

October 2020

Robert's Reflections

As I stated in the June/July newsletter, that these are unusual times is certainly an understatement. The emergency COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on our lives. Although it is now possible to dine in a restaurant, many of us are still sequestered in our homes, instead ordering food delivered from restaurants which also supports them financially.

Minnesota's governor has issued emergency executive orders, including prohibiting gatherings of large groups of people. And in my own city of Edina, our mayor issued an emergency executive order requiring that face masks be worn in common areas inside all buildings, both public and private, through the end of December. This has impacted attendance at parliamentarian conventions and meetings, of course, including having to cancel our MSAP (Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians) Annual Convention in 2020.

But not all conventions have been canceled. The 2020 NAP (National Association of Parliamentarians) National Training Conference was held virtually: please see the reports about the training conference by Lucy Johnson and Darleen Harens on pages 2 and 3. And both the Northern Lights Parliamentarians and St. Paul Unit met in person in parking lots to amend their bylaws to allow electronic meetings, which has an additional advantage of facilitating more members, who often live at long distances, to



attend meetings via Zoom and participate in educational sessions. And the NAP Board has held its meetings virtually for some time.

But in order for the MSAP Board to have electronic meetings, we need to amend our MSAP bylaws, which can only be done by the delegates at an MSAP Convention. I am cautiously optimistic that we will be able to meet in person at our 2021 Annual Convention on Saturday, April 24th. There will be more information about the convention in the March issue. So stayed tuned . . .

Robert Vokes
President

The Minnesota Parliamentarian

Virtual NAP Training Conference

The NAP Training Conference, held August 27-30 this year, was a first! The first time I attended this event, and the first time it was held virtually. The highlight was the reveal of the 12th edition of RONR. There were three educational sessions that discussed the changes to this latest edition. In addition, I attended several workshops and the Annual meeting during the 4-day event.

Welcome and RONR Introduction

Martyn Redgrave, a direct descendant of General Henry Robert, unveiled the new edition and ceremoniously retired the 11th edition. His official copy of the latest book was a bit fancier than the one I bought. He mentioned that members of the 5th generation of direct descendants are active in the Robert's Rules Association which has been a family business since 1876. Their website is www.robertsrules.com.

RONR 12th Edition Changes Sessions

Three of the authors of the 12th edition led almost 5 hours of educational sessions to review the changes. To begin with, Shmuel Gerber discussed the book's physical features such as the larger size which is the same size as the *In Brief* reference. Other modifications include the sans serif font for the headings and serif font for the text. The sections are divided into paragraphs with sub paragraphs and sub-sub paragraphs. Of note, the index now contains explanatory text and better cross-references. See *casting vote* as an example.

Daniel Seabold and Thomas (Burke) Balch joined Shmuel to explain what is new. The complete list of changes can be found at <https://robertsrules.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CHANGES-IN-12TH-ED-Adopted-by-Authorship-Team-SG-v2.pdf>

Shortly after the conference ended, I received an email from Jim Slaughter with a very concise, easy to read, 4 page summary of the changes: <http://lawfirmcarolinas.com/blog/new-roberts-rules-of-order/>

While this was my first NAP Training Conference. It won't be my last. I was very impressed with the technology such as the use of break-out rooms (all 144 of us ended up in one of 12 "rooms" for a more in-depth discussion of a topic) and the polling features which helped to engage participants. Our own Minnesota super-star couple, Jeanette and Bob Williams, organized group photos such as our state delegation in attendance. Over 850 people attended this training.

Lucy Johnson, PRP

The Minnesota Parliamentarian

NAP Conferences

August 26 to August 30 were to be days when the MSAP members normally could have attended the Leadership Conference on Wednesday and Thursday and then the Training Conference from Friday through Sunday. This was scheduled to be in San Antonio. This year that along with many other events all of this was changed to a virtual activity instead of an in-person activity.

Nine MSAP members: Ginny Altman, Darleen Harens, Lucy Johnson, Bev Kennedy, Pat Reymann, Miriam Simmons, David Staehlin, Bob Williams, and Jeanette Williams were able to attend as it was done virtually.

During the Training Conference RONR (12th ed) was formally installed as the official current edition of RONR. Three of the authors presented the changes which were made in the 12th edition from the 11th edition. This was done over a period of over four hours in three different sessions.

Other workshops which participants were able to attend during the Training Conference dealt with many different topics. Some of the topics were: 20 Voting-Related Obstacles for New Chairs and Confused Members; Amending Bylaws; Creating a Presiding Script; Is Your Notice Sufficient; Striking a Strike; We Interrupt this Meeting; What's on Your Ballot; Considering Seriatim; and more. Hopefully those are lessons which many of you will have an opportunity to lead and/or participate in them.

Another great topic which was from the Leadership Conference dealt with Navigating RONR. Tim Wynn spent almost 2 hours showing those in attendance what was the same and what was different between the 11th and the new 12th editions. Not only did he tell the participants what was different, but then asked some questions so that members there had to open the 12th edition and find the answers. A very good way to introduce all who were there to the great way that this new edition is more user friendly.

As part of the introduction to those in attendance were told on Wednesday, normally about 50 persons sign up to attend an in-person Leadership session. This year 355 had signed up. For the Training Conference normally there are about 250 in attendance, this year as it was virtual over 800 had signed up.

What a great opportunity this was to attend these conferences while learning so much useful information.

Darleen A. Harens, PRP

The Minnesota Parliamentarian

Bylaws Reminder

Proposed amendments to the bylaws and standing rules initiated by a member or members are due to the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee no later than January 15, 2021. Send proposed amendments to Gloria de Meireles, chairman of the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee at franglo8@msn.com.

Gloria de Meireles, Chairman

Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee members: Gloria de Meireles, Josh Martin, PRP, and Jeanette Williams, PRP

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All of the current officers are completing their allotted terms of office. In addition, candidates for the Nominating Committee are also needed. Voting will occur at the Annual Convention in the spring of 2021. If you would like to nominate yourself or another member, please contact Lucy Johnson, Richard Skimland, or Judy Twisk.

Lucy Johnson, PRP
Chairman

MSAP Convention 2021

The next MSAP Convention is set for April 24, 2021 at the Hilton Minneapolis Bloomington, 3900 American Blvd. West, Bloomington, MN 55437. The plan now is for Registration to begin at 8:00 a.m. and the Convention to convene at 8:30 a.m. The Convention typically opens with a business meeting and it will include an educational session.

Miriam Simmons, PRP
Chair

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Convention

Saturday, April 24, 2021
Hilton Hotel, Bloomington
3900 American Blvd. West

Fall Seminar **Postponed**

[Formerly October 3rd, 2020]

Topics Pending

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Youth and Education

Due to Covid-19, it is not known at this time what the schools who in the past have had BPA or FCCLA student teams will be doing. We will be waiting to hear from them as to whether or not we will be requested to assist in judging their teams either on the regional or state levels.

This past year we judged BPA teams on both levels. Sebeka High School was sent the first place plaque for their first place achievement at the state competition on March 6, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis.

FCCLA cancelled their late March state competition due to the Covid-19.

Darleen A. Harens, PRP
Chairman

Membership

The recent release of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th edition) and the now approved use of meeting remotely has created great opportunities for our members. As we study the changes to RONR and use the 12th edition for our education sessions, members have an opportunity to expand or refresh their knowledge of parliamentary procedure. With our adoption of remote attendance for some MSAP and unit meetings, more of our current and potential members can more easily join us.

Please take the opportunity to join us in person or remotely. Invite your friends and bring along fellow members of deliberative assemblies to which you belong. This is a membership opportunity we shouldn't pass up.

David Staehlin
Chairman

Audit

No report at this time. It will be presented at the Jan 28, 2021 MSAP BOD meeting after the end of the fiscal year.

Darleen A. Harens, PRP
Chairman



The Minnesota Parliamentarian



TO VISIT THE MINNESOTA STATE
ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
WEBSITE:
www.friendsofrobert.org

Has your unit added regular or special events to the NAP calendar? In addition to the MN State Association of Parliamentarians website, it could be a thought for discussion at your next meeting!

<https://www.parliamentarians.org/documents/association-and-unit-event-registration-forms/add-an-event-to-nap-calendar-of-events/>

Zoom meetings allow your unit to expand the scope of your meeting attendees. Recently the Parliamentary Procedure Toastmasters had SIX remote meeting guests (including two guests from Atlanta GA, one from New York City, and three from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada)!

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MSAP WORD FIND

ADJOURN
AFFIRMATIVE
CONVENTION
CORONA
ELECTION
ELECTRONIC
MAINMOTION
MINNESOTA
MINUTES
NEGATIVE
NEWSLETTER
NORTHERNLIGHTS
SAINT PAUL
SECRETARY
TREASURER
TWELFTH
UNIT

Michael Orr, RP, Chair
Web Site

The Minnesota Parliamentarian

St. Paul Unit Report

Intrepid (and masked!) members of the St. Paul Unit met in the parking lot near our normal meeting place on June 15 to give notice of bylaws amendments. It was a beautiful, breezy, not-too-hot day. The same members, along with a few more, met again on an equally beautiful July 20 to amend the Unit's bylaws and allow for electronic member meetings. Our first electronic member meeting was held August 17 at 9:30 a.m. Guests are always welcome to join us. Meetings include an educational session. At the August meeting this was a discussion from NAP's Guided Discovery Series from the lesson "*Let Me Interrupt You*".

Members Ginny Altman, Lucy Johnson, Pat Reymann and Miriam Simmons attended NAP's National Training Conference, held August 28 – 30, also via Zoom. NAP made a great effort to ship the 12th Edition of RONR prior to the Conference, and a box arrived on August 24 at Miriam's house, causing much excitement. Books were distributed that week, just in time for participants to follow the authorship team's review of the changes from the 11th Edition. Plans for upcoming educational sessions include a review of these changes as well as sharing information from the workshops.

Officers this year are: President, Miriam Simmons, PRP; Vice President, Lucy Johnson, PRP; Secretary, Mickey Nickelson; and Treasurer, Ginny Altman, PRP.

Miriam Simmons, PRP
President

Northern Lights Unit

We continue to offer our parliamentary educational sessions monthly at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month except in December. During the summer, we took the necessary steps so that we can now conduct business during our virtual meetings by way of Zoom. Although we would prefer to meet in person, we likely will continue to meet on-line for the remainder of 2020. We still encourage and welcome guests. If you can join us, please request a zoom invite by emailing me at skimlandr@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you.

Richard Skimland
President



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Vice President.....Miriam Simmons, PRP
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Ad Hoc Committee on Added Value.....Lucy Johnson, PRP;
Darleen Harens, PRP; Dave Staehlin

FUTURE EVENTS

MSAP Fall Seminar

October 3, 2020

POSTPONED!

MSAP BOD Meeting

October 22, 2020

6:00-7:30 p.m.

VFW 8752

9260 E Point Douglas Rd S
Cottage Grove, MN

Dahms-Bierbaum Workshop

November 6-8, 2020

CANCELED!

MSAP BOD Meeting

January 28, 2021

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Location TBD

MSAP Annual Convention

April 24, 2021

Hilton Hotel

3900 American Blvd W
Bloomington

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH 2021

The Minnesota Parliamentarian is
February 1, 2021.

Please submit to Robert Vokes at
hisfootness@comcast.com

Photos are always welcome.

MSAP: www.friendsofrobert.org

Editor's Note: At its meetings in January and August, 2020, the MSAP Board amended the MSAP Standing Rules. 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.