

June/July 2025

President's Corner

Happy July!

Thank you to all who attended our annual convention in April. It is always a pleasure when we meet in-person. Look for the convention wrap-up report in this issue.

As we begin a new year for MSAP, we look to the past. Two of our long-term members passed away in May: Beverly (Bev) Aplikowski on May 1st and Medard Kaisershot on May 3rd. Bev lived in the New Brighton area and was 90 years old. Medard lived in New Hope and was 91. Both served the community for years and were dedicated to making the world a better place. Bev and Medard were mentors to many of us in MSAP.



As is our custom, when a member passes, MSAP donates a spiral-bound copy of the latest edition of RONR to the deceased's local library. Copies were donated to the New Brighton Library (Ramsey County) in memory of Bev and to the Crystal Library (Hennepin County) in memory of Medard.

Rosemary Kaisershot, Medard's wife, donated four boxes of his parliamentary books and materials to MSAP. What a gift! Imagine my surprise to see books that had belonged to Mrs. Carl Miller – who? (aka Muriel Miller – WOW). There were lesson plans from Darleen Harens that Medard wrote on and memos from Jeanette Williams.

There is also a 1950 copy of *Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice F. Sturgis (an excerpt from the Preface of this book is in this issue). Other treasures include a copy of the Jefferson Manual, Demeter's Manual, the 9th edition of RONR, a Cushing's Manual (1907), and Longan's Parliamentary Rules (1961).

In closing, I would like to share a quote from a well-worn bookmark found in one of Medard's books:

Where there is no law, but every man does what is right in his own eyes, there is the least of real liberty.

-Henry M. Robert-

Thank you for being a parliamentarian. There is something great in the work that we do. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Lucy Johnson, PRP | MSAP President

The Minnesota Parliamentarian

WELCOME!

New MSAP members:

Christian Catano (student member since 3-17-25)
Sharon Luster Dykes (MAL 4-15-25)
Benjamin Zastrow (MAL 5-20-25)

MSAP's Delegates to the NAP Convention in August:

Josh Martin
Bob Williams
Jeanette Williams (as an NAP Past-President)

THANK YOU!

CONGRATULATIONS!

In-coming District 5 Director Miriam Simmons, who coordinated the 2025 NAP Spring Conference and will be an instructor for the NAP Parliamentary Fundamentals 101.



PRE- SALE 45th Biennial Convention Workshop Recording Bundle

Can't make it to the 2025 Convention in person? Don't worry! Purchase the workshop recording bundle to receive on-demand access to workshop recordings for 90 days.

Virtual Recording Bundle

The recording bundle gives you:

- On-Demand access to workshop recordings through [NAP University](#). These will be posted shortly after the convention concludes and will be available to registrants for 90 days after posting.
- CEUs for Registered and Professional Registered Parliamentarians.

NAP Member Price: \$329

Non Member Price: \$465

Student Price: \$139

Recordings will be available in
September 2025 via NAP University.

Friday, October 17 – Sunday, October 19, 2025 Dahms-Beirbaum Workshop

Crowne Plaza Hotel Milwaukee South | 6401 South 13th Street, Milwaukee, WI

Parliamentary Writing: The Pen behind the Gavel Parliamentary procedure

does not stop when the meeting adjourns: it lives on in the written documents that are fundamental to the profession and functional for our clients. Drafting

bylaws, composing opinion letters, writing scripts, drafting minutes, and composing professional business communications are essential elements of our work. Precision and practice are required to convey professionalism in parliamentary writing. And it should be clear, distinct, and free from confusion or ambiguity. The workshop will explore the unique nature of parliamentary writing and provide guidance on how to write in a neutral, accurate, and consistent manner—ensuring that our writing is easily understood by parliamentarians and clients alike.

Instructors: Alison Wallis, JD, PRP, CP-T; Kirk Overby, PRP; Justin Pappano, PRP

<https://dahmsfoundation.org/registration/> (registration not yet available at time of publication)



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MSAP Convention Report

The 58th Annual Convention of the Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians was held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the Cottage Grove VFW Post in Cottage Grove.

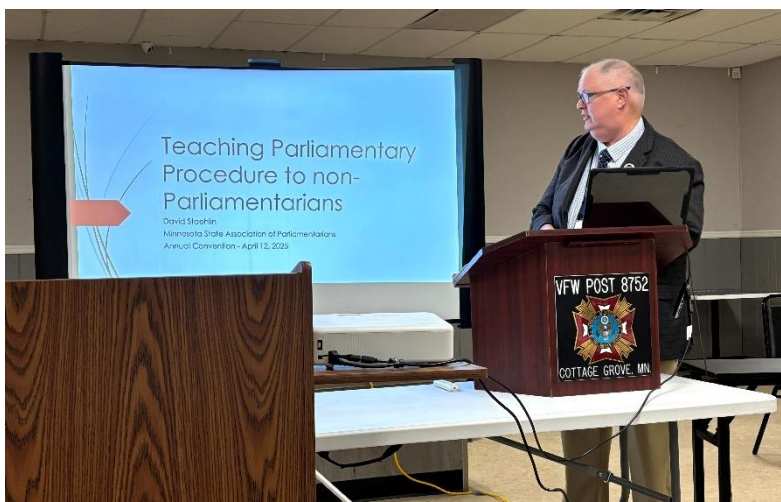
There were 15 voting members present from both the Northern Lights Parliamentarians unit, the St. Paul Unit, as well as members-at-large.

David Staehlin provided an educational program entitled *"Teaching Parliamentary Procedure to non-Parliamentarians"*. NAP Past President Jeanette Williams gave an update on NAP and installed the newly elected officers. They included Lucy Johnson, PRP, president, Alice Chapman, vice-president, Dan Thomas-Commins, secretary, and David Staehlin, treasurer. Thanks was extended to Josh Martin on the completion of his second two-year term.

A nominating committee for 2025-2026 was elected. Members include Alice Chapman, David Staehlin, and Carrie Roach, RP with Alice elected as the Chair. Other business conducted was the approving of bylaws amendments, the budget, and the Historian's Report. Reports from the Units were provided.



2025-2026 Officers (clockwise): President Lucy Johnson, PRP, with owl duck (a group of owls is a "parliament"); Vice-President Alice Chapman, with giraffe duck (watching and supporting through gentleness and firmness); Secretary Dan Thomas-Commins, with book duck (good record keeping); Treasurer David Staehlin with elephant duck (financial stability); 2025 MSAP Officer installation by NAP Past President Jeanette Williams, PRP, CP-T.



Members are encouraged to go to and review the 2025 photographs at [2025 MSAP Convention](#). A very special thank you to Bob Williams for taking photographs!!!

Education Program Presenter:
Minnesota
Veterans of Foreign Wars
State Commander
David Staehlin

The Minnesota Parliamentarian



Convention
Attendees
on
April 12th

← NLP Members
from left: Richard
Skimland, David
Staehlin, Michael Orr,
Dan Thomas-
Commins



→
Members at Large
from left: Josh Martin,
PRP, Bob Williams,
Larry Souther

St Paul Unit

→
from left: Jeanette Williams, PRP CP-T,
Jan Strand, PRP-R, Gloria de Meireles,
Lucy Johnson, PRP, Alice Chapman,
Miriam Simmons, PRP, Carrie Roach,
RP, Pat Reymann, PRP, David Staehlin



MSAP 58th Annual Convention – April 12, 2025 – Financial Report

<u>Revenue</u>	Revenue	Expense	Financial Impact
Registration (15 @ \$15 each)	\$225.00		\$225.00
<u>Expenses</u>			
Food (breakfast and lunch)			
Bruegger's Bagels (bagels & coffee – donated)		(\$45.00)	\$0.00
ALDI's and HyVee (breakfast and lunch items)		(\$130.85)	(\$130.85)
Gift for Speaker (gift card)		(\$50.00)	(\$50.00)
Copies (home copy rate, 152)		(\$15.20)	(\$15.20)
Copies (donated, 225)		(\$22.50)	\$0.00
Reimbursement to Chair Simmons		(\$196.05)	(\$196.05)
Net Revenue/(Expense)			<u>\$28.95</u>

Submitted by Convention Chairman Miriam Simmons

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Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians 2024-2025 Report of the Historian, by Alice Chapman

During the 2024–2025 term, MSAP members were led by President Lucy Johnson, PRP; Vice President Miriam Simmons, Ph.D., PRP; Secretary Alice Chapman; and Treasurer Josh Martin, PRP. The President, Vice President, and Secretary were elected at the annual meeting held on May 4, 2024. The Treasurer continued serving for the second year.

Many MSAP members attended the 2024 NAP National Training Conference held September 5–8 in San Antonio, Texas. Vice-President Miriam Simmons, Treasurer Josh Martin, and President Lucy Johnson presented a workshop entitled *Everything Was Going So Well. Or Was It? (second guesses and second chances)*. And, jointly, Vice-President Simmons and David Whitaker presented a workshop, *Parliamentarians In Peril: Proxies*.

Increasing MSAP membership this year, a hope and dream of President Johnson, was realized. Six new members joined—Christian Catano, Ann Kasel, Henry Koerner, Kathy Panek, Dan Thomas-Commins, and Thomas Vaughn.

Several members attended the Dahms-Bierbaum Workshop held in Bloomington, MN on November 1–3, 2024. The workshop explored the rights, duties, and responsibilities of organizations, members, stakeholders, and their inter-relations.

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs held Veterans Day events on November 11, 2024, honoring those who served. David Staehlin was the guest speaker. Throughout the year, Past President Staehlin led many events teaching parliamentary procedure.

The Annual MSAP Seminar was held Saturday, January 25, 2025, via Zoom. The theme was “Members’ Rights.” Presentations given were—*Fundamentals of Parliamentary Law* by Miriam Simmons, *Motions that Protect Rights* by Pat Reymann, *Bylaws* by Lucy Johnson, and *Nominations* by Dan Thomas-Commins. The seminar was well-received with many repeat attendees, all coming from disperse locations—Manitoba, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

MSAP members supported the training and judging of youth Parli-Pro teams in Minnesota. For the Business Professionals of America regional competition, held January 24, 2025, Miriam Simmons, Pat Reymann, and Lucy Johnson, served as judges. At the state competition on March 7, 2025, Miriam Simmons, Lucy Johnson, and Carrie Roach served as judges. Medallions and plaques were given to the winners. The Family, Community and Career Leaders of America held their state Parli-Pro competitions on March 29, 2025. Miriam Simmons, Pat Reymann, and Gloria de Meireles served as judges while Carrie Roach assisted with their annual meeting.

Congratulations was given to Vice President Miriam Simmons on becoming NAP District Five Director–elect.

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The new MSAP website, msap.us, continues being improved and current with up-to-date information thanks to the website administration by David Staehlin and Miriam Simmons.

Throughout the year, as editor of *The Minnesota Parliamentarian*, Carrie Roach provided members with current pertinent MSAP and NAP information and Carolyn Loeffler, as Public Relations Chair, designed and distributed advertising materials for MSAP.

The 2025 Convention was held April 12, 2025, at the Cottage Grove VFW Hall. Candidates for office included Lucy Johnson for President, Alice Chapman for Vice President, Dan Thomas–Commins for Secretary, and David Staehlin for Treasurer. Candidates for the Nominating Committee were Carrie Roach, Alice Chapman, and David Staehlin.

Report adopted as corrected on April 12, 2025, at the 58th MSAP Annual Convention.



Donated by the
**Minnesota State Association
of Parliamentarians**
in memory of
Medard Kaisershot (1933-2025)
Parliamentarian, Mentor, Friend

The following brief quotation is taken from the 1950 edition of Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure by Alice F. Sturgis

MSAP Book Plate

PREFACE

When Winston Churchill, during the abdication crisis in 1936, rose before a shocked House of Commons to answer Mr. Baldwin's statement and to discuss the constitutional question before a final decision was made, the House was in a hostile temper. A burst of disapproval greeted the great statesman. Churchill set his pugnacious jaw and, as the uproar subsided, declared:

"If the House resists my claim [to speak] it will only add more importance to any words that I may use."

Here in the mother of parliaments, which has lent its name to the system of rules by which assemblies are conducted, we see at work the fundamental principles of democratic discussion. Here was the right of free and fair debate, the right of the majority to decide, and the right of the minority to protest and to be protected. Here also was a demonstration that the violation of rights in public assemblies lends weight to the cause of the suppressed. The majority may rule, but it must rule fairly and wisely. Its rule must be validated by respect for those who oppose it. In turn, the minority, once the vote has been taken, has the duty of accepting the decision and abiding by the general mandate.

Here is the essence of the democratic procedure of free assemblies, whether they be the House of Commons, the United States Congress, or a high-school debating society – a procedure based on what Jefferson called "equal and exact justice to all men."

Modern man lives in a multitude of groups: civic, labor, trade and business, religious, fraternal, academic, and cultural. Men join organizations because they agree with their avowed purposes; they form new ones in order to achieve certain aims. But as soon as men combine one with another they must have rules to guide and control their actions. There must be rules and procedures in order to conduct discussion, to effect action, to resolve conflicts, and, indeed, in order to work together at all.

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The purpose of parliamentary law is to assist an assembly in carrying out its purposes. It is the code of ethics of working together – the rules of the game. Parliamentary law is concerned with the means by which beliefs and ideas are best translated into effective group action. It must provide orderly ways of determining the will of the majority. It must be clear, considerate, kind, fair, and it must effect the desired aims of the assembly. It must, in other words, be democratic.

There is nothing the world of today needs more urgently than men and women who have the fundamental skill of working together. That skill, and the desire to work together democratically, can be augmented by a parliamentary code based on invariable principles, common procedures in actual use, and on the large number of court decisions that have been rendered in the past three-quarters of a century. The present work is intended to fulfill these needs.

St. Paul Unit



The St. Paul Unit (SPU) meets on the third Monday of the month (except February) at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. A study session precedes the meeting at 8:30 a.m. The theme for the education program this year is, "Examining the Principles of Democratic Decision-making." To date, the education portion of the meeting has included, "*What 'cha want me to serve as?*" by Carrie Roach, RP; "*Examining bylaws from a member's point-of-view*" by Lucy Johnson, PRP; "*Rescind*" by Miriam Simmons, PRP; "*Delay Action*" by Alice Chapman; and "*Point of Order*" by Pat Reymann, PRP. Guests are always welcome at our meetings. Please contact President Alice Chapman for the link at President.SPU@MSAP.us

Northern Lights Unit

Northern Lights Parliamentarians continue to meet on the Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM via Zoom. New officers elected at the May 13, 2025 Northern Lights Parliamentarians Unit meeting are: President Richard Skimland; Vice President Michael Orr, RP; and Secretary Jason Cassady. Treasurer David Staehlin continues in the second year of his two-year term. Our most recent meeting topics have been 'Friendly Amendments' by Richard Skimland, "Six Steps to a Main Motion" by Kevin Peterson, and "Incidental Motions" by Darleen Harens, PRP. We have been fortunate in recruiting some new members this year. Guests and visitors are always welcome! For the meeting link contact President.NLP@MSAP.us Join us!

Richard Skimland
Northern Lights Parliamentarians President

**Visit our
Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians
website:**

<https://MSAP.us>

The Minnesota Parliamentarian

MSAP BOARD MEMBERS 2025-2026

President.....	Lucy Johnson, PRP
Vice President.....	Alice Chapman
Secretary.....	Dan Thomas-Commins
Treasurer.....	David Staehlin
Immediate Past President.....	David Staehlin
Editor.....	Carrie Roach, RP
Historian.....	Carrie Roach, RP
¹ Parliamentarian.....	Pat Reymann, PRP
Audit Committee.....	Darleen Harens, PRP
Budget & Finance Committee.....	David Staehlin
Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee.....	Gloria de Meireles
Convention Committee.....	Alice Chapman
Education Committee.....	Josh Martin, PRP
Judging & Education of Youth Committee.....	Darleen Harens, PRP
Membership Committee.....	EVERYONE
Nominating Committee.....	Alice Chapman; David Staehlin; Carrie Roach, RP
Public Relations Committee.....	Carolyn Loeffler
Web Site Committee.....	Miriam Simmons, PRP
Northern Lights Parliamentarians.....	Richard Skimland
St. Paul Unit.....	Alice Chapman

¹ Offboard Position

FUTURE EVENTS

<u>NAP Leadership Conference</u> August 1-2, 2025 Zoom (\$\$)
<u>MSAP BoD Meeting</u> August 14, 2025 Zoom
<u>NAP Biennial Convention</u> August 20-24, 2025 In-person Phoenix, AZ (\$\$\$) (see page 2 for recordings)
<u>MSAP BoD Meeting</u> October 9, 2025 Zoom
<u>Dahms-Bierbaum Workshop</u> October 17-19, 2025 Milwaukee, WI (\$\$\$) (see page 2 for details)
<u>MSAP BoD Meeting</u> January 8, 2026 Zoom

MSAP MEMBERS (July 2025)

Virginia Altman, PRP-R	Sigrid Johnson	Larry Souther
Beth Carlson	Art Johnston	David Staehlin
Christian Catano	Ann Kasel	Janice Strand, PRP-R
Alice Chapman	Henry Koerner	Dan Thomas-Commins
Patty Commerford	Michael Landers	Sandra Thompson
Jill Curry	Carolyn Loeffler	Chris Thorp
Kevin Dahlman, PRP	Joshua Martin, PRP	Judy Twisk
Gloria de Meireles	Brian Melendez	Thomas Vaughn
Diane Doolittle	Fayneese Miller	Kevin Wendt, PRP
Sharon Dykes	Timothy Miller	Linda Westrom
Daron Gersch	Michael Orr, RP	Jeanette Williams, PRP
Gregory Hanzalik	Kathy Panek	Keshuna Williams
Darleen Harens, PRP	Patricia Reymann, PRP	Robert Williams
Jennifer Harris	Catherine Roach, RP	Linda Williams-Brettingen
Phillip Hernandez de Wright, PRP	Miriam Simmons, PRP	Benjamin Zastrow
Lucy Johnson, PRP	Richard Skimland	

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Judging & Youth Educ.

Darleen Harens
{see Audit Comm.}

St. Paul Unit

Alice Chapman, President
{see Secretary}

SUBMISSION DEADLINE for the OCTOBER 2025 Issue of

The Minnesota Parliamentarian is

Friday, October 24, 2025

Please submit to Carrie Roach at

Editor@MSAP.us Photos are always welcome.

Editor's Note: the MSAP Standing Rules stipulate that the June/July issue of *The Minnesota Parliamentarian* shall include the MSAP *Bylaws* & *Standing Rules*. Rather than including these documents *within* the newsletter (which would make the newsletter inordinately long), they are attached to the email sent with this newsletter.