



Great Lakes Grapevine

NAP District Four

Volume 8, Number 2

Greetings from your Director:



Joyce Brown-Watkins
District Four Director

District Four, You ROCK!

Your District Director is so proud to be representing these five (5) states and one (1) province. Associations and Units have really been in the parliamentary mode sharing knowledge and expertise to all. Many of you have presented excellent workshops and other avenues to expose the community to parliamentary procedure and how it aids in meetings running smoothly. You are commended for your work with individuals wanting to become members of NAP as well as training, administering, and judging student organizations in the proper use of parliamentary procedure. To this your district director says, "Congratulations on a job well done." District Four members have represented NAP with great professionalism.

Mark your Calendar for the NAP Training Conference being held August 26-28 in Broomfield, Colorado. The Omni International Resort and Spa will host the conference. If you have not received registration information visit www.parliamentarians.org/ntc/. There is much to learn and the networking opportunities are outstanding.

Meeting and Workshop Information. Your director is requesting that associations and units submit their meeting and workshop information to the District Director and headquarters to be placed on the calendar for publication on the NAP website. Let's share what District Four is doing with others.

Membership Update. Many of our members did not renew their membership this year for a variety of reasons. Association and Unit Presidents are encour-

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Greetings from your Director (continued)

aged to contact those members in an effort to determine why they did not renew. It would help with retention if we have an idea of why our members do not or did not renew. Our goal remains to get five (5) new members per month per association. Please send new member information to the District Director so a welcome can be sent. Come on District Four, you can do it.

Membership and Credentialing. You are encouraged to take that next step in becoming credentialed. It sounds scarier and harder than it really is. You know your craft, now get the credentials to validate your knowledge.

Association visits. *Ohio* - Your District Director visited the Ohio Association of Parliamentarians in April. President Melvin Gravely and the entire membership were warm and welcoming. The hospitality was superb. OAP members presented some excellent workshops on all levels. Your District Director was honored to serve as parliamentarian during the business meeting as well as presenting the NAP Update and installing the new OAP officers for the 2016-2018 biennium. Join me in congratulating



Treasurer, Robert Pollock
 Secretary, Myra Myers
 Vice President, Robert Rosell
 President, Laura V. Womack

Congratulations! Here's to two great years of leadership with OAP! Thank you Myra Myers for taking care of me during the weekend.



Indiana - Your District Director was pleased to network with the Indiana State Association of Parliamentarians April 29-30, 2016 in Indianapolis, IN. The NAP update was given along with an overview of the conference call held April 28 with Association and Unit Presidents. The information was received and questions flowed regarding concerns of the members. Retention and credentialing was of great concern and all members were encouraged to email their concerns and suggestions to the district director to be shared with the Board. Following the intense discussion your District Director was excited about the members who have decided to begin preparing for the RP Exam.

Indiana you are great. Thank you for the invite and your great hospitality.

See you in Colorado!!!

2017 District Conference. Under the leadership of Robert Schuck, President, the Wisconsin State Association of Parliamentarians is working on getting us started on the District Conference. Be on the lookout for District Conference information being shared as the plans develop. The current plan is to hold the conference in Madison, WI. We remind you that your assistance will be needed to ensure the best district conference possible. As at the last conference, if you have a lesson or presentation to share please send the information to Robert or the District Director.

This is our conference and we want to make it great. Thank you Wisconsin for agreeing to serve as host.



New to District Four

Adobe Connect & Web Page

NAP has set up a link for District Four to hold meetings via Adobe Connect. We will try to hold our first meeting prior to the NAPTC in August. Check your email for updates.

There is also space for a district web page. We just need someone to volunteer to work on it. Your District Director does not have the expertise to handle that task, so please volunteer. There is so much going on in District Four that we need to share it with the rest of the organization.

Association News

Wisconsin State Association

Members of the Wisconsin Association of Parliamentarians received a warm Winter welcome on Friday, May 6th when they met at the Evangelical Free Church of Winter, in the Village of Winter, Wisconsin. WAP held a board of directors meeting and a convention business meeting. A number of



members who had planned to attend unfortunately had to change their plans for different reasons and did not make it. This resulted in the lowest member attendance in many years. There were three regular members, five provisional members and one guest present for the business meetings. The board of directors meeting did not have a quorum so the reports of officers were presented and then a motion

to Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn was adopted and established an adjourned meeting on May 14, 2016 in Madison, to follow the regular meeting of the Madison Unit of Parliamentarians.

Immediately following the board of directors meeting the state convention was convened, a quorum was present, but in consideration of the low member turnout, the convention also established an adjourned meeting to follow the adjourned meeting of the board. The hope is that more members will be able to attend all three meetings in Madison and



that attendees will experience the valuable lesson of attending an adjourned meeting.

The WAP Public Leadership Seminar was held on Saturday, May 7th at the EFC of Winter with eleven people participating. Topics covered at the seminar included the difference between majority and plurality votes, ballot voting when there are more than two names on the ballot as well as a fun parliamentary quiz game. (Some people said the Jeopardy-style quiz game was the best part of the seminar.)

The WAP Education Committee is working with three other groups to hold at least three public workshops/seminars this fall to help spread awareness of the proper use of rules of order for all organizations and to market NAP educational resources.



Association News (continued)

Michigan State Association

“NAP RISES on Michigan’s Sunrise Coast” was the theme of the 48th Annual Meeting of the Michigan State Association of Parliamentarians. The meeting was held on April 8-9, 2016 at the Tawas Bay Beach Resort located in the city of East Tawas on Lake Huron’s beautiful Tawas Bay. Arrangements for the Annual Meeting were made by the Members at Large and the State Coordinating Committee.

The meeting began with a wonderful dinner on Friday evening followed by the meeting of the MSAP Board of Directors. The evening ended with a rousing game of Parliamentary Quiz Bowl with prizes given to the winning teams!

Saturday morning started with a Memorial Service for the MSAP members who had died during the prior year. President Judy Edwards then called the Association’s annual general membership meeting to order. As usual, the meeting gave members and officers an opportunity to hone their parliamentary skills while handling the business of the Association.

Great education always plays a major role in the MSAP Annual Meeting and this year was no exception! Three education sessions were provided throughout the day. The first session was “Aids to

the Crystallization of Opinion” presented by Elizabeth (Beth) Haynes, RP. Beth provided information on options including Committee of the Whole, Quasi Committee of the Whole, Consider Informally, and Breakouts. Members now have a better understanding of when each option is appropriate.

The second session was “The Parliamentarian as Facilitator” presented by Myra Willis. The session provided insight in the various roles of Parliamentarians and how they need to be flexible and be able to “read” the membership. Myra noted that to be a parliamentarian you need: your heart, your mind, your body and the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order!

The final session of the day was “Establishing Consensus Through Gradients of Agreement” presented by Bethany Prykucki. Bethany explained the different levels of agreement and showed the members how to move through the gradients of agreement to arrive at the level that will move a group forward. Active participation was used to reinforce the concepts.

The Annual Meeting was a success and members are looking forward to the 49th Annual Meeting that will be hosted by the Detroit Unit in 2017.

Unit News

Detroit Unit

The Detroit Unit recently elected officers for the 2016-2018 biennium. They are:

President - Jewel Johnson Jones, PRP
 Vice President - Marilyn Mayberry
 Secretary - Adrienne Starling
 Treasurer - Sheila Johnson
 Financial Secretary - Julia Boayue, PRP

The unit meets on the fourth Saturday each month with the exception of May and December, when they meet on the third Saturday.

The unit will hold its annual workshop on May 21, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The theme for this year’s workshop is “Create Your Future with Robert’s Rules of Order.”

Unit News (continued)

Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit

“Standing Room Only” is not the usual description associated with parliamentary workshops so the Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit (LSPU) was heartened by the response to their annual *Meetings That Work* public workshop. Over 65 attendees gathered to hear presenter Maurice S. Henderson, PRP, who focused his lesson on *Meeting Proficiency* for presiders and members alike.

Meetings That Work was held April 16, 9:30-12:30 at the Bloomfield Township Public Library and was publicized by members telling their friends and by posting and sending flyers to garden clubs, political groups, churches, and more.

A second part of the workshop was the reenactment of a meeting script that gave all a chance to actually see how a meeting is well run with an agenda, brief reports given, motions being made, debated, and voted upon. Eleanor “Coco” Siewert, PRP, was instrumental in creating the script of an environmental interest group.

A regular feature of LSPU workshops is the *Ask the Expert* segment that offers another opportunity for participants to ask their particular questions. Joan Price, RP, and Elizabeth Haynes, RP, joined Maurice in answering questions. Dianne Bostic-Robinson, vice-president of LSPU and chairman of the education committee kept the day moving toward its satisfying conclusion.



*A clean house
is a sure sign of
a broken computer*

Miami Valley Unit

The unit meets on the third Monday of each month (except July, August, and December) at the Park Shopping Center Branch Library in Springfield, OH at 6:00 p.m. An educational instruction program is included at each meeting. Officers for 2016 are:

- Gwendolyn Means, President
- Betty Reed, Vice President
- Robert Rosell, Secretary
- Ann Bauer, Treasurer.

Save the Date!



NAP District Four Conference
March 31 – April 2, 2017

Kalamazoo Parliamentary Law Unit

The Lincoln Township Public Library, Stevensville, MI celebrated Parliamentary Law Month in April 2016 with an informative display coordinated by the Kalamazoo Parliamentary Law Unit (KPLU) of Kalamazoo, MI.

Kalamazoo Parliamentary Law Unit members provided many items related to parliamentary procedure. The display included a framed copy of the NAP Proclamation declaring April as Parliamentary Law Month, current and vintage *Robert’s Rules of Order* books, Spotlights on officer’s duties, copies of the NP, and other reference materials.

KPLU hopes the display will stimulate interest in Parliamentary Procedure among library patrons.

Coming Events

NAP

NAP Training
Conference
Omni Interlocken Resort
Broomfield, CO
Aug 26-28, 2016

DISTRICT

District Conference
Mar 31- Apr 2, 2017
Madison, WI

Illinois

Annual Meeting
2017 - TBA

Indiana

Annual Meeting
2017 - TBA

Michigan

Annual Meeting
2017 - TBA

Ohio

Annual Meeting
Forest Park Senior Ctr
Forest Park, OH
May 19, 2017

Ontario

AGM - TBA

Wisconsin

Annual Meeting
2017 - TBA

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From the editor...

Your editor has had an assistant for this issue and would like to thank the assistant for all the help given in getting this issue out. Also appreciated is the cooperation of those of you who submitted information in a timely manner.

The newsletter is only as helpful as the information in it. Many of you had annual meetings early this spring, while some of you will hold them during the summer or early fall. It's always good to get together with other parliamentarians to learn what works for each and what works best for groups you serve. That's especially true with training conferences and conventions of NAP. Please consider attending either or both,. You'll be glad you did.

Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit is celebrating its **40 years** of parliamentary study and serving its community. Originally formed as the Parliamentary Study Club of Oakland, the unit changed its name to honor Louise Saks, a professional parliamentarian who led the study group that became a unit in 1976. Over thirty members, both provisional and NAP members are part of the unit that meets from September through May at the First Presbyterian Church on West Maple in Birmingham. Members come from various communities in southeastern Michigan.

Its annual *Meetings That Work* public workshop was offered free this year as one way of commemorating the group's 40 years and the annual meeting in May will include a retelling of history and other commemorative activities. Two LSPU members, Joan C.Price and Barbara Bonsignore, attained registered parliamentarian status, indicating the ongoing emphasis on study and supporting one another.

This space reserved

for the news of

your unit or association

