



The Minnesota Parliamentarian

Official Publication of the Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians



October/November 2023

President's Corner

I am honored to serve as your President for the year ahead. It is with great enthusiasm that I take on this role and work alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of parliamentarians. Together, we have already accomplished growth within our association, welcoming new members both at the association and unit levels. This growth is a testament to the value our organization brings to those who share our passion for parliamentary procedure.

In further strengthening our connections, six delegates from our association, a representative from the St. Paul Unit, another from Northern Lights Parliamentarians, and the esteemed Past NAP President, Jeanette Williams, recently attended the 44th Biennial Convention of the National Association of Parliamentarians. I am thrilled to report that the convention was a success, and I encourage you all to stay tuned for details in this edition of the Minnesota Parliamentarian and via an upcoming email directly from NAP.



As we move forward into this exciting new year, I eagerly anticipate the successes and achievements we will collectively attain. Our association's growth and the positive outcomes of the recent convention indicate a bright future ahead. Thank you for entrusting me with the honor of serving as your President, and I look forward to working with each of you to make this year one of growth, learning, and camaraderie.

~David Staehlin, MSAP President 2023

Please find information in this, and future editions of the *Minnesota Parliamentarian* on Facebook [facebook.com/minnesotaparliamentarians](https://www.facebook.com/minnesotaparliamentarians), and on our website at [friendsofrobert.org](https://www.friendsofrobert.org).



REMINDER

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 **Monday, January 15th, 2024**.

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Education Elements

Lucy Johnson, PRP, Vice-President and Education Chair



I Don't Want to Talk About it! (how to drop a motion)

There are several ways to drop or ignore motions or business. This article focuses on two motions: *Postpone Indefinitely* and *Object to Consideration of the Question*.

Compare and Contrast →	<i>Postpone Indefinitely</i> vs.	<i>Object to Consideration of the Question</i>
Precedence	Yes	No
Can Interrupt	No	Yes
Second needed	Yes	No
Debatable	Yes	No
Amendable	No	No
Vote needed	Majority	2/3 in the negative
Reconsider	Yes - affirmative	Yes - 2/3 negative, sustained

Purpose and Nuances

Postpone Indefinitely eliminates the motion for the duration of the meeting. Debate can go into the merits of the main motion as well as to postpone the motion indefinitely. It can be used anytime during debate as long as the topic is the main motion. (precedence)

Object to Consideration of the Question enables the Assembly to avoid an original main motion altogether. It must be made before any debate has begun. It cannot be applied to an incidental main motion.

RONR (12th ed.) Motion Script Cards 2nd Edition (NAP)

44th NAP Biennial Convention Reports

During the first business meeting on Wednesday afternoon SPU delegate Roach noticed that several NAP members were astute to how Standing Rule 7 MOTIONS: and Standing Rule 8 LIMIT ON DEBATE: would impact the delegates during the remainder of the business meetings yet to be held on Thursday and Friday. Amendments to these two rules gave the delegate assembly typical rights that would have been denied without the amendments. In the adopted Standing Rules for the 44th Biennial NAP Convention, members *could* submit written motions available on an electronic form, and Rule 8 LIMIT ON DEBATE *could* be suspended.

MSAP delegates Staehlin and Johnson reported on the second business meeting held at 8:30am on Thursday, September 7, 2023. Following the supplemental Credentials Report, MSAP members Bob and Jeanette



Williams were recognized for their many, many years of service as the NAP photography committee. President Wanda Sims presented Bob and Jeanette with a digital picture frame complete with their photos taken during NAP events with gratitude from the National Association of Parliamentarians. A slide



show of the couple was shown to the Assembly during the presentation.

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After the Special Award presentation, Lucy Johnson gave us a peek into the remainder of the second business meeting and the luncheon that followed. Reports recapping the accomplishments of various committees and Board of Directors during the biennial were presented. The reports are available on the NAP University website. These were followed by the Treasurer's report which included a clean audit. The President's report included video reports from standing committees. After a brief recess, the election of officers occurred with the following results:

- President – Allison Wallis, PRP
- Vice-President – Carl Nohr, PRP
- Secretary – Mona Calhoun, PRP
- Treasurer – Robert Schuck, PRP

The Past-Presidents' Luncheon was then held. Six past-presidents were in attendance: Rollie Cox (1991-1993), Jeanette Williams (2005-2007), Connie Deford (2007-2009), Ronald Stinson (2009-2011), Maurice Henderson (2011-2013), and Darlene Allen (2019-2021). The program included tributes to Unit and Association presidents as well as Past-Presidents' highlights. A quiz of Past-Presidential Trivia and an inspiration closed the luncheon.

The agenda for the morning business meeting on Thursday was not completed, as MSAP delegate Strand lets us know, and for that reason, in the afternoon, business meeting three began where we had recessed prior to lunch, with Nominations for Directors-at-Large. Jan Strand also noted that the updated, adopted credentials report showed 309 delegates entitled to vote. The nominations for John Berg (WA), Elizabeth Sapp James (TX), and Susan Eads Role (LA) had been listed in the Spring 2023 National Parliamentarian. Shawn Paine (OK), Mary Grant (MD), Tamara Harris (MD), Steven Cook (NC), and Eli Mina (BC) were also nominated. Each spoke before votes were cast on phones or computers using Election Buddy software. In the first round of voting there were 297 votes; 149 were needed to elect. Both Elizabeth Sapp James and Tamara Harris received a majority of votes cast. The second round of voting did not result in any of the remaining candidates receiving a majority, so a third round was conducted which resulted in Steven Cook also being elected to the position of Director-at-Large. Nominations for District Representatives on the Board followed and were Lucy Anderson (TX), Deborah Underwood (IL), and Kevin Connelly (WA). Lucy Anderson and Deborah Underwood were elected. Nominations for the five positions on the Credentialing Commission were to be received next. Three positions for four years, and two positions for two years. Sandra Harrell Cook (DC), David Jackson (NY), and Steven Walls (MD), currently serving, had announced their candidacies; Henry Lawton (FL) and Sandy Olson (NE) were also nominated. Sandra Harrel Cook, David Jackson, and Steven Walls were elected for four-year terms; Henry Lawton and Sandy Olson were elected for two-year terms. Then there was time to consider proposed bylaw amendments. Proposed amendment #1 was adopted as amended. Article IV, Divisions, Section 5, Units, Subsection B, Electronic Units now states:

B. Electronic Units

1. An electronic unit shall include NAP members interested in conducting electronic meetings.
2. When chartering, an electronic unit shall designate its association affiliation. After the initial designation, an electronic unit may petition the NAP Board of Directors to change its affiliation to a different association.
3. [New] An existing non-electronic unit may amend its bylaws to become an electronic unit.

Jan points out that the business meetings at NAP conventions are always entertaining and inspiring...as so many motions and procedures are carried out, and this convention did not disappoint!!!

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The District 5 delegates met with District Director Laura Meade (IA), following Business Meeting 3 on Thursday afternoon. Attendees were from Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. Jan had met many of these delegates at previous conventions, but as she is new to this District, it was great to hear of their concerns for the District. Laura will be working on offering Professional Responsibility workshops for RPs and PRPs. Laura asked Minnesota delegates to speak on their success with workshops for the public. Other Regional delegates offered further suggestions for recruiting members.

NAP Board of Directors Censured – *Contains opinions*, by David Staehlin, President

Most delegates at the NAP Convention were surprised on September 6, 2023, to hear of a resolution calling for the censuring of the Board of Directors. After discussion on September 8, the delegates narrowly approved the censure. The Board of Directors was censured for removing four elected members of the Commission on Credentialing in 2022 without providing the commissioners due process. Commissioners were not given a detailed explanation for their removal and were provided with no opportunity to defend themselves before the action was taken. One of the removed commissioners, a member of the *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th ed.)* authorship team resigned both his PRP credential and NAP membership, a deep loss to the organization. The resolution called for the censure of the Board and required that a copy of the resolution be posted to the NAP website in the same manner and for the same period as the original notice of the commissioners' removal. The resolution served notice to this and future Boards that due process must be afforded elected officers and commissioners. Bylaw changes were adopted at the Convention that now require the Board to follow the disciplinary procedures outlined in RONR before removing any commissioners with a 2/3 vote. This unfortunate action by the Board soured an otherwise excellent performance by the Board for the 2021-2023 biennium which ended with the conclusion of the Convention. Most members remain grateful for the service of the Board, many of whom will continue to serve during the 2023-2025 biennium. Our Association remains strong, and we will move forward with our march from good to great in this organization we love!

MSAP Receives Award for

High Number of Workshops

At the recent NAP 44th Biennial Convention, President David Staehlin was honored to accept on behalf of MSAP an award for having the highest number of educational sessions in District 5 in the 2021-2023 biennium.



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For an NAP national event, this convention was a great mix of run-of-the-mill business tossed up with solid parliamentarian knowledge according to NLP delegate Wendt. Many NAP delegates and members learned about parliamentary process and procedure by just being in the business meetings. There was a focus on credentialing and retaining certification as a Registered Parliamentarian (RP) or a Professional Registered Parliamentarian (PRP). The change parallels that of other professions (i.e., attorneys and physicians). Our knowledge and capabilities are initially proven and now our credential will be sustained through continuing education units (CEUs). Kevin really likes this change! CEUs will help each of us ensure that we are up-to-date on the latest and greatest in our field. Perhaps the greatest advantage, from Kevin's perspective, is the fact that professional responsibility is baked right into our CEU requirements.

Find out more at: [NAP website's credentialing page](#)

In addition to the business meetings, Kevin also attended a very informative workshop on how to run a parliamentary business. Topics such as service rates, ways to secure clients, and methods for marketing were discussed and he will soon be trying several of the tips he picked up.

On Saturday afternoon Jan Strand went to a workshop titled "Google Classroom for Parliamentary Procedure" by Lucy Hicks Anderson, PRP. Lucy was asked to present this workshop because she had used Google Classroom to conduct training for members studying for the PRP. The class met by Zoom. One of those class members attended the workshop and shared the value of using this online format for communication with students. Google Classroom requires the user to have a Google account. Lucy shared the steps to set up the Classroom and the topic areas that can be used with students. Areas include Classwork ...where assignments and due dates are posted; Stream ...where videos, announcements, recordings, and documents are posted; and People ...where student and teacher contact information is posted. The instructor can also keep grades of students in a separate area of the account. The "Classroom" is free to individuals; schools and other institutions pay a fee that gives the users many more options or advantages. Lucy challenged attendees to consider using this format when conducting training with groups of students.

There was keen interest in the decisions of the Commission on Credentialing. MSAP delegate Simmons reports that the Commission announced a revised format for the Registered Parliamentarian (RP) exam, along with the requirements for maintaining this credential. The certification exam for an RP consists of 100 multiple choice questions and five essay questions. One of these essay questions is on professional responsibility. The candidate must pass the multiple-choice section with 85% correct. If they do not, however, pass this they may go on and answer the essay questions. Miriam notes that it is advisable to finish the exam even without a passing score on the first section. Each exam is administered as a whole, so not passing a section implies that both parts of the exam must be taken again. All 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 a revised the *Criteria for Credentialing* (9/1/2023). It lists the performance expectations for RPs and PRPs along with the resources to meet the standards. Find this document at https://www.parliamentarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-Criteria-for-Credentialing_Final.pdf

* SAVE THE DATE *

Saturday, May 4th

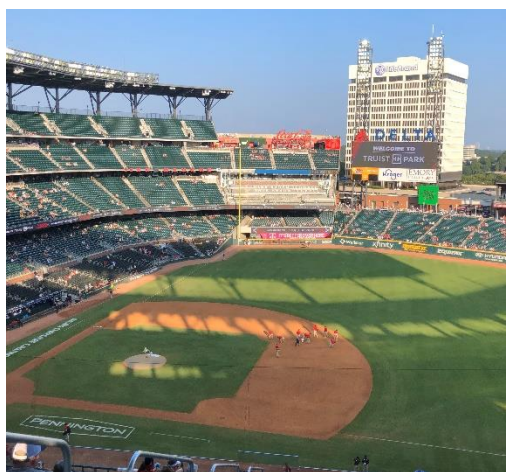
MSAP Convention
{more information to come}

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A group of ten Convention attendees, a mixture of NAP members and RPs, one being Carrie Roach, participated in an interactive Learning Lab on Saturday. This was a time to practice being the presiding officer followed by collegial discussions on the script used, especially on the differences between stating motions versus stating amendments to motions; state the amendment, state the motion with the amendment if adopted, and ask for debate (or if your assembly is ready for the question). During the second half of our lab, we looked up answers and cited the source in RONR as if we were a supporting parliamentarian. Discussions were robust and experiences were shared. There are trained teachers for this type of a program, and they can bring it out to Associations and Units!



NAP 44th Biennial Convention Attendees: Jeanette Williams, Miriam Simmons, David Staehlin, Bob Williams (front), Lucy Johnson, Jan Strand (middle), Josh Martin (center back) representing MSAP; Carrie Roach (left back) representing SPU; Kevin Wendt (right back) representing NLP



Batter up! At each NAP national event it is customary for the NAP Educational Foundation (NAPEF) to hold a fundraising event. This year it was an excursion to Truist Park to see the Atlanta Braves play the Pittsburgh Pirates. This was also an ambulatory event, as we were able to walk to and from the stadium on a pleasant Atlanta evening from right outside our convention hotel's main entrance. This Friday night game, after the fifth business meeting concluded, the Braves were up by seven runs when the Pirates



Left to Right: Josh Martin, Laura Meade, Lucy Johnson, Dave Whitaker, Carrie Roach, Miriam Simmons

came to bat at the top of the fourth inning. The final score was eight to two. We viewed the game from right field where we could sit inside or outside on the Hank Aaron Terrace. A special feature was the food: we could have *whatever* we wanted from any of several food stations. NAPEF provides educational grants to NAP and funds several scholarships. Your support is always welcome. More information can be found at www.NAPEF.org.

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Northern Lights Parliamentarians

Northern Lights Parliamentarians (NLP) continues to meet by Zoom on the second Tuesday evening of each month, beginning at 6:30 PM.

We are pleased to have new provisional members Tim Held and Kevin Peterson. Welcome Tim and Kevin!

Recent education programs were led by Richard Skimland on 'Previous Question', Beverly Kennedy, RP, on 'Meeting Myths', David Staehlin on 'Short Cuts', and Robert Vokes on 'Minutes.'

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 and occasionally in-person. A study session precedes the meeting at 8:30 a.m. The education portion of the meeting recently included the review and discussion of the twenty-one NAP proposed bylaw amendments along with summary presentations by the 44th NAP Convention delegates sent by MSAP and SPU. Guests are always welcome at our meetings. Please contact President Carrie Roach, RP for the link at Catherine.Roach@usfamily.net.

FUTURE EVENTS

MSAP Board Meeting

October 19, 2023

Zoom

Dahms-Bierbaum Workshop

November 3-5, 2023

Hilton Kansas City Airport

MSAP BOD Meeting

January 4, 2024

Zoom

MSAP Annual Seminar

January 27, 2024

Zoom

MSAP BOD Meeting

March 14, 2024

Zoom

MSAP Convention

May 4, 2024

VFW, Maple Grove

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE for the MARCH 2024 Issue of

The Minnesota Parliamentarian is

January 1, 2023

Please submit to Carrie Roach at Editor@MSAP.us Photos are always welcome. MSAP: www.FriendsOfRobert.org

Editor's Note: the MSAP Standing Rules stipulate that the October/November issue of *The Minnesota Parliamentarian* shall include the *Minutes of the 56th Annual Convention of the Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians which was held on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the Cottage Grove VFW Post in Cottage Grove, MN.* Rather than including this document *within* the newsletter (which would make the newsletter inordinately long), it is attached to the email sent with this newsletter.