

October/November 2025

President's Corner: Season of Gratitude

In this season of thanksgiving, it is time to pause and recognize the work that you do. As parliamentarians, we provide a great service to the community. Teaching civil discourse and how to follow the rules is more important today than ever. I took for granted that presiders knew how to preside, and members knew how to follow the rules, because I attended well-run meetings as a youth. Those chairs and parliamentarians became my heroes and mentors.



There is a lot of good news to celebrate. Our membership continues to grow. Carolyn Loeffler created a flyer to welcome new members to MSAP. Thank you, Carolyn.

The MSAP Annual Seminar will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2026 via Zoom. The topic will be "May I take your order, please?" The targeted audience is anyone who would like to know more about order: rules of order, out of order, calling for order, order of business. The list is endless. Please invite your friends and colleagues to save the date. The chair for the seminar is Josh Martin. More details to follow.

MSAP's 59th Annual Convention will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at the VFW in Cottage Grove. The NAP Secretary, Donna Mitchell, will be the official NAP representative and will provide an educational workshop as well as install new officers. Please plan to attend this in-person event.

In closing, thank you for your membership in MSAP and for your willingness to provide parliamentary procedure education and service. MSAP receives requests for parliamentarians, and you respond. You truly make a difference to those organizations and make the world a better place.

Lucy Johnson, PRP, MSAP President 2025-2026

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE for the MARCH 2026 Issue of
The Minnesota Parliamentarian is:**

Monday, March 16, 2026

Please submit to Carrie Roach at Editor@MSAP.us
Photos are always welcome. <https://www.MSAP.us>

Editor's Note: the October/November issue of *The Minnesota Parliamentarian* includes the *Minutes* of the 58th Annual Convention of the Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians held Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the Cottage Grove VFW Post in Cottage Grove, MN. This document is attached to the email sent with this newsletter.

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45th NAP Biennial Convention

MSAP Delegates to the 45th NAP Biennial Convention included Josh Martin and Bob Williams. Gloria de Meireles attended as the NAP SPU delegate, and Jeanette Williams as an NAP Past-President. The District 5 attendees pictured are from LEFT to RIGHT: Lyle Kleman (IA), John Heineman (NE), Thomas Havelka (NE), Jeanette Williams (MN), Terry Burns (MO), Chuck Kasin (ND), Cindy Lugan (NE), Wendi Baggaley (ND), Gloria de Meireles (MN), Troy White (NE), Laura Meade (IA), Bob Williams (MN). Additional District 5 attendees included a student member, Josh Martin (MN), and Krista Peyton (MO). This photo and others can be found at: <https://rw48395.smugmug.com/2025-General-Photos/RW48395> Thank you *again* for these Bob Williams!



Newsletters may be found under the *News & Events* tab at: [MSAP.US](https://msap.us)



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Proposed amendments to the MSAP Bylaws and Standing Rules initiated by a member or members are due to the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee, Bylaws@msap.us no later than **Thursday, January 15th, 2026**.

Dahms-Bierbaum Workshop

Five MSAP members attended the Dahms-Bierbaum Workshop held October 17-19, 2025 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Four of them are pictured below. The workshop was titled Parliamentary Writing: The Pen Behind the Gavel and featured three presenters – Kirk Overby, Alison Wallis, Justin Pappano, and guest presenter, C.J. Cavin.



LEFT to RIGHT: Jeanette Williams, Lucy Johnson, Miriam Simmons, and Gloria de Meireles

You are invited to check out the workshop photos taken here:
<https://rw48395.smugmug.com/Groups/2025-Dahms>

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Everything you need to know about **membership** with the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) is found at: <https://www.parliamentarians.org/membership#apply>

Everything you need to know about **the RP exam** is found at: <http://www.parliamentarians.org/credentialing/rp>

Information on **the PRP exam** is found at: <https://www.parliamentarians.org/credentialing/prp>

The Commission also published a revised version of the *Criteria for Credentialing* in September (9/28/2025). It lists the performance expectations for RPs and PRPs along with resources to use to meet the standards. Find this document at: <https://www.parliamentarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025-9-28-Criteria-for-Credentialing-UPDATED-v1.pdf>

MSAP Audit Committee:

The fiscal year for the Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians is December 1 through November 30. In December, the Audit Committee will begin reviewing the Treasurer's material in order to submit the Audit Report to the MSAP Board in January 2026.

Darleen A. Harens, Chairman

MSAP Youth Judging Committee:

Members will be contacted for judging of youth parliamentary procedure teams after the committee chairman receives notice from the Business Professionals of America (BPA) and the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FFCLA) organizations. Typically, the judging begins in January with the BPA regional competitions.

Darleen A. Harens, Chairman

The Dassel Cokato FFA Conduct of Chapter Meetings (novice parliamentary procedure team) represented Minnesota at the recent National FFA Convention & Expo, held October 30-November 1, 2025 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over 70,000 youth attended this event making it one of the largest youth conventions held across the nation. The chapter qualified for the competition by winning the Minnesota state competition last December. Forty-five states sent teams to make it the largest Leadership Development event held at the conference. Each team completes a written test to determine their general knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order. They then conduct a mock thirteen-minute meeting demonstrating a prescribed set of motions and abilities debating the pros and cons of their motions. They also address a set of oral questions



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put to them by the judges. The Conduct of Chapter Meetings teams are composed of students in grades 7 through 9.

The teams compete in a preliminary, with twelve advancing to a semi-final round, and four advancing to the final round. This year a team from Ohio won the overall event. The teams are divided into three categories – Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Minnesota was awarded a Silver medal. The team was coached by Kevin Dahlman, PRP, a member of the Northern Lights unit.



Northern Lights Parliamentarians

Northern Lights Parliamentarians continue to meet on the Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. 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! Join us!

Richard Skimland, President
President.NLP@MSAP.us

FUTURE EVENTS

MSAP Board Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2026
Zoom

MSAP Education Seminar
Saturday, January 24, 2026
Zoom

MSAP BOD Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2026
Zoom

MSAP Annual Convention
Saturday, April 11, 2026
VFW, Maple Grove

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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 education portion of the meeting recently included “*A Couple Calls, Questions, and Points (Interrupting Without Being Rude)*” led by Carrie Roach, RP; reflections on the recent Dahms-Bierbaum Foundation Workshop from the SPU members who attended were shared during the October meeting. Guests are always welcome at our meetings. Please contact President Alice Chapman for further information at President.SPU@MSAP.us.

FUTURE EVENTS (continued)

NAP Training Conference

August 26-30, 2026
Birmingham, AL

NAP Biennial Convention

August 25-29, 2027
New Orleans, LA

OFFICERS

MSAP President Lucy Johnson 651.224.7102 LucyHJohnson@msn.com

MSAP Vice-President Alice Chapman 505.699.5216 AMC521@comcast.net

MSAP Secretary Dan Thomas-Commins 651.402.7740 DanThomasComminsDFL@gmail.com

MSAP Treasurer David Staehlin 651.261.5802 David@Staehlin.us

MSAP Immediate Past-President David Staehlin 651.261.5802 David@Staehlin.us