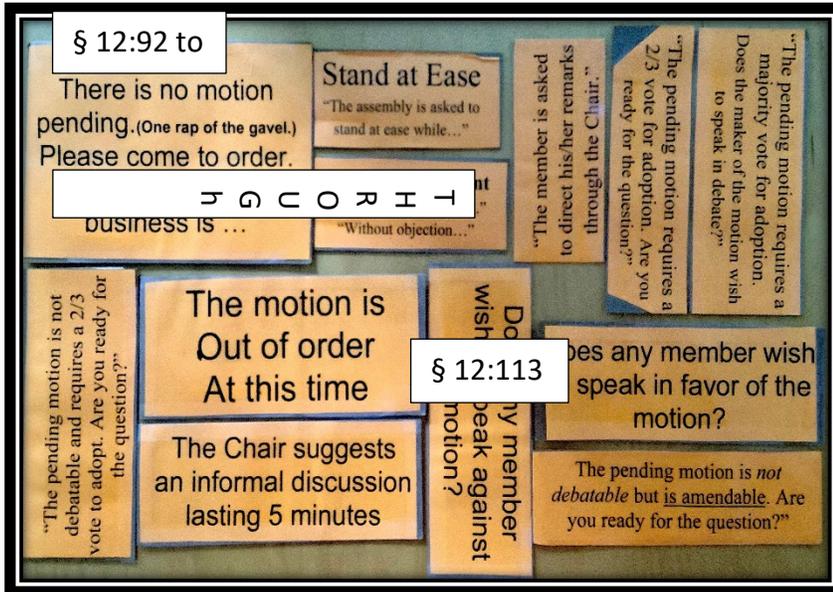
Ruth Benton Mulholland maintained membership in the Florida State Association of Parliamentarians continuously from 1968 until her departure in October 2021 at age 90. Beth served the Parent and Teachers Association with passion at various levels in the state of Florida, including the State Legislature. She was a leader in the community her entire adult life and remained keenly interested in current affairs.

Betty F. Tunstall was a member of NAP for forty-four years, and for 39 years maintained her PRP credential. During this time she served NAP and its mission in ways too numerous to list. In 2014, the Sartwell-Tunstall Unit was so named in her honor. And on November 12, 2021 in honor of Betty Tunstall, the NAP Board of Directors adopted the moving resolution published on page 30 on this *National Parliamentarian*.

For a list of members who have reached the Fifty Plus years milestone, see page 28, and for new members and new credentialed members, pages 31 & 32.

Thank you for walking with me through #2, NP 83!
CP Staff Writer

FILLING BLANKS



§ 12:92 through § 12:113

First, a blank is created. Next, suggestions to fill the blank are solicited and written down. Then, each suggestion is voted on by the membership in turn. The first suggestion to get a majority vote, fills the blank.

A BLANK [_____] represents “an unlimited number of alternative choices [] pending at the same time.” 12:92 Choices. Choices having to do with what? Well, having to do with “a particular specification in a main

motion or primary amendment.” 12:92 Hmm. Could be useful. If you’ll be spending money but don’t know how much, filling a vacancy or vacancies, deciding on a date or time, or on the number of scholarships to offer this year, or other scheduling, budgetary, or administrative matters, a creating blank could facilitate debate AND save time.

A member can offer a motion containing a blank [after recognition by the chair]: “I move to increase the Committee’s budget by blank to retain a tech team for our virtual meeting in July.” Or a member can offer an amendment containing a blank where, for example, with respect to a main motion to “increase the Committee’s budget to retain a tech team for our virtual meeting in July” a member moves to insert “by no more than [BLANK]” after “budget” and before “to”. What emerges if the amendment is adopted is a main motion to “increase the Committee’s budget by no more than [_____] to retain a tech team for our virtual meeting in July.” If the main motion is to increase the Committee’s budget by no more than 20% to retain a tech team for our virtual meeting in July, a member can move “to create a blank by striking out of the pending motion the phrase “20%”. If the motion to create a blank in this way is adopted, the specification struck to create the blank automatically becomes a proposal for filling the blank.

The motion to create a blank requires a second. It is not debatable, not amendable. It can take precedence over a pending primary or secondary motion. 12:95 b) – “it can also be made and voted on while a primary or secondary amendment related to the subject specification is pending.”

The presiding officer can suggest creation of a blank. 12:95 c)

We've Got a Blank – Now What?

“The chair calls for suggestions” to fill the blank. Each member has one opportunity to present a suggestion. Recognition by the chair is not necessary *unless the member wishes to debate*. No second is needed for a suggestion to fill a blank. “Proposals to fill a blank in debatable motions are debatable.” 12:96-97-98

When the suggestions seem to just go on and on, motions like “*Limit or Extend Limits of Debate*” or for “*The Previous Question*” can be applied. Each proposal is voted on in turn, as a separate question. As soon as one received a majority vote, “the chair declares the blank filled.” The method of voting may be determined by the assembly at the time the blank is filled. If the members want a ballot vote, a ballot vote they may have. 12:101-102-103 In some cases, even unanimous consent may be used to fill a blank, or blanks. 12:06

The vote that fills the blank does not decide the main question. 12:104

A motion could be adopted before the blank is filled. If this happens, “the assembly immediately proceeds to fill it, and no new subject (except a privileged one) may be introduced before the motion is thereby completed.” 12:105

For guidance particular to filling a blank for blanks with a name, or amounts of money, or places, dates and numbers, refer to 12:107 through 113.

CP Staff Writer

Parliamentary Myths & Legends

David Mezzera, PRP
Past CSAP President

We are all probably familiar with such legends as the Loch Ness Monster or Bigfoot - and with such urban myths as the KFC fried rat or “The Hook Man” (look those up!). But what about Parliamentary myths and legends? This quiz presents 10 scenarios and asks you to determine if each is actually true or has developed down the years as just a myth that isn't quite true. See the answers elsewhere in the CP so you'll know the “truth!”

1. Since there was no real market in the 1870s for a book on parliamentary procedure, Henry M. Robert had to self-publish his original version of “Robert's Rules or Order.” Myth or not?

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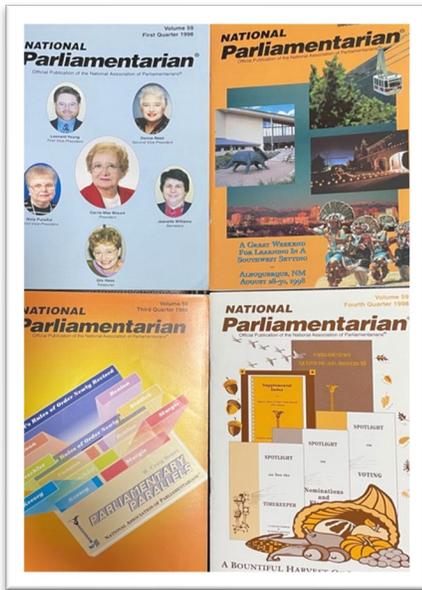
2. Robert's original idea was to title his book "Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies," but he felt the title was too unwieldy, so he called it instead simply "Robert's Rules of Order." Myth or not?
3. Inclusive of all twelve of its editions, "Robert's Rules" is in the top ten publications of all time based on the number of copies published for any book. Myth or not?
4. Now that the "In Brief" version is being published to coincide with RONR, the authorship team is able to include in the "In Brief" version some terms and concepts that were left out of RONR. Myth or not?
5. The chair of a board or committee may never debate or vote unless given permission by the members of the board or committee. Myth or not?
6. RONR helps us English speakers pronounce Latin phrases appearing in "Robert's Rules" by provided the Anglicized pronunciation for some of those Latin terms. Myth or not?
7. The term "Old Business" is coming back into vogue and may actually be found in the text pages of the 12th edition of "Robert's Rules." Myth or not?
8. RONR explains how an amendment can be either "friendly" or "hostile" to the original intent of the motion. Myth or not?
9. The term "secret ballot" is a redundancy since all ballots are by their very nature secret. Myth or not?
10. A member may be allowed to vote even if in arrears of paying dues. Myth or not?

Answers are found on page 17-18

PARLIAMENTARY LAW MONTH

A Look Back

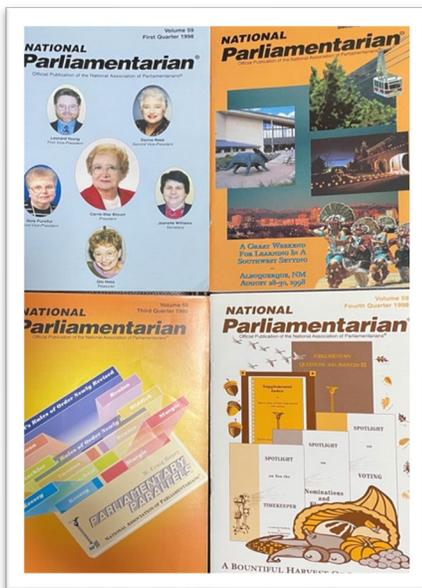
In the February *CP* we looked back together at 1995 (NAP tour to London), 1996 (NAP in Kansas City, MO), and 1997 (Call to San Diego, CA). In this issue, please enjoy a visit back to 1998, 1999, and 2000!



1998 was a good year with a Bountiful Harvest of Information. Carrie-Mae Blount, PRP, was NAP President (1997-1999). Changes to the Membership Application were made to include the use of a credit card!

Georgia W. Kimball, PRP, was the *NP* Editor. In the Fourth Quarter a familiar name is featured author of “The Suspension Paradox”, by Jonathon M. Jacobs. Intriguing!

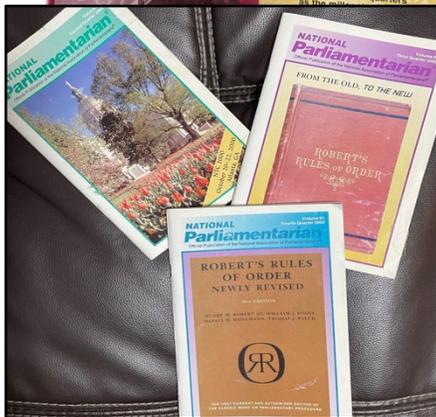
In the Third Quarter “Parliamentary Parallels” by author W. Craig Henry, PRP (Oklahoma City) tells us that, “Not unlike the magical kingdom of OZ, things are not always what they seem when you change authorities from RONR.” Indeed, they are not! This excellent article provides a “comparison of six major parliamentary authorities”, and well worth the read!



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1999 begins with an introduction to the term “take-over artist.” Ready? *“It is a person who is adept at helping others infiltrate a club or other organization with a view to removing the legitimate members from their offices and membership in the group and replacing them with the infiltrators.”* Such activity has apparently, “a long and inglorious history”, but a friend of the author of this article (“Reconsider and Enter Maybe We Should Take Another Look”), Bob, “makes substantial fees helping others do it.” Do you know a take-over artist? ARE you one? When do circumstances justify such tactics, if ever?

Author William J. Evens, past NAP President and Chairman of the RONR Authorship Team in 1999, reveals that in the end, the trickster wins through “fast talking ... to befuddle the presiding officer.” (In 4thQ 1999, NAP Burned the Mortgage!)

2000 Dr. Leonard M. Young, PRP, is NAP President. NAP is ready to “Envision the Future, Honor the Past”. The National Training Conference is in Atlanta, the tenth edition of RONR is published. And these words, circa 1960, are quoted 40 years later in 2000: “Women should appreciate the opportunity to serve as leaders, in fact they should not only seek leadership, but, if qualified, they should demand it, instead of spending so much time at fashion shows, book reviews and card playing.” From a 1960 NP article by Sara A. Whithurst.

Thank you for spending this time looking back. Tune in next time for
CP Staff Writer

[A Look Back](#) at 2001, 2002, and 2003.

Parliamentary Myths & Legends Answers

1. Absolutely true; not a myth. Read more about this in the 12th edition’s Introduction, page xlii. Robert originally had 4000 copies of his manual printed at his own expense.
2. This one’s a myth. Robert’s original printing did use that long title of the manual. It was only after he finally obtained a publisher to print the book that the publisher put the shorter title on the cover, which has lasted to this day (later Revised and Newly Revised). See the Introduction page xliii for more information.

3. This is a myth occasionally heard from an enthusiastic parliamentarian. The fact is that over 6 million copies have been printed over the years (which is an extremely large number), but that pales in comparison to the top-ten published works of all time which have each printed more than 100 million copies (such as the King James Bible, the Holy Quran and works by Chairman Mao, C. Dickens, J.R.R. Tolkien, L. Carroll, A. Christie, C.S. Lewis, and J.K. Rowling).
4. Not a myth! “Settled Rule” is one example of something explained in “In Brief” (RIB, pages 50-51) but not even mentioned in RONR. Another example is “bigger bite amendment” - not in RONR but in “In Brief,” also on page 51.
5. Myth. If a board has no more than about a dozen members, it may operate under “Small Board Rules,” which allow the chair to assume motions, speak in debate and vote [49:21]. Similarly, these small board rules are typically used in special and standing committee meetings [50:25].
6. Not a myth. Check out the footnotes for pronouncing the terms *sine die* and *viva voce*. A hint for pronouncing “precedence” is also provided in a footnote [5:8n2] to distinguish it from “precedents,” which is also used in RONR with a totally different meaning.
7. It’s a myth about the term coming back into vogue. But interestingly, the words “old business” do appear in RONR [41:21n5] with the indication that this phrase should be avoided along with the reason it is never to be used.
8. That’s not a myth, as the term “hostile amendment” and its explanation does appear in RONR in the section on Amendments [12:16], as does the expression “friendly amendment” [12:91].
9. Myth. Not all ballots are secret! We are familiar with a written ballot that provides secrecy [45:18], but there are also “signed ballots” [45:46], which are equivalent to a form of roll call voting. This is occasionally used in nation-wide mail voting where the validity of voters must be ascertained and each ballot is signed to so indicate.
10. Not a myth. This fact is made quite clear in RONR that merely being arrears in the payment of dues does not automatically disqualify the member from participating in meetings, including debating and voting [1:13n3]. Any suspension of members’ rights must be specifically validated in the bylaws [45:1].

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