



The Michigan Parliamentarian

Publication of the Michigan State Association of Parliamentarians

December 2017

Seasons Greetings Michigan State Association of Parliamentarians!

I hope you can spare the time during this very busy season to grab a cup of hot tea, sit down and relax to read your quarterly MSAP newsletter:

I want to start off by saying congratulations to all of our members who recently renewed their PRP accreditation. We have many very dedicated members who continue to serve as professional parliamentarians and work hard at continuing their education in order to maintain this status. But also I want to say “way to go!” to members Tom DeMeritt, Gretchen Denton, Frances Jackson, Sharon Jones and Joan Price who earned their new Professional Registered Parliamentarian status after passing the qualifying course in September. In case you didn’t notice, the list of new PRP’s published in the October NAP update was more than half Michigan members.

It was wonderful to see so many MSAP members in attendance at the NAP 41st Biennium Convention in September and I was proud to see so many of our members take active volunteer roles with the convention as well as get elected to important NAP positions. Joyce Brown-Watkins will continue to represent us well as a Director-at large on the NAP board, and Francis Jackson will provide leadership on the commission on credentialing. I asked our newsletter editor to include two delegate reports in this newsletter so that you could read about what happened at the convention from two very different perspectives. Janice Bush is a brand new MSAP member (joined this past summer in July) and Pat Dolan has been with us for over 20 years. I hope you enjoy reading about their convention experiences. Mark your calendars now for the MSAP Annual Meeting and educational workshops schedule for Saturday April 14, 2018 in Frankenmuth. The committee has already held several meetings to plan a great meeting and a “50 years of MSAP” celebration. You will want to be there! Registration materials will be sent out in the next newsletter. Don’t forget to take a look at our website every now and again for other educational workshops and highlights from MSAP - www.michiganparliamentarian.org.

I wish you and your family health and happiness this holiday season!
Happy Holidays!

Julie Pioch, MSAP President

P.S. NAP just posted some neat holiday gift offerings on the NAP store. Take a look if you are writing your Christmas wish list. And don’t forget to renew your membership (www.parliamentarians.org).



NAP 41st Biennial Convention

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of PARLIAMENTARIAN
41 BIENNIAL CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 7-11, 2017
LOMBARD, IL**

More than 400 parliamentarians gathered in Lombard, Illinois, September 8-11, to hone their parliamentary skills, network with colleagues, and generally reenergize.

Education, business, and networking were the top priorities for all in attendance. Participants gave high marks to the 30-plus educational sessions on such topics as:

- Creating an electronic dais on a budget
- Motions that can interrupt pending business
- Solutions for real-world problems parliamentarians often face
- Effective meeting management
- Using committees effectively
- Voting methodologies
- Power and persuasion in debate
- Building winning parliamentary teams

Attendees stretched their parliamentary procedure muscles at the daily business meetings, during which they elected a new board of directors for the next biennium and debated numerous proposed bylaws amendments.

Delegate Reports

**MICHIGAN STATE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
DELEGATE REPORT
SUBMITTED BY: JANICE BUSH**

INTRODUCTION

The suburb of Chicago, Illinois, Lombard, was busy September 7-11, 2017 with the arrival of parliamentarians from the United States and other countries to attend the 41 Biennial Convention of the National Association of Parliamentarians. This convention was hosted by the Illinois Association of Parliamentarians at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Registration as a first time member was an exciting experience as I was elevated from member to the level of voting delegate with the authorization of Michigan State president, Julie Pioch. This allowed me to receive voting credentials which were not provided as a registering member. I really felt ownership as a delegate and my participatory spirit prevailed throughout the convention.



- Visiting the bookstore allowed me to review many parliamentary resources accessed online previously and were available to purchase for future study and reference. I was also able to utilize the monetary award provided from the Michigan State Association of Parliamentarians.
- Rising Higher Together was the theme of the convention and each and every business meeting was Robert's Rules of Order in action. The president, the assembly and the voting process accelerated at a rapid speed. Introduction to and proficiency in operating the keypad was the determinant for positive personal involvement.
- Agenda items of particular interest were convention standing rules, daily credentials report with a total of 334 delegates in attendance. Also, the reports of the president and treasurer. A meeting of District Four member was also impressive with such a large number of participants.
- Daily scheduled workshops allowed my selection and attendance at the following sessions:
 - Rewind, Reconsider, Rescind and Review
 - Amending with Precision
 - NAP Credentialing: What You Need to Know
 - Real World Problem Solving
 - The Ten Best Time Savers
- Additional planned events that were convention favorites include:
 - Navy Pier Excursion
 - Silver and Blue Gala
 - Interfaith Service of Prayer
- The culminating event of the convention was the election of officers:
 - Jim Jones, PRP, President
 - Darlene Allen, PRP, Vice President
 - Kevin Connelly, PRP, Secretary
 - Wanda Sims, PRP, Treasurer
 - Joyce Brown Watkins, Director-at-Large

SUMMARY

My attendance at this convention was money and time well spent. It was an excellent educational and learning experience which afforded me an opportunity to observe, learn and participate in the parliamentary process with professionals.

Many questions were answered, solutions presented, expectations addressed and problems solved during this event. I look forward to future parliamentary meetings, conferences and conventions.



DELEGATE REPORT
SUBMITTED BY: PATRICA DOLAN
NAP 41st Biennial Convention

The 41st biennial convention was held September 8-11, 2017 at the Yorktown Westin Hotel, Lombard, IL with 334 delegates present. Joyce Brown-Watkins, immediate past District Four Director and District Director Representative on the NAP Board of Directors, was elected as the first of three Directors-at-Large for the 2017-2019 Board of Directors, joined by Allison Wallis, of Louisiana, and Ann Rempel of Kansas. It took three ballots for each of them to reach a majority vote.

James “Jim” Jones of Illinois was installed as the 44th president of NAP for the 2017-2019 biennium. Darlene Allen, Washington, DC, Vice President; Kevin Connelly, Washington State, secretary; and Wanda Sims, Washington, DC, Treasurer. All officers were unopposed. District Directors for the new biennium are Rosemary Seghatoleslalmi, District One, Roger Hanshaw, District Two; Todd Crowder, District Three; Robert Schuck, District Four; Larry Martin, District Five, James Lawson, District Six; Kevin Connelly, District Seven, and Vivian Vincent, District Eight. Roger Hanshaw, and Larry Martin were elected as District Director representatives on the NAP Board of Directors. Elected to the Commission on Credentialing Members were Frances Jackson of Michigan, Gail Knapp, Nevada; Rosalie Stroman, DC; and Gayla Stone, Colorado.

Of the thirty-one bylaw amendments proposed, and one late amendment introduced at the beginning of the convention, delegates acted on twenty-two of them. Budget approval moved from being proposed by the outgoing board to being proposed by the newly elected treasurer and adopted prior to the close of the fiscal year (November 30) by the incoming board. The amendment on RP and PRP Recertification was postponed indefinitely. Several amendments were proposed for the commission on credentialing. The one adopted allows for the convention delegates to elect the members of the commission, as was done at this convention. Although a close vote, (243 to 51), the amendment requiring a majority vote of the NAP Convention in order to sell the NAP Headquarters building lost. Amendments 19-31 were proposed to be placed on a consent agenda for consideration with one vote for all. Several of the amendments were pulled from the consent agenda. Among those adopted were the appointment of chairmen in unchartered territories; association status within districts unit status within associations, primary member definition, affiliate member definition, and youth definition.

Throughout the consideration of bylaw amendments, there were many Points of Order made, amendments to the amendments, parliamentary inquiries, requests for information, and motions to extend the limits of debate. MSAP President Julie Pioch, a member of the technology team, did an excellent job of keeping up with all the votes taken.

Edna Arrington ably assisted Mary Remson as assistant workshop coordinator.



There were thirty-two workshops from which to choose up to five. The workshop on credentialing was repeated. This delegate attended one of those session and learned that alpha testing is currently being done, after which beta testing will occur prior to launching the new system for credentialing. Those members who are PRPs can renew their credential under the current system for their lifetime. Those who will use the new system, must use the new system for renewal. It is anticipated the new system will be implemented prior to the end of this biennium.

A young member of NAP taught one of the workshops on things leaders need to know that aren't taught in RONR. He led members in a variety of activities, many of which can be used with youth groups.

Another interesting workshop described how one member obtained her RP credential and why she put it off for 20 years. She didn't see the need for credentialing until she was appointed to a NAP committee.

Between meetings and workshops, it was good to see familiar faces and network with parliamentarians from across the country.

Thank you MSAP for electing this member a MAL delegate.

Patricia Dolan
MAL Delegate to 2017 NAP Biennial Convention

Some of the District IV Members



Joyce Brown-Watkins at the Gala!



**Michigan Attendees at NAP 41st Biennial Convention
September 8-11, 2017 in Chicago, Illinois**

Detroit Unit

Edna Arrington
Janice Bush
Kimberly Fisher-Alexander
Frances Jackson
Jewel Johnson Jones
Carla Patrick-Fagan
Vivian Tansil
Susan Wiley

Genesee Area Parliamentary Unit

Steve Britton
Connie Deford
Tom DeMeritt
Susan Schneberger
Carolyn Stubbs
Joan Wagner

Kalamazoo Parliamentary Law Unit

Barbara Davis
Allison Hammond
Julie Pioch
Betty Weston

Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit

Barbara Bonsignore
Dianne Bostic Robinson
Gretchen Denton
Dorothea (Dot) Martin
Joan Price

Members At Large

Patricia Dolan
Maurice Henderson
Nutrena Tate

Michigan Unit of Registered Parliamentarians

Joyce Brown Watkins

Redford Unit

Sharon Jones



Detroit Unit Members



Pictures from NAP 41st Biennial Convention



Congratulations

Report of Betty Weston, Membership Committee Chair:

There are five member of MSAP who are now PRP's! The members are the following:

Tom DeMeritt
Gretchen Denton
Frances Jackson
Sharon Jones
Joan Price

Our worthy members represented a third of the new PRP's to reach this milestone. MSAP will be well represented in the future of NAP worldwide.

We all congratulate you and are proud of your accomplishments.



Updates



Remembering...

Viola Adams of the Detroit Unit of Parliamentarians who died on Saturday, November 25, 2017. Viola was a member of MSAP since 2000. She will be missed.

Please make the following corrections and additions to your MSAP Membership Manual

New members

Janice Bush
19351 Robson
Detroit, MI 48235
United States
Phone: (313) 539-7400
E-mail: jbush13@comcast.net

Kimberly Fisher-Alexander
13400 Parkside Drive #303
Southgate, MI 48195
United States
Phone: (313) 496-2603
E-mail: kfisher1@wcccd.edu

Susan M. Wiley
12109 Rzynar Drive
Belleville, MI 48111
United States
Phone: (313) 717-0283
E-mail: wileysusan@comcast.net

Address Correction:

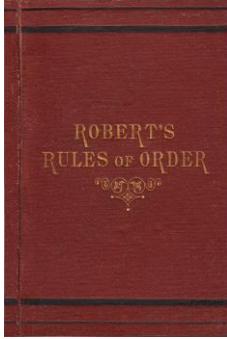
Jewel Jones
17507 Robeson Way
Detroit, Michigan 48235

Accidentally left of the list:

Harriette L. Woodards
10452 N. Oak Drive
Ferndale, MI 48220-2160
Phone: (248) 545-8254



Calling All History Buffs



Do you like to do primary research?
Have you longed to spend an afternoon in Lansing Archives?
Do you wonder what it was really like 50 years ago?
Do you have a **Robert's Rules of Order**, the 1951 edition?

2018 is the golden anniversary of MSAP and wouldn't it be great to have some original gems from our first years of life? Membership data, lists of officers, newsletters, board minutes could be fun to have at the April 2018 annual meeting. Also, what has changed with **Robert's** in these past 50 years?

If you have any interest in pursuing our hallowed halls of history let me know!

Gretchen Denton
Education Chair



Unit Report

While the Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit (LSPU) began its program year in September with monthly meetings, Summer 2017 was remarkably busy and the unit accomplished much during the traditionally slow summer season.

Eleanor (Coco) Siewert led a class for members to study for and take (successfully!) the NAP membership exam. Five persons passed the exam; members interested in taking the Registered Parliamentarian (RP) exam began working with Coco; another group studied under Coco's tutelage to prepare for the Professional Qualifying Course. Surely the Southfield Public Library staff became familiar with Coco and classes occupying the library's study rooms.

President Dianne Bostic Robinson set the stage for the biennial goal-setting retreat with officers and committee members deciding on the following emphases:

- Provide exciting educational programs.
- Retain current membership and welcome new members.
- Increase number of members becoming NAP members.
- Increase our public visibility with an enhanced website and more.

Plus, five persons attended the NAP Convention in nearby Lombard, Illinois in early September. No sleepy summer for this unit!

President Dianne Bostic Robinson
Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit



Unit Lessons

Here are some hints for planning for your unit's study sessions.

What topics will be a good fit for your unit members?

If many in your unit are beginners, basic lessons offer a good foundation in parliamentary study. Things like order of business, main motions, and amendments, are always useful.

If several members are leaders in organizations, presiding and preparation for presiding are important.

If folks are dealing with club conflict, a lesson on decorum and assigning the floor may help them change meeting environments.

What topics are interesting?

You and I say "all of them" but let's face it; some topics have more pizzazz than others when they are well-presented or well-titled. *Minutes Made Easy* is more inviting than *The Details of Taking Minutes*.

What topics will present a challenge for advanced learners?

Throw in a few tough lessons, not every month or quarter but, now and then it keeps all of us sharp by tackling a tough topic. A basic lesson on amendments includes "striking out," "inserting," and "adding" while a lesson on amending by "substitution" has many aspects and is more demanding.

Consider your presenters.

Involve all members in teaching. Invite a new member to work with an experienced teacher. Pass around the responsibility so everybody gets to practice teaching skills. Sure, some members are smoother than others in their presentations but all can have this opportunity for growth and will learn by teaching. For example, if a newbie teaches *Rules of an Organization*, she/he will study the early chapters of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*. (RONR)

Beg and borrow

Ask for lesson ideas from other units or scour a list of convention workshops for fresh titles and material. Notice what interests you from the *Parliamentarian* and adapt ideas for your unit. Save handouts from district and national meetings.

You can't do it all.

It's impossible to cover everything in *RONR* in a year or two. Give your unit permission to do what it can and then celebrate each and every lesson that makes meetings more effective in our communities. Consider venues other than the unit meeting if you want to concentrate on a topic; maybe a workshop or seminar will attract guests as well as members.

Gretchen Denton, PRP
Education Committee Chair MSAP

