

The Michigan Parliamentarian

www.michiganparliamentarian.org/our-association/

Fall 2020

President's Message

Steve Britton, PRP

Genesee Area Parliamentarians Unit

It does not seem possible, but our 2019-2021 MSAP Biennium is winding down and our association is beginning its transition to the next biennium. At the January 2021 Board of Directors meeting, the Nominating Committee will present its report. The past two years have passed quickly.

Approximately twenty years ago, in part, at the request of Gail Knapp, who was the first President of the Genesee Area Unit, I began my service on the MSAP Board of Directors. At that time, Gail held another office on the MSAP Board of Directors, and I served in her stead as the substitute representative for the newly chartered unit. A partial listing of some of the names of the Association's active leaders and Parliamentarians at that time included: Roger and Claire Harter, Connie Deford, Gail Knapp, Nola Pursiful, Edna Arrington, Lyle Kleman, Wells Cook, Patricia Dolan, Barbara Trombley, Margarite Gutt, Rosa Williams, Maurice Henderson, Joyce Brown-Watkins, and Betty Drew.

Personally, I am extremely grateful to all members of the Board of Directors, past and present, who displayed patience with the "new pup." I very much appreciate the special encouragement of my various mentors, tormentors, and trainers who encourage me to take the RP Exam. As I vowed to only take the RP exam once, I will forever cherish the "quick wittedness" of Nola Pursiful. After nearly ten years of study prior to taking the exam, Nola, with her familiar Kentucky dialect (at an annual MSAP conference suggested), "**Steve, why don't you just go take that dang test!**" and I did.

The past two decades of service to the Association have also passed quickly, and the support, encouragement, and collaboration of many of my current contemporaries such as Carolyn Stubbs, Susan Schneberger, Gretchen Denton, Julie Pioch, Elizabeth Haynes, Barbara Bonsignoré, Frances Jackson, and others is something that I am thankful. Due to COVID-19, the 2019-2021 MSAP Biennium has certainly had its challenges, but through the talents and

knowledge of our current officers and board of directors, the Association has endured and none of the challenges were insurmountable. In fact, in this Parliamentarian's opinion, together, we have thrived; we were able amended the Association's *Bylaws* to allow for a seamless transition to the new biennium and our Association has persevered

Your President appreciates the spirit of cooperation and work ethic displayed by the Association's officers and directors during the current biennium as MSAP ZOOMS forward to the future. Also, I personally look forward to the new leadership in our next biennium.

If you are nominated to serve in an office on the MSAP Board of Directors during the next biennium, please consider treating yourself by accepting the nomination.

Finally, if you are studying for your next credential, ***go take your dang test!***

Parliamentary Lessons for All

Gretchen Denton, PRP and Tom DeMeritt, PRP
First and Second MSAP Vice-Presidents

Keep your eyes peeled for an announcement about a new MSAP program in 2021. We assume that most of us are participating in ZOOM (or some other electronic platform) Unit meetings. The Detroit Unit began offering lessons using this technology in mid-2020 and found that members appreciated the opportunity to continue learning even when they could not meet in person. Under the leadership of the MSAP Education Committee Chair and Second Vice-President Tom DeMeritt, planning is underway for MSAP to coordinate statewide lessons for all who are interested in parliamentary procedure. Stay tuned for details coming soon!

Robert Rules of Order Newly Revised

Quoting the late Christopher George Latore Wallace, "If you don't know, now you know." The 12th Edition of *Robert Rules of Order Newly Revised* (RONR) and the 3rd Edition of *Robert Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief* (In Brief) "are in effect," since September. Always use the current editions. They are presented in various platforms: hardcover book, paperback book, spiral-bound book, 7-hole punched, Kindle Reader, eBook, PC Application, and in 2021, a CD-ROM version. See robertsrules.com/books/.

Future Leaders-in-Training

Barbara Bonsignore, PRP
Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit
MSAP Recording Secretary

It is encouraging to know that there are enthusiastic young people interested in studying and utilizing parliamentary procedure. The HOSA (future health professionals) Novi High School Parli Pro Team serves as an example.

The team consisted of eight contestants; four girls and four boys, who took first place in the HOSA Virtual International Leadership Conference 2020. It was the first time a virtual HOSA Leadership Conference was held, necessitated by the safety precautions put in place to prevent exposure to COVID-19. The required simulated meeting video created by the team was submitted to the judges on June 1, 2020 and their winning entry was announced at the end of June. Their accomplishment was acknowledged in an article with accompanying photo in the Fall 2020 Issue of *The National Parliamentarian* (Page 32).

When the MSAP Youth Day Committee, chaired by Joyce Brown-Watkins, PRP, began to plan for the 15th Youth Day event for 2020, it was suggested that the Novi students might be interested in having their practice video used as a teaching device for the benefit of other students, to allow them to learn more about the experience of competing in a virtual competition environment. The Novi High School students agreed to participate and answer questions about the process of becoming an international parliamentary procedure competition success story. The 15th MSAP Youth Day was presented on Saturday, November 21, from 10:45 AM to 1:00 PM, via ZOOM.

MSAP Membership Report

Dianne Bostic Robinson, RP
Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit
MSAP Director, Membership and Extension Committee

As of November 2020, NAP reports that MSAP has 156 members:

- 15 Professional Registered Parliamentarians (PRP)
- 3 Professional Registered Parliamentarians-Retired (PRP-R)
- 12 Registered Parliamentarians (RP)
- 3 Registered Parliamentarians-Retired (RP-R)
- 119 Regular Members

Michigan Unit Memberships (in order of chartering):

- 44-Detroit Unit
- 21-Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit
- 5-Redford Unit
- 14-Genesee Area Unit
- 11-Kalamazoo Parliamentary Law Unit
- 3-Michigan Unit of Registered Parliamentarians
- 122-Members-at-Large

NAP Examinations

Membership Examination

October 2020, the 40-Question Membership Exam was updated to assess knowledge in *Robert Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief*, 3rd Edition. The Legacy 100-Question Multiple-Choice test was updated based on *Robert Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 12th Edition. The study guides for both were updated and can be found in the NAP on-line bookstore.

Registered Parliamentarian

Reference <https://www.parliamentarians.org/RP%2612thEd>. To retain RP status, twenty Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) must be earned within a six-year period. Reference NAP Bylaw Article III, Section 1B-1b for more information.

Legacy Registered Parliamentarian

This test will continue until the Commission on Credentialing determines that enough candidates have completed the new RP process for analysis and validation. At least two months' notice will be given when this test is discontinued. Persons in the process of taking the Legacy RP test will be grand-parented into the new testing process provided they have passed at least two Legacy Exam test parts, excluding the Part I (timed-research). The Legacy RP test will continue to be based on RONR, 11th Edition; the test questions will not be updated to RONR, 12th Edition.

Professional Registered Parliamentarians

The 2021 PRP Renewal Modules are located at parliamentarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2021_PRC_Modules_Schedule-www.pdf

RONR Article

Unanimous Consent

Vivian L. W. Tansil, RP
MSAP Director, Publication
Detroit Unit

In cases where there is no opposition on routine business or on questions of little importance, time can be saved by using *Unanimous Consent* (4:58-4:63). This action continues to protect the minority even when there is no minority to protect. Many parliamentary rules are designed to protect the minority.

The Presiding Officer states, "If there is no objection, the" and pause. When there is no objection, the Motion is approved. *Unanimous Consent* does not mean everyone agrees, but the opposition may feel it is useless to oppose and thus acquiesces.

If there is an objection, the Presiding Officer puts the Motion on the floor, listens for a "Second," allows debate, voting, and announces the results (4:58-4:60).

There are many actions where *Unanimous Consent* is appropriate, such as approval and correction of the Agenda and Minutes, routine business, close debate (16:7), close polls (30:09 & 45:30), adjourn (21:19), simple/acceptable amendments (12:45), extend time in debate (15:19), refer to a committee (13:13), Postpone to a Certain Time (14:11), change one's vote (45:8), election by acclamation (46:40), etc. Please review the RONR Index.

Waiving the meeting's quorum cannot be approved by *Unanimous Consent* (40:9), or any other Motion.

Do not confuse *Objection to the Consideration of the Question* with *Unanimous Consent* (26:4).

Refer to Chart III in RONR, on Sample Forms Used in Making Motions (Pages t34-t43) and how it can be approved.

All references are found in RONR, 12th Edition.

Unit Updates

Detroit Unit

Jewell Johnson Jones, PRP, President

The Unit congratulates six new Registered Parliamentarians: Janice Bush, Sharon Kelly-Person, Carla Patrick-Fagan, Joe Person, Lois Shulman, and Vivian Tansil. Congratulations to the three new NAP members: Carrol Gilispie, Karen Langford, and Beverly Roberts.

The 2020 monthly Unit educational sessions covered the Subsidiary Motions and Privileged Motions with presentations, in-person and via ZOOM, from Carrol Glispie, DeVette Brown, Joyce Brown-Watkins, Taniqua Carter-Brown, Jewell Jones, Marilyn Mayberry, Carla Patrick-Fagan, Sonja Randolph, Lois Shulman, Vivian Tansil, Jacalyn Wallace, and Dedria Willis.

Frances Jackson presented a session on the changes in RONR, 12th Edition. It was so detailed that Part 2 will be presented at the December session.

2019-2021 MSAP Board of Directors

Officers

President: Steven Britton, PRP
First Vice-President: Gretchen Denton, PRP
Second Vice-President: Tom DeMeritt, PRP
Recording Secretary: Barbara Bonsignore, PRP
Corresponding Secretary: Frances Jackson, PRP
Treasurer: Diane Schriff, PRP-R
Directors: Dianne Robinson, Sharon Jones, Vivian Tansil
Historian: Edna Arrington, PRP

Committee Chairmen

Bylaws and Standing Rules: Elizabeth Haynes, PRP
Membership and Extension: Dianne Bostic Robinson, RP
Education: Tom DeMeritt, PRP
Public Relations: Sharon Jones, PRP
Budget and Finance: Susan Schneberger
Youth: Joyce Brown-Watkins, PRP
Publication: Vivian Tansil, RP
Nominating: Nancy Fody
State Coordinating: Gretchen Denton, PRP
Auditor: Blinda Baker, RP

Unit Presidents

Detroit: Jewel Johnson Jones, PRP
Louise Saks Parliamentary: Dorothea Martin
Redford: Garth Christie
Genesee Area Parliamentarians: Thomas DeMeritt, PRP
Kalamazoo Parliamentary Law: Betty Weston
MI Unit of Registered Parliamentarians: Frances Jackson, PRP

You may submit articles and photos to this newsletter, for the next publication, by emailing Vivian LaVerne-Willis Tansil, RP, Publisher, at tansilv@comcast.net. Questions or comments, telephone (517) 393-0870.
Due to COVID-19, current pictures at meetings and conferences are lacking this year.