

Delegate Report  
44th Biennial Convention  
September 6-10, Atlanta, Georgia

Michigan State Association of Parliamentarian Delegates

Frances Jackson, President

Todd Ellis, First Vice-President

Jacalyn Shelton-Wallace, Second Vice -President

Sharon Jones

Joyce Brown-Watkins

Vivian Tansil

Alaina Jackson

In addition to the MSAP delegates, there were delegates from the Detroit Unit, Louise Saks Unit, and Kalamazoo Parliamentary Law Unit. While MURP does not have enough primary members to qualify for delegates, almost everyone present was also a member of MURP.

The convention was called to order for Business Meeting 1 on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 by National President Wanda Sims. The order of business as printed in the workbook was followed. There were 307 delegates entitled to vote as reported by the Credentials Committee. There was the usual wrangling over the Standing Rules with some amendments being offered. The Standing Rules were adopted as amended. One standing rule was deleted in its entirety. That rule required that anyone wanting to make a motion on Friday would have to submit that motion no later than noon on Thursday.

During the adoption of the convention program, past president Jeanette Williams moved to amend the convention program by adding a resolution to censure the National Board for its action in removing four members of the Commission on Credentialing from office without affording them any due process. The resolution also included a clause that would require the notice of censure be posted in the same places and for the same duration as the document announcing the removal of the commissioners. After debate, the motion to amend the agenda was adopted making this a special order for Friday at 9 AM.

At the second business meeting on Thursday morning, Jeanette and Bob Williams were honored for their many years of service to NAP serving as the official photographer for NAP conventions. The national officers made their biennial reports. President Sims touted the NAP University as a major accomplishment of her administration. The treasurer reported that NAP membership

dropped significantly from over 5,000 members to 4600 members. The number of active PRPs also decreased from over 400 to 307.

Nominations were taken for officer positions. The following nominations for national office were presented:

President: Alison Wallis

Vice-President: Carl Nohr, Adam Hathaway

Secretary: Mona Calhoun

Treasurer: Marsha Thornton, Robert Shuck

Nominations were also made for 3 Directors-At Large positions.

#### Election Results

The following individuals were declared elected:

President: Alison Wallis

Vice-President: Carl Nohr

Secretary: Mona Calhoun

Treasurer: Robert Schuck

Directors-At-Large; Tamara Harris, Elizabeth James, and Steven Cook

District Board Representative: Lucy Anderson (District 6) and Deborah Underwood (District 4)

Notice was also given that on Friday, a motion will be made to amend the bylaws by striking out the entire article on the Commission on Credentialing, which if adopted, would eliminate the commission.

At the second business meeting on Thursday afternoon, the Credentials Committee reported there were 309 delegates entitled to vote. The election of the commissioners for the Commission on Credentialing took place. The following individuals were elected to the Commission on Credentialing:

Sandra Cook (4-year term)

David Jackson (4-year term)

Steven Walls (4-year term)

Henry Lawton (2-year term)

Sandy Olson (2-year term)

President Jackson and all the MSAP delegates attended the District 4 meeting Thursday afternoon. MSAP had the largest number of registered delegates of any state in District 4 with 18 members registered. Illinois had the highest number of members with 192, with Michigan second with 178. Ohio is third with 145 members. District 4 has a total of 675 members. District 4 now includes Scandinavia. There is a youth group in Norway. Director Underwood intended to present her District goals, but someone requested that we all introduce ourselves and by the time that was completed, the time allotted for the meeting expired. Perhaps next time it would be more prudent to just ask people to stand up by state rather than have individual introductions.

Business Meeting 3 met on Friday morning. The Credentials Committee reported 315 delegates entitled to vote. The special order resolution was presented and debated. The resolution to censure the National Board of Directors was adopted 155-140. A later motion to reconsider this motion was defeated. During the debate of this resolution to censure the national board, NAP President Wanda Sims and NAP National Parliamentarian, Tim Wynn did not preside. That the motion to censure was adopted is an unprecedented rebuke by the NAP convention on the events that took place in Albuquerque last year. Once President Sims retook the podium, she was asked how long the document announcing the removal of the former commissioners had been posted, since the resolution censuring the Board is to be posted for the same length of time. President Sims asked someone else that question and then announced that the document announcing the removal of the 4 commissioners is still posted. This means that the resolution announcing the censuring of the board will have to be posted for at least a year and on the public part of the NAP website. The motion to strike out the article on the Commission on Credentialing was lost. The remaining time was devoted to the proposed bylaw amendments.

#### Disposition of the Proposed Bylaw Amendments

#1: Conversion of Unit to Electronic Format: Adopted as amended

#2: Credentialed Members Marketing Themselves: Adopted as amended

#3: Change Membership of the International Services Committee:

#4: Decrease dues of International Members: Motion failed

#5: Establishing Minimum Requirements for Attaining RP and PRP: Motion to postpone indefinitely adopted.

#6, #6A, #7: Retention of Credentials: Proviso adopted, #6, 6A and 7 adopted. Beginning January 2024, RPs must earn 10 CEUs and PRPs must earn 15 CEUs hours every two years to recertify their credential. No more qualifying course with modules to take and pass.

#8: Strike out “Full Authority” for Commission on Credentialing and allow the National Board to adopt policies and procedures that govern the Commission: Motion to postpone indefinitely adopted.

#9: Limit the committees appointed by the Commission on Credentialing to PRPs only. Motion to postpone indefinitely adopted.

#10: Change the term of office for members of the Commission on Credentialing: motion to postpone indefinitely adopted.

#11: Allow the Commission on Credentialing to elect a chair, vice-chair and secretary. Adopted.

#12: Allow Commission on Credentialing to submit proposed bylaw amendments directly to the National Bylaws Committee.

#13: The Chair of the Commission on Credentialing would be a voting member of the NAP convention. Motion failed.

#14: Require all members of the Commission on Credentialing to be PRPs. Motion to postpone indefinitely lost. Motion to adopt lost (it got simple majority, but not 2/3s).

#15: Change composition of the Commission on Credentialing by requiring all commissioners to be PRPs and to have held that credential for at least 2 years before being eligible to run for the commission. Motion to postpone indefinitely adopted.

#16: Revocation of membership. Motion adopted.

#17, 17A, 17B: Eliminate provisional membership. Motion lost.

#18: Term of office for Commission on Credentialing changed from four-year staggered terms “or” until their successor is elected to “and” until their successor is elected. Motion adopted.

#19: Requires NAP Board, in removing a commissioner to do so by 2/3s roll call vote in an open session, and only after following the disciplinary proceedings in RONR. Motion adopted.

#20: Requires dues process procedures for removal of commissioners. Was not presented as time expired and the meeting was adjourned.

#### Final Thoughts

The use of Election Buddy probably saved money, but it was cumbersome to use and took a long time. Every day, we had to do a “test” question before we could vote. Sometimes we had to do this testing more than once in the same session. Many people, particularly for the first vote, had issues with the process and had to have help using the system. Also, not everyone has a smart phone, so some people had to use equipment on site in order to vote.

We did take a picture of the Michigan delegation. We tried to set it up with the convention photographer, but our wires got crossed on where we were and where she was, so alas, we only

have the picture taken with the president's cell phone. Not very professional, but it proves that we were there!

The National Training Conference will be held in San Antonio, TX in 2024. The Biennium Convention will be held in Phoenix in 2025.