



The Minnesota Parliamentarian

Official Publication of the Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians



June/July 022

MIRIAM'S MUSINGS

“What,” asked the spouse, “do you meet about? You already have all the rules.” I paused to think of a snappy retort --- because, yes, Robert’s Rules sure seems to have all the rules. It’s the application of them and how to explain them that causes us to have educational sessions and more meetings. For example, one of the rules is that an organization cannot suspend its bylaws. Very simple.

But wait! There are exceptions, such as when a ‘rule of order’ is embedded in the bylaws. (Such might be this: “the President presides at all meetings of the Association”.) Rules of order can be suspended because they are rules about **how** a meeting is conducted. [See: RONR 2:14 and 2:21]

Here is a good one***: you **must** have a quorum to conduct business. Absolutely. But wait! What if your total membership falls below the quorum required in your bylaws? And what if all your members are at a meeting, deciding what to do next? Would a meeting be legitimate? **Yes**. But why is that? A quorum is a way to protect all members from having only a few members decide everything. If **all** members are present, no one’s rights are being violated; your meeting can legitimately be conducted. [RONR 25:10, emphasis added: “*For example, the rules requiring the presence of a quorum...protect absentees, if there are any, and **cannot be suspended when any member is absent.***” Also see footnote 8 on p. 249.]

Back to the question: Why have parliamentary meetings? Our organization has business to conduct: we met on April 23 for the 55th Annual MSAP Convention to hold an election and adopt a budget. It was great to see other members, share breakfast and lunch, and participate in an excellent workshop entitled *In Order or Not in Order*, presented by Jeanette Williams, PRP, CP-T. Such workshops help us understand the reasons for the rules, how they should be applied, and how we can better explain them.

Please tell others about us so they know where to go to learn about parliamentary procedure, better meetings, and better governance. Remember to check out our website: FriendsOfRobert.org. Also please



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join me in welcoming new student member Avery Welna.

**Many thanks to Dan Seabold, one of the authors of RONR, who explained this exception at the Dahms Foundation workshop in November.

Miriam Simmons, PRP
President

Fifty-Fifth MSAP Annual Convention

Eleven delegates assembled on April 23, 2022, in Cottage Grove for the fifty-fifth Annual Convention of the Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians. Held at the Cottage Grove Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8752, the members enjoyed a continental breakfast before tackling the business at hand.

After a warm welcome and introductions, the delegates quickly approved the credentials report, conventions standing rules, convention program, and appointments for the convention.

Time was saved by sharing most officer and committee reports in writing in the convention packets for delegates to read at their convenience.

The delegates elected the following officers for the 2022-2023 leadership year:

- President Miriam Simmons, PRP
- Vice President David Staehlin
- Secretary Robert Vokes

The delegates elected Lucy Johnson, PRP; Michael Orr, RP; and Pat Reymann, PRP, for the Nominating Committee with Lucy Johnson, PRP serving as Chairman.

Treasurer Josh Martin, PRP will be serving the second year of his two-year term and was therefore not a candidate for election at the convention.

Delegates adopted the 2021-2022 budget.

INCOME

11 registrations @ \$45	\$495.00
1 registration @ \$55	<u>55.00</u>
	\$550.00

EXPENSES

Breakfast	\$109.37
Lunch	154.62
Paper, Pens, Copying	<u>51.86</u>
	\$315.85

INCOME – EXPENSES \$234.15

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The members were delighted with an educational session, titled “In Order or Not in Order,” led by Jeanette Williams, PRP, CP-T.



President Miriam Simmons



Convention Attendees

After adjourning for group photos and lunch, the convention was called to order and under new business a motion was adopted to donate \$50 to the NAP Educational Foundation in honor of Jeanette Williams, PRP, CP-T in appreciation of the lesson she presented.

A resolution was adopted to recognize Past President Robert Vokes for his leadership of the Association during the pandemic shutdown in 2020 and 2021.

Jeanette Williams, PRP, CP-T installed the elected 2022-2023 officers using the fun theme, “Hummingbirds.”

MSAP members are encouraged to look forward to April 2023 for our fifty-sixth Convention and join us representing your Association as a delegate.

David Staehlin
Vice President
Convention Chairman

SAVE THE DATE!

2023 MSAP Annual Convention

Saturday, April 22nd

Details to follow

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Constitution and Bylaws

The MSAP board of directors approved five amendments to the Standing Rules at Board meetings during 2022. Three of them were discussed in the last edition of the *Minnesota Parliamentarian*. This article provides information about the two amendments adopted at the Board meeting on March 24, 2022. There were no bylaw amendments this year.

Amendment #1: It was moved to amend the standing rules by striking out ‘fall’ everywhere it is used preceding ‘seminar’ as it refers to the fall seminar presented by the seminars committee and to insert ‘annual’ in its place; if inserting ‘annual’ would result in the word being used consecutively in a sentence, then it would not be necessary to insert ‘annual’, although it would be necessary to strike out ‘fall’. The amendment affects language in standing rules: 3.2, 3.8, 5.2.6, and 9. The standing rules as amended use the words ‘annual seminar’ instead of ‘fall seminar’. The MSAP seminar formerly called the fall seminar is now called the annual seminar.

Amendment #2: It was moved to amend Standing Rule 6 by striking out \$100 and inserting \$200. Motion adopted. Standing Rule 6 now reads, “Funds budgeted for the NAP convention delegates’ expenses shall be divided equally among the elected delegates at the time of the convention. The maximum amount allowed toward the delegates’ expenses shall not exceed \$200 or the registration fee, whichever is less. This applies to the president, vice president, the other state delegates, and each member-at-large delegate.” The NAP holds a convention every-other year. Some elected delegates may choose to seek the allowance while others may not.

Gloria de Meireles, Chairman

Education Committee

It’s time to begin planning the Annual Seminar. Suggestions are welcomed for topics and volunteers to be presenters. The Seminar will be held virtually on Saturday January 28, 2023 (save the date!) Please let me know if you are interested in presenting and/or have suggestions for topics. Last year, there was a request to record the presentations and have them available to watch later. Our initial attempts to respond to this request have been unsuccessful. I would welcome any technical support, advice, or direction.

The second area that the committee is pursuing is helping high school coaches and groups with resources and suggestions for Parliamentary Procedure. A request has been made that we provide a short presentation aimed at students addressing why Robert’s Rules and Parliamentary Procedure are important. This could be used as a recruiting tool for high school coaches to encourage students to pursue studying RONR. If you are interested in helping with this project, please let me know. I am looking for any references, thoughts, ideas, or topics that you think are important to include. This is a one-time project that will be done during this summer.

Lucy Johnson, PRP, Chairman

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2022 Dahms Workshop

“SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS ARE SOMETHING SPECIAL”

November 4-6, 2022
Hilton Minneapolis/Bloomington
Bloomington, Minnesota

Curriculum Director: Jeanette N. Williams, PRP, CP-T
Instructor: Lucy Anderson, PRP, CP-T
Instructor: W. Craig Henry, PRP, CPP-T

Most members want to get through every meeting efficiently and effectively. They know that main motions are the foundation for decision making. What if you like the main motion but think it needs improvement? Can you hasten or delay action on a motion? Join us at this interactive workshop in a review of the basics and an exploration of the complexities of subsidiary motions in Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th ed.) and American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (2012). Presented by credentialed parliamentarians, this workshop will be of value to officers and members of organizations and will complement the work of the parliamentarians who advise them.

For more information, visit dahmsfoundation.org

Jeanette Williams, PRP

Judging and Youth Education

MSAP was contacted to provide judges for the BPA(Business Professionals of America) parli-pro team judging. Due to Covid, no judges were available for in-person judging for the regional competition on January 28; therefore it was done virtually using Google Meet. Robert Vokes and Darleen Harens, PRP, were the judges for this competition.

Thank you to the three MSAP members who served as judges at the BPA state parli-pro competitions at the Hyatt Regency on March 11. The judges were Lucy Johnson, PRP, Miriam Simmons, PRP, and Kevin Wendt, PRP. They judged 9 high school teams.

Medallions have been sent to the Watertown-Mayer High School for the seven members of the 1st place team. A 1st place plaque was sent to the school to honor the team.

Thank you for all who have indicated an interest in this very worthwhile opportunity to assist our future leaders to be better leaders.

Darleen Harens, PRP, Chairman

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Just Tell me the Principles!

If one were to have a criticism of Robert's Rules of Order, it might be this: the fundamental principles of parliamentary procedure are not set out for us in one place. Certainly they are there, but by my count, in at least thirteen places.** (Coupled to these are the rights of members, mostly spelled out in RONR 1:4.) The principles underlie everything in the book—and some things must have seemed so obvious (e.g.: Be fair!), it was never explicitly written down, so it is difficult to find a specific statement in the book. One wants to shout: “just tell me the principles!”.

There was an excellent workshop on *Founding Principles* at the 2020 Training Conference, presented by Elizabeth Willis, PRP. With much appreciation to Ms. Willis, here is a list from that workshop:

- ✓ The organization is paramount
- ✓ All members are equal
- ✓ One thing is discussed at a time
- ✓ Full discussion before action
- ✓ Propositions before action
- ✓ Propositions may yield to privileges
- ✓ No discussion for interruptions
- ✓ No discussion for suspensions
- ✓ No second time in the same form
- ✓ Majority decides – usually
- ✓ Two thirds vote for extraordinary questions
- ✓ Silence gives consent

There are also rights of members, which are: to get notice of meetings, to attend meetings, to make motions, to make nominations, to speak in debate, to give notice of motions, and to vote. These are the rights of every member **unless** a right is restricted somehow, such as by governing documents or disciplinary proceedings. For example, there might be a class of members who are non-voting members. (Refer to RONR 1:4)

Here are two of my favorite member rights:

- Members have a right to know what's going on. (The duty of the Chair is to make things clear. RONR 47:7)
- Members have a right to demand the rules be followed. (Point of order! RONR 23:1)

**Those places are: p. xlix, 5:4, 10:26 1), 17:15, 23:6 d), 23:8, 25:1, 25:9, 39:5, 45:2, 45:56, 46:43, and 46:49 c)

Miriam Simmons, Ph.D, PRP

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Nominating Committee

At the Annual Convention in April, the following were elected to the Nominating Committee: Michael Orr, RP; Pat Reymann, PRP; and Lucy Johnson, PRP, Chair. The goal for the Committee is to nominate candidates for all four officer positions and three positions on the Nominating Committee. It is never too early to start thinking of nominations. If you have a candidate in mind, or would like to nominate yourself, please contact Lucy Johnson

Lucy Johnson, PRP
Chairman

Bridge to the Future Honor Wall



Bob and Jeanette Williams point to the MSAP tile



Tile purchased by the St. Paul Unit

National Association of Parliamentarians unveiled a "Bridge to the Future Honor Wall" at NAP Headquarters in Independence, Missouri, on May 4, 2022. The Honor Wall comprises three wall sections having "tiles" honoring NAP members. Bob and Jeanette Williams traveled to the event, and Bob was the event photographer. Past NAP Presidents attending included Jeanette Williams, Mary Randolph, and Leonard "Len" Young. The entire NAP 2021-2023 Board of Directors were in attendance. The NAP Headquarters has also had the main floor completely remodeled and NAP President Wanda Sims gave a tour of the main floor improvements.

Bob Williams

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Northern Lights Parliamentarians

We continue to meet by Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. except in December. We continue have educational sessions at each meeting. This month we will have a session on parliamentary myths. Please feel free to join us. For a Zoom invite contact me at skimlandr@gmail.com. We will be electing new officers at the May 10 meeting. It has been as pleasure to serve as your outgoing NLP president, and my successor will continue in our tradition of education and parliamentary correctness. Thanks to all who helped make my term a success.

Richard N Skimland
Past President



At the Annual Convention

St. Paul Unit



At the Annual Convention

The St. Paul Unit (SPU) meets virtually on the third Monday of the month at 9:30am. A study session precedes the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Miriam Simmons, chairman of the Education Committee, presented “Changing our Minds”, a discussion on the motion to *Rescind* at the March meeting. At the April meeting, this topic was expanded to include *Amend Something Previously Adopted*. Examples and discussion followed. The topic of the May meeting was *Adjourn*.

In an attempt to personalize virtual meeting, the

Good of the Order involves an ice-breaker type question. Such questions have included “what is your favorite part about the month of March?”, “state two truths and one lie about yourself” (members tried to identify the incorrect statement), and “if you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?”. This new practice has been well received and has enlightened members.

Lucy Johnson, PRP, President

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Teaching at Metro State

Your President has been busy arranging a class on Parliamentary Procedure/Nonprofit Board Governance. This is part of a graduate level leadership curriculum at Metro State University in St. Paul and will be co-taught with Professor Megan Brown. This short course starts May 17 and runs for six Tuesdays in the evening. The class is held via Zoom to accommodate students from all over the state. Josh Martin, PRP is a guest speaker for one session; CJ Cavin, PRP, CP-T, the Oklahoma house legislative parliamentarian, is another.

Miriam Simmons, Ph.D., PRP



**Members-at-Large
at the Annual Convention**

Thank You!

**To Bob Williams,
photographer
extraordinaire, for
sharing his wonderful
photos for this
newsletter.**



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Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians

Fly in and visit!

New inquiries for unit membership, professional service inquiries, and general inquiries have happened lately.

Congratulations!

Help us to maintain and create our website as the most vibrant, active, useful, and attractive tool and marketing endeavor for the association and your unit. If you have specific comments or feedback, your idea could be implemented! **Visit the website at:**

www.friendsofrobort.org

Michael Orr, RP, Chairman
Website Committee



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MSAP BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2023

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Vice President.....	David Staehlin
Secretary.....	Robert Vokes
Treasurer.....	Josh Martin, PRP
Immediate Past President.....	Robert Vokes
Editor.....	Robert Vokes
Historian.....	Patricia Reymann, PRP
¹ Parliamentarian.....	Jeanette Williams, PRP
Audit Committee.....	Darleen Harens, PRP
Budget & Finance Committee.....	Josh Martin, PRP
Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee.....	Gloria de Meireles
Convention Committee.....	Dave Staehlin
Education Committee.....	Lucy Johnson, PRP
Judging & Education of Youth Committee.....	Darleen Harens, PRP
Membership Committee.....	Dave Staehlin
Nominating Committee.....	Lucy Johnson, PRP; Michael Orr, RP; Pat Reymann, PRP
Public Relations Committee.....	Judy Twisk
Seminars Committee.....	
Web Site Committee.....	Michael Orr, RP
Northern Lights Parliamentarians.....	Dave Staehlin
St. Paul Unit.....	Lucy Johnson, PRP

¹ Non-Board Position

FUTURE EVENTS

NAP National Training Conf.
September 8-11, 2022
Albuquerque Hotel
Albuquerque, New Mexico

MSAP Board of Directors
October 27, 2022
TBD

Dahms-Bierbaum Workshop
November 4-6, 2022
Minneapolis Hilton
Bloomington

MSAP Board of Directors
January 26, 2023
TBD

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE OCTOBER 2022

The Minnesota Parliamentarian is 10, 2022.

Please submit to Robert Vokes at hisfootness@comcast.com

Photos are always welcome.

MSAP: www.friendsofrobert.org

Editor's Note:

The MSAP Bylaws, Standing Rules, and a Member List are attached to an e-mail with this newsletter. To include these documents *within* the newsletter would have made it inordinately long.