

The Michigan Parliamentarian

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Winter 2021

President's Message

Gretchen Denton, PRP



The River Keeps Flowing...

Many of us are in clubs or organizations other than the Michigan State Association of Parliamentarians (MSAP). Some of us became members of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) to help function in other groups. Non-parliamentary organizations keep me grounded about how ordinary clubs have meetings as well as providing social and cultural connections.

I'm on the Bylaws Committee in one of my favorite non-parliamentary clubs. We recently reviewed our standing rules.

Unlike rivers that flow and are ever-changing, bylaws, and standing rules are static. However, surroundings may alter their applicability. Standing rules (and bylaws) can get outdated. For example, it would be hard to find a funeral floral arrangement for \$30 or a baby gift under \$20. We learned this past year that we can meet virtually. The river flowed, we changed, and we will not return to how it used to be. Standing rules are rules related to the details of administration and can be adopted and changed like any ordinary act of a society.

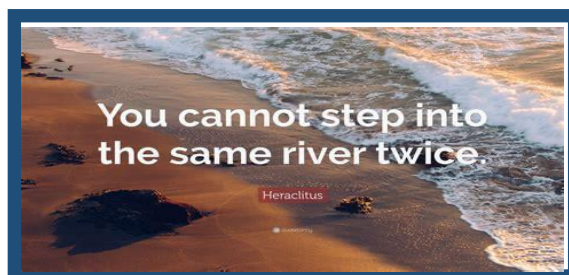
Have you looked lately at standing rules or policies and procedures or whatever you call them in your clubs?

- ❖ Do they include assumptions that are no longer true?
- ❖ Are you requiring payment by check for events?
- ❖ Are you expecting committees to meet in person?
- ❖ Do you insist that notices must go out by United States mail?
- ❖ Do you ask for too much personal information from new members?
- ❖ Are some practices so old-fashioned that they alienate new members?

The committee reviewed the rules and noted how they did not make sense for this time and place, so we made recommendations for change. But our recommendations are just that, and though we believe that they are better for the club now, the committee's suggestions may not be the will of the club.

The proposals we are recommending will be an impetus for lively discussion, a time for the club once again to clarify who we are and how we want to continue our ordinary practices. We do not step in the same river twice.

Adjourning for now.



2022 Membership Dues

Your 2021 NAP and MSAP memberships expires on December 31, 2022 membership renewal invoices are available at <https://www.parliamentarians.org/2022-membership-dues-renewal/>. The NAP *Bylaws*, Article XIV on "Administrative Operation," Section 3, state that the NAP fiscal year is December 1 to November 30.

2021-2023 NAP Officers

Delegates at the 43rd Biennial Convention elected the following NAP officers for 2021-2023.

President: Wanda M. Sims, PRP

Vice-President: Alison Wallis, PRP

Secretary: Mona Calhoun, PRP

Treasurer: Henry Lawton, PRP

Directors-at-Large: Mary Q. Grant, PRP; Adam Hathaway, PRP; and Carl Nohr, PRP

District Representatives: Lucy Anderson, PRP and Deborah Underwood, PRP (IL).

Commission on Credentialing Election

Four NAP members were elected to the Commission on Credentialing. The four-year term members are Darlene Allen, PRP; Frances Jackson, PRP, and Jeanette Williams, PRP. Susan Eads Role, PRP, was elected to the two-year term.

Educational Learning Opportunities Abound



**Better Meetings—
Happier Members**

Free Virtual Workshop Presented by:
The Michigan State Association of Parliamentarians



Barbara Bonsignore, PRP
MSAP Education Committee Chair

MSAP members are exceptionally fortunate to have access, free of charge, to several virtual workshops on the various aspects of parliamentary procedure. Have you taken advantage of the opportunity to register and attend one or more of them?

I am referring to the *Better Meetings-Happier Members* workshops offered every-every-another month, on the third Tuesday of the month, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. For example, on Tuesday, November 16, the topic *What's Up? Agenda/Order of Business* was presented by Joan C. Price, PRP and Dianne Bostic Robinson, both members of the Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit. The next workshop will be Tuesday, January 18, 2022, with presenter Julie Pioch, PRP, of the Kalamazoo Parliamentary Law Unit. The invitation to register will be emailed to MSAP members the first week of January.

Over the past year, beginning in January 2021, there have been a variety of workshops presented in the *Better Meetings-Happier Members* program on topics ranging from basic, introductory material, to more advanced parliamentary applications. The workshops are recorded and available for 30 days to those who are registered and request access to the recording by sending a request to: michiganparliamentarians@gmail.com.

However, attending virtual workshops on parliamentary procedure represents only one aspect of learning about a topic. Even more important is the ability to create and present the material,

often with the use of PowerPoint slides, so that others understand the topic more completely because of your presentation.

The *Better Meetings-Happier Members* program will need volunteer presenters in 2022. Would you like the opportunity to be a presenter, either as an individual for an hour, including Q and A; or as a two-member team, each speaking for approximately one-half hour? The topic is of your choice or the MSAP Education Committee can give suggestions as a starting point. If you are interested in volunteering in the *Better Meetings-Happier Members* program, especially if you are a credentialed RP or PRP, contact Barbara Bonsignore, at, bjbaauw1@aol.com, for scheduling. The 2021, MSAP *Better Meetings-Happier Members* workshops were:

November 16, 2021: *What's up? Agenda/Order of Business* presented by Joan Price, PRP and Dianne Bostic Robinson
September 2021: *I Changed My Mind: Rescind or Amend Something Previously Adopted* presented by Frances Jackson, PhD, RN, PRP
July 2021: *Bylaws by the Book* presented by Mary Jane Miller and Erica Shifflet-Chila, RP
May 2021: *Spring into Action with Incidental Motions* presented by Jewel Johnson Jones, PRP and Lois Shulman, RP
March 2021: *There is a Motion for That!* presented by Julie Pioch, PRP
January 2021: *It's Elementary My Dear Watson: Parliamentary Basics* presented by Gretchen Denton, PRP and *Making and Amending Motions* presented by Barbara Bonsignore, PRP

MSAP's 16th Annual Parliamentary Youth Day

Barbara Bonsignore, PRP
MSAP Youth
Committee Member

On Saturday, October 30, 2021, the MSAP 16th Annual Parliamentary Youth Day was conducted via Zoom, free of charge. The theme was ***Effective Meetings Using Parliamentary Procedure***. The students took a tour of parliamentary procedures with Michigan's most experienced RPs and PRPs with workshops from the basics to more advanced parliamentary knowledge used to develop skills to ensure successful, productive meetings; for use in competition, and gaining leadership responsibilities. Joyce Brown-Watkins, PRP, was the Coordinator for the Annual Parliamentary Youth Day. The workshops included the following.

- Member Rights and Responsibilities by Barbara Bonsignore, PRP
- Introduction to Meetings by Bethany Prykucki
- The Duties and Responsibilities of a Treasurer by Jewel Johnson Jones, PRP
- Develop/Fine Tuning Presiding Skills by Edna Arrington, PRP

Inside MSAP and Announcements

Save the Date!

The MSAP Annual Meeting will be held on April 29-30, 2022. The meeting will be held virtually; and the Board is expecting that in the even-numbered years, the meetings will continue to be held virtually. The registration fee for "attending" this annual meeting will be \$25, \$15 for high school students. The meetings will have the usual workshops and a business meeting. More details will be announced in Spring 2022.



MSAP Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee

Taniqua M. Carter, RP, Chair



From the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee

Please remember to forward Unit bylaws to the MSAP Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee after they have been amended. Bylaws may be emailed to BOZBasileus@gmail.com.

Thank you!



NAP Examinations and Credentials

Legacy Registered Parliamentarian Test based on the 11th Edition of RONR

December 31, 2021 is the test's retirement date. You must have passed two test sections, excluding Section 1, by this date to continue with this test instrument for completion and certification.

Registered Parliamentarian

To retain RP status, twenty Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) must be earned within a six-year period, reference <https://www.parliamentarians.org/RP%2612thEd>.

Professional Registered Parliamentarians

The PRP Renewal Modules are located at

[parliamentarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2021_PRC_Modules_Schedule-www.pdf](https://www.parliamentarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2021_PRC_Modules_Schedule-www.pdf)

NAP Bylaws Amendments Disposition

The results of the voting on the proposed bylaws amendments at the 43rd Biennial Convention (September 2021) is presented below. Please refer to the actual language at:

[2021-06-28 NAP Bylaw Amendments FINAL2.pdf](#).

Amendment	Subject	Disposition
Amendment 1	Change name of the Professional Standards Committee to the Responsibility and Member Discipline Committee	Adopted
Amendment 2	Professional Development Committee Duties	Adopted
Amendment 3	Credentialed Members	Adopted
Amendment 4	Professional Development Committee Facilitators	Adopted
Amendment 5	Reduction of International Member Dues	Lost
Amendment 6	Conflict of Interest	Adopted as Amended
Amendment 7	RP Credential Effective Date	Lost
Amendment 8	Bylaws Committee	Postponed Indefinitely
Amendment 9	Electronic Meetings	Adopted
Amendment 10	Reference to "Code of Ethics" in the Bylaws and Standing Rules	Adopted
Amendment 11	Documents Requiring Board Adoption	Adopted
Amendment 12	Ethics Reference to Professional Responsibility	Adopted
Amendment 13	Generic Descriptions	Adopted
Amendment 14	Electronic Meetings (9/10-vote)	Adopted
Amendment 15	Member Revocation (9/10-vote)	Lost

The 2019-2021 Bylaws Committee included Immediate Past MSAP President, Steve Britton, as the Chair and current MSAP President, Gretchen Denton, as a committee member.

Please know that Past NAP President, Maurice S. Henderson, PRP, kept us updated, in real time, during the Convention. Thank you, Maurice!

RONR

Counting Days in Compliance with RONR

How do you count the days for notice to vote on bylaw amendments if not prescribed in the local bylaws? RONR 9:4 and 56:34, explains how to count the days. Count all calendar days, including the day the notice is sent, holidays, and weekends, do not count the day of the meeting when voting will occur.

Adjourning a Meeting

Vivian L. W. Tansil, RP
Detroit Unit

There are three instances when a Motion to Adjourn (§21) is a Privileged Motion, instances when meetings can dissolve without a Motion to Adjourn.

- a. When the time arrives to end the meeting that was adopted at the beginning of the meeting or on approval of the Agenda, the Chair announces when the time arrives, and unless someone quickly moves to set aside the Orders of the Day, the Chair can declare the meeting adjourned.
- b. When the Agenda is completed. The Chair may ask if there is any more business and if none comes forward, the Chair declares the meeting adjourned.
- c. When there is an emergency, the Chair can declare the meeting adjourned and announces when and/or where to meet again to conclude the meeting.

Remember, a meeting is not adjourned until the President/Chair/Presiding Officer declares it adjourned. It is not the maker and seconder of the Motion to Adjourn, or those in attendance after a voice-vote, no matter how loud or unanimous.

The Motion to Adjourn takes precedence over all Privileged Motions, except the Motion to Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn. The Motion is out of order when another has the floor, while there is voting, the counting of the votes, or before the voting results is announced, unless voting is by ballot. It is out of order when the ballots are being collected by the Tellers, in order after the collection and before the results are announced.

It yields to applicable Incidental Motions that arises which must be disposed of before the Motion to Adjourn is voted. The Motion to Adjourn:

1. **Cannot interrupt the speaker who officially has the floor**, (Emphasis added.)
2. Must have a second,
3. There is no debate,
4. Cannot be amended,
5. Must have a majority-vote,
6. Cannot be reconsidered but can be renewed if business or progress in debate has gone forward after it failed.

Unit Updates

Detroit Unit

Taniqua Carter, RP, President

At the 43rd NAP Biennial Convention, the Detroit Unit was awarded the Circle of Excellence Award by the Membership Extension and Retention Committee, for membership in District 4, June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2021. The awards were given for (1) net increase in Registered Parliamentarians and (2) Greatest Net Unit Membership Growth with 29 new Unit members during the time period. Jewell Johnson Jones, PRP, immediate past Unit President, was recognized in the Roll Call of Exam Monitors for proctoring examinations. The Unit's membership includes:

- 3 Professional Registered Parliamentarians
- 12 Registered Parliamentarians
- 29 Regular Members
- 27 Provisional Members
- 2 Affiliate Members (PRP and RP)

2021-2023 Unit Officers

President:	Taniqua Carter, RP
Vice-President:	Carla Patrick-Fagan, RP
Secretary:	W Akilah Redmond, RP
Financial Secretary:	Dedria L. Willis, EdD, RP
Treasurer:	Sheree McLaughlin-Goodman, RP

The Unit thanks Jewell Johnson Jones, PRP, for presiding from 2009 to 2021. And many, many thank "yous" are extended to Jewell, Edna Arrington, PRP, and Frances Jackson, PRP, for tutoring the Unit members RONR, precisely, and proctoring the tests for the many RPs and PRPs achieved over the past few years!

Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit

Elizabeth Haynes, AC, PRP, President

Save-the-Date for Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit Annual Workshop
to be held virtually, which is as follows:

Saturday, April 2, 2022
9:30 AM, EDT

Topic: Dispelling Parliamentary Myths
Presenter: Tim Wynn, PRP

Contact Mary Ann Rosenberger, at 1025mar@gmail.com, if you wish to be notified when registration information becomes available.

2021-2023 Unit Officers

President:	Elizabeth Haynes, AC, PRP
Vice-President:	Mary Ann Rosenberger
Recording Secretary:	Barbara Bonsignore, PRP
Corresponding Secretary:	Kishna Tarver
Treasurer:	Beth Delaney

MSAP 2021-2023 Board of Directors

Officers

President:	Gretchen Denton, PRP
First Vice-President:	Frances Jackson, PRP
Second Vice-President:	Barbara Bonsignore, PRP
Recording Secretary:	Eleanor "Coco" Siewert, PRP
Corresponding Secretary:	Mary Ann Rosenberger
Treasurer:	Diane Schrift, PRP-R
Historian:	Lois Shulman, RP
Parliamentarian:	Joan C. Price, PRP
Directors:	Taniqua Carter, RP Elizabeth Haynes, AC, PRP Laurie Marshall

Committee Chairs

Bylaws and Standing Rules:	Taniqua Carter, RP
Membership and Extension:	Laurie Marshall
Education:	Barbara Bonsignore, PRP
Budget and Finance:	Susan Schneberger
Nominating:	Todd Ellis
State Coordinating:	Frances Jackson, PRP
Auditor:	Blinda Baker, RP
Youth	Joyce Brown-Watkins, PRP
Communications:	Carolyn Stubbs, PRP
Newsletter Editor	Vivian Tansil, RP
Webmaster:	Julie Pioch, PRP
Zoomkeeper:	Elizabeth Haynes, AC, PRP

Unit Presidents

Detroit:	Taniqua Carter, RP
Louise Saks Parliamentary:	Elizabeth Haynes, AC, PRP
Redford:	Vacant
Genesee Area Parliamentarians:	Erica Shifflet-Chila, RP
Kalamazoo Parliamentary Law:	Laurie Marshal
MI Unit of Registered Parliamentarians:	Frances Jackson, PRP

You may submit articles and photos for this newsletter, for the next publication, by emailing Vivian LaVerne-Willis Tansil, RP, Editor, at tansilv@comcast.net. Questions or comments, telephone (517) 393-0870.