

District Six Parliamentarian

Newsletter for members of the National Association of Parliamentarians in

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas (including the unchartered territories of American Samoa, Australia, Central America, Guam, Mexico, Oceania, South America)

ISSUE 01

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District Director's Digest

At the beginning of next month we will be celebrating general elections in most states. In fact, most of you will already be able to cast your vote early by the time you get this newsletter (and, of course, you should all vote!). Different from all other states and commonwealths in the union, in New Mexico the Legislators are volunteers. While my colleagues and I in the State Senate are reimbursed for (some) of our expenses, we are not paid for our efforts. Unlike other volunteer organizations I belong to, however, if I don't show up to meetings when the Senate is in session, the State Police are authorized to find me and to take me back to the Capitol until the meetings are finished!

What makes people come and stay at your meetings? It is important that we be welcoming and enthusiastic about our work as parliamentarians.

And be enthusiastic we should, because after all, we are not just a meeting about meetings – we are studying the way people come together and decide important matters in a way that is thoughtful and fair to all members; we are providing the keys to empowerment for people who know they have good ideas, but have lacked the organizational know-how to express those ideas effectively; and in this day of polarized political opinions, we are creating a space where neighbors can come together, exchange opposing viewpoints, and leave as friends.

In this issue you will read about the many exciting endeavors happening around District 6. The Oklahoma Association recently hosted a very successful NAP Training Conference. Also, the Gulf Coast Parliamentarians are hosting an exciting conference on Galveston Island (to which everyone is invited). In Louisiana, Alison Wallis and the Louisiana Association have been working hard at membership recruitment – efforts which have yielded fruit. Among the exceptional volunteer efforts in our District, I want particularly to thank Rhonda Clark-Randle, who accepted the appointment to be the District Newsletter Editor, and followed that up with the discipline and work-ethic required to publish a newsletter spanning five states.

Continued on page 12.



Daniel A. Ivey-Soto
District Six Director

In this issue

The District Director 's Digest	P.1
National Training Conference	P.2
The Empty Chair	P.3
The Impeccably Correct Parliamentarian	P.4
Parliamentary Tip	P.5
Recruiting & Retaining Members	P.6
Eye on District Six	P.6
District Six Leadership Team	P.7
Association News	P.8
Unit News	P.11
New Members, RPs and PRPs	P.12
Board Member Difficulties	P.13
The Back Story	P.14

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OSAP Sponsors a Successful National Association of Parliamentarians Training Conference

From August 6th, 2014 through August 12th over 230 persons converged on Oklahoma City to attend an educational experience like no other. The National Association of Parliamentarians Training Conference, "Welcome to the Future," was headed by W. Craig Henry PRP, CPP-T, Conference Coordinator and Patricia Hudson, Assistant Conference Coordinator. The Conference provided time for Board/committee meetings, leadership training, examinations and recertification activities in addition to the conference itself. And the networking experiences and free time helped make the conference memorable for all.

The conference was held at the Oklahoma City Renaissance Convention Center as well as the Cox Business Convention Center across the street. The layout of the hotel and the convention center complimented each other well: the hotel handled the smaller meetings and examinations while the convention center kept all of the training in one area on the second floor. Food service was organized downstairs in one area with an ample atrium for buffet serving when needed. Distances were fairly short from not only the training rooms to the dining area, but to and from the hotel as well over the sky bridge – a nice air conditioned way to stay out of the August heat in Oklahoma City.

Before the Conference began, the Board and various NAP Committees met as well as the Leadership Conference for Association and Unit leaders. The Opening Luncheon on Friday featured the 9th and 10th (Horse) Calvary Association aka the Buffalo Soldiers presenting the Colors, a Native American interpretation of the Lord's Prayer and a rousing keynote speech by long-time NAP member Liz Guthridge, entitled "Making an Impact in a VUCA World." President Ann Guiberson and

Treasurer Evan Lemoine made presentations as well.

Once lunch was finished, the attendees spread out to one of five 75 minute Educational sessions crafted by Colette Collier Trohan PRP, CPP-T, Conference Workshop Coordinator and E. Marie Wilson PRP, CPP-T Assistant Conference Workshop Coordinator. The overall theme of the educational sessions was the impact technology has on

the work of the Parliamentarian. Even the

session names tied to technology, e.g. "Backspace: Reconsider, Amend Something Previously Adopted," "The Blue Screen: Discipline," and "Auto-Fill: Note-taking for the Parliamentarian. 30 minute breaks were allowed for relaxing, catching up with old friends and networking with new colleagues. Then a second set of five programs were offered. A free evening out for dinner, followed at 8:00 by a Mega Session on Education and Credentialing.

Saturday opened with a plenary session "Tech 201" started off by Susan Leahy demonstrating (remotely) how technology can be used by the parliamentarian. Other parliamentarians modeled "Flash Presentations" (6-8 minutes on a single topic) on favorite tools that they use in their practice: Expensify, Doodle, Dropbox, and webMonkey. After lunch 10 more educational sessions were held. A freak August downpour greeted those going to the NAP Educational Foundation's "Top of the Town" dinner on the 34th floor of the Petroleum Club, in the Chase Bank tower one block from the hotel. A few intrepid souls



Craig Henry and Julianne Henry with poster advertising the downloadable "app" for the NAPTC.

braved the rain, but most found the way through the labyrinth of skywalks, parking garages, elevators and tunnels to arrive safe and dry at the banquet. Excellent food, dignitaries and a closing discussion led by cowboy humorist Captain Jack Parker on the way things are done in Oklahoma.

Sunday: Five more sessions and the closing session. Then the conference is over. Twenty-seven opportunities for education, jam-packed into 48 hours. And a few brave members stayed for the PRC, more committee meetings and wrapping up the conference loose ends. Wow! What an experience.



The Empty Chair

Dennis Clark, PRP

I hadn't thought to go there; it was hot in Oklahoma City that Sunday afternoon on August 10, 2014 after the conclusion of the National Training Conference. I had over three hours before my flight and the memorial was only about six blocks away, they told me at the concierge desk.

I had no preconceived notions of what to expect at the memorial. Coming from the hotel one first comes upon the Murrah Building plaza with a pleasant waterfall that is nicely landscaped. But as you reach the northern edge of the elevated plaza and look down, you see them. One hundred sixty-eight empty chairs symbolizing those murdered in the 1995 attack. No one who remembers that awful day can look down among those rows of empty chairs without a lump in their throat – perhaps a tear. For some, much more.

One walks down a series of steps from the plaza to the empty chairs, sitting upon a manicured lawn and made of glass and stone with a bronze backing. Beyond the chairs is the reflecting pool marking the exact spot where the Murrah Federal Building once stood. Each chair bears the name and life dates of the individuals who died that day. There are nineteen smaller chairs for the babies who had been left by a parent or perhaps grandparent that morning at one of the two day care centers in the building. I took a picture of one of these chairs and noted the name mentally as it happened to be the first name of my next door neighbor's boy.

Noting the time, I decided I had just enough time to continue to walk around the remainder of the memorial, and then take in the museum located just north of where the Murrah building had stood. The opening museum exhibit takes one back to the time preceding the blast that occurred at 9:02 a.m. on April 19, 1995. In the next room, they have an audio recording of a meeting of a water rights board, which began at 9:00 a.m. (on time), and the mediator was laying down the rules of procedure to be followed. Then you hear the blast – the thunderous, what would have been totally inexplicable roar to those in the meeting room and



throughout the building and surrounding buildings, followed by screams and sobs and the palpable fear. It is nearly too much to absorb – even these almost-thirty years later.

The remainder of the museum is dedicated to the first responders – to those from around the country who came even days later to assist in what was hoped to be a recovery effort, hoping beyond hope that just one more life could be saved from the rubble – and then the memorial services that began the healing and the return to what would forever more be considered as normality. Finally, the exhibit ends at the hall of honor with the names and photographs and brief biographies of the lives taken, as well as small mementos of their lives left by loved ones. I finally came to the name of the little boy whose chair I had taken a picture of an hour or so earlier. It was then that I realized, had I looked just one chair over on either side, I would have seen that he had a brother who died with him that morning – Masters Chase Dalton Smith (age 3) and Colton Wade Smith (age 2) – brothers whose families went home that evening to two empty chairs.

We live in a time when none of us is immune to sudden loss at the hands of terrorists, mass murderers and their ilk, whether it be in Oklahoma City or Boston, Littleton, Colorado or Virginia Tech, New York City or Killeen. We likely recognize the names of the perpetrators of these atrocities, but rarely do we remember the names of their victims, names like the brothers Chase and Colton who would, had they lived, be in their early twenties today.

I write this article for this publication because it is my heartfelt belief that the work that we are about as parliamentarians, while never being able to stop malicious acts of violence, can at least help to create and foster a sense of justice, fair and equal treatment for all, and respect for others. These are the bedrock

fundamentals of parliamentary law that are, in this author's opinion, essential to the survival and success of our fragile, democratic way of life.

This article is a reprint from the *Texas Parliamentarian*, September, 2014, Issue # 2, P1. Photo Courtesy of Bob R. Williams, District ; NTC Photographer.

The Impeccably Correct Parliamentarian

--Alison Wallis, PRP

Parliamentary procedure is about working with other people. It is wrong to use superior knowledge as a bully or to undermine the confidence of a new convert. Using proper usage yourself is a less alienating means to teach or lead than rude and insensitive remarks.

It is appropriate to correct adults in a teaching environment, with great consideration. A very severe error should be corrected in private or by a gentle

statement, such as, "I believe that is better described as ____." A cautionary statement to check the exact wording in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, (RONR), lets Robert, not you, do the correcting,

Strive to follow correct usage but also to use parliamentary procedure to show respect for others. Strive to be one of those people, as in Fowler's The King's English, who "prefer geniality to grammar." Similarly, we should

prefer People to Procedure, and remember, tact and courtesy are always in order.

Until such time as all encounters are positive, to build confidence against potential assaults, a parliamentarian may be beyond reproach in preferring the usage noted in the charts below. A critical caveat, as with all parliamentary questions, is that unique governing documents may dictate a different result.

Presiding Perfection

Say or Do THIS	Not That	Authority
'Aye' and 'No'	'Yea' and 'Nay'	"Aye" and "No" have been favored terms since before Jefferson's Manual in 1812.
"all opposed, say No"	"all opposed, same sign"	RONR, p. 44, instructs on proper language in putting the question to a vote
"the Chair"	"I"	RONR, p. 24
"it IS moved and seconded"	"it has been moved and seconded"	RONR, p. 37. Be aware that other parliamentary authorities DO allow "has been moved."
"the organization's officers" or "the secretary," "the treasurer"	"my officers" or "my secretary" or "my treasurer"	Good manners
"the motion is out of order"	"the member is out of order"	RONR, p. 39
"are there any corrections to the minutes?"	"are there any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes?"	RONR, p. 353
rap the gavel once to open, or to announce a recess. Rap gavel lightly to maintain order	never using the gavel OR banging the gavel	RONR, p. 232 RONR, p. 242 RONR, p. 645

Written Word

Write THIS	Not That	Authority
"bylaws"	"by-laws"	Unless quoting from a source that itself retains the hyphen, modern usage is that no hyphen is used.
"unfinished business"	"old business"	RONR, p. 358
secretary's name and date	"Respectfully Submitted"	RONR, p. 471
lectern	podium (note this example depends on the item used; the typical device used in meetings is a lectern)	lectern: a stand that holds a book, notes, etc., for someone who is reading, speaking, or teaching podium: a raised platform for a speaker, performer, or the leader of an orchestra merriam-webster.com
"Member X moved: xxx"	"it was motioned that"	Throughout RONR and as shown in sample minutes. RONR, p. 473

A Parliamentary Tip

--Rhonda Clark-Randle, MA

Rules for Small Boards (12 or less)

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised states that, "In small boards and committees most rules apply, but certain modifications permitting greater flexibility and informality are commonly allowed." The relaxing of the rules and informality still allow for speedy and orderly meetings.

A few of the modifications include but are not limited to:

1. The chairman need not rise while putting a question to vote.
2. The chairman can remain in the role of the chair and participate in discussion as well as make motions.
3. Members may remain seated and do not have to obtain the floor before making a motion or speaking.
4. There is no limit to how many times a member can speak.
5. Motions to close or limit debates are usually not permitted.
6. Informal discussion is allowed when a motion is pending.

10 Tips for Recruiting and Retaining Members

~~Rhonda Clark-Randle

1. Fellowship - Laugh, talk, and have fun together. Get together outside of meetings.
2. Food - Provide snacks or a lite meal if members come to the meetings from work.
3. Friendship - Be friendly and welcoming to new members and each other.
4. Family - Encourage your family to participate.
5. Frequency - As much as possible meet at the same intervals, time and place for each session.
6. Faith - Believe in mission of the unit and support its goals.
7. Fun - Have fun at your meetings, events and activities. Everyone loves entertainment.
8. Freedom - Provide freedom of choice. Be flexible and allow lots of input from members.
9. Forgiveness - If your motion doesn't pass or your idea is rejected by the body don't hold grudges.
10. Formality - Have a specific meeting time and place; follow the agenda; adhere to the bylaws and Robert's Rules of order.

EYE ON DISTRICT SIX

~~Barbara Posler

District Six Conference April 18-19, 2015 in conjunction with the annual convention of the New Mexico State Association of Parliamentarians (NMSAP), to be held at the Crowne Plaza in Albuquerque

- ◆ Friday, April 17, 2014. Join NMSAP in celebrating its 50th year anniversary with a special dinner and program.
- ◆ Saturday A.M. April 18 Workshops, also open to the community.
- ◆ Saturday P.M. Workshop for Parliamentarian attendees.
- ◆ Saturday P.M. Transport to the top of the Sandia mountains via aerial tram for cocktails; dinner overlooking the night lights of Albuquerque.
- ◆ Sunday A.M. District Six Business Meeting

Check www.NMSAP.org after November 1 for more details



Sandia Peak Tramway

Meet the Leadership of District Six



Daniel A. Ivey-Soto
District Six Director



Nathan Thompson
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James Mayhan, PRP
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Louisiana State Association

The Louisiana Association of Parliamentarians (LAP), its local units, and its most active members have been working this summer to promote parliamentary education and membership across the state. As one would expect, with most of our membership being in the southeast part of the state, the Metairie and Baton Rouge units have been busy; however, the reach of our recent activities have extended as far north as one can go and still stay in the state.

The Baton Rouge Unit of Parliamentarians (BRUP) has been promoting and marketing their monthly meetings as "The BRUP Road Trip" as an effort to highlight the monthly education programs to attract interest from those that might otherwise be intimidated in just going to a monthly meeting. The programs over the past few months have focused on Main Motions, Bylaws and Standing Rules, and a participatory review of Parliamentary terms. Thanks to their hard work, the numbers routinely attending is growing each month!

After helping the LAP with events across the state earlier in the year, the Metairie Unit decided it was again time to put on something in their own backyard. With President Rita Bezou and long-time Member Richard Brown taking the lead, on August 2nd the Metairie Unit hosted a workshop, modeled after Steve Glanstein's ever popular and successful "Roadmap to Membership" that help associations gain more members. The Louisiana Association and its units have successfully given these workshops before and this effort was no different. With well over twenty people in attendance for the day long program, ten decided to take the membership exam and ALL passed! The National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP), LAP, and both Metairie and Baton Rouge Units have new members because of this program.

On the heels of the Roadmap program, Richard Brown and our education evangelist extraordinaire, Alison Wallis (PRP, CP-T) on very short notice set their sights on bringing parliamentary knowledge to the northern part of our state and put the wheels in motion to eventually form another unit. Twenty-four people signed up for the workshop held on September 3rd at the Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC). The attendees that evening included local members from the Libertarian Party, other various local clubs and organizations, college students and faculty from BPCC, and a handful who just showed up from the advertisement in the local paper.

The workshop focused on Robert's Rules of Order basics, making motions, and ways to make meetings more productive. The workshop was very well received by the attendees who exhibited engaged participation in the program's content. Additionally, Alison made sure that the attendees received a handout that explained the how-to's on forming a new unit. To build on the success another such workshop is being planned "way up north around Shreveport" in the early part of 2015.

Upcoming for the LAP will be a fall program and Board Meeting in November and before we know it spring will be here and we will have our biennial membership meeting!



New Mexico State Association

The New Mexico State Association of Parliamentarians (NMSAP) has much to celebrate as we approach our fiftieth year. The Association was organized and chartered in July, 1965 and continues to promote parliamentary excellence in the State of New Mexico. It is important for all of our Associations to celebrate our collective successes as we continue to move forward in our worthy endeavours. We celebrate, because we are not required to do the work that we do; instead, we are honoured to be able to support the cause of democracy in ways that some other countries wish they could.

Here in New Mexico, we also celebrate not only the longevity of the NMSAP but also its continued growth. At the NAP convention held September 6, 2013 in Portland, Oregon, the NMSAP received two awards: Greatest number of New PRPs and Greatest Percentage of New PRPs. In the spirit of sharing this growth, the NMSAP has requested of the NAP, that we be granted the honor of hosting a Professional Qualifying Course to be held in conjunction with the District Six Conference and the NMSAP Annual Smart Meetings Conference.

The NMSAP Smart Meetings Conference is an annual workshop, provided to the community, consisting of several sessions taught by NMSAP members and visiting NAP dignitaries. These educational sessions are one we directly serve and the public in parliamentary education. We anticipate that due to the conjunction of Smart Meetings with the District Conference, that several sessions will be taught by a variety of visiting dignitaries.

To that end, it is my pleasure to invite you to come and attend the NMSAP Fiftieth Year Celebration, Smart Meetings Conference, the District Six meeting and possibly the Professional Qualifying Course to be held during National Parliamentary Law Month. The activities begin November 17, 2015 and continue through the weekend. Save the date, see more information elsewhere in this newsletter and consult our website: NMSAP.org for more details.

As a final thought on celebrating our potential future, the focus of the Associations, units and the membership at large must be recruitment and education. The success of our activities and the promotion of parliamentarianism rely on how many new parliamentarians we interest, educate and certify. Every activity has a recruitment and retention aspect, as well as one of education. We must identify and cultivate those opportunities. What we do can have positive and lasting effects, but only if there are others to follow us and continue our work. As we continue to achieve these goals do we truly celebrate our continuation and prosperity.

Oklahoma State Association

The Oklahoma State Association of Parliamentarians (OSAP) held their 29th Annual Convention on September 27, 2014 in Edmond, OK. The following officers were elected for the 2014-2015 term:

President	W. Craig Henry
Vice President	Robert Fink
Secretary	Patricia Hudson
Treasurer	Cheryl Sherman

Exceptional educational programs were given by Russ Guthrie, PRP (Oklahoma's newest PRP) on amendments and W. Craig Henry PRP, CPP-T on consider seriatim.

OSAP has just completed a successful hosting of the NAP Training Conference. Without the hard work of nearly every OSAP member, as well as the education curriculum design and implementation by Colette Collier Trohan PRP, CPP-T and E. Mare Wilson PRP, CPP-T, OSAP could not have pulled it off by themselves. A great big Oklahoma THANK YOU goes to Patricia Hudson as the assistant conference coordinator. Working on the training conference shed a whole new light on the meaning of planning and coordination. But all was well and came off without a hitch. Nor did we have an instructor drop out. All in all, a job well done!

In addition to the training conference, OSAP held two in-person Train the Trainer Workshops in the fall for Career Technology Student Organizations advisers and members. Various units and members of OSAP worked with student organizations – both in-person and remotely – to get them up to speed for their parliamentary procedure competitions. Other members judged the competitions for FCCLA, HOSA, FBLA and SkillsUSA.

2014-2015 goals are to hold a State-wide training conference on parliamentary procedure for the general public (not quite the scope of the NAP TC!) and to continue working with the youth organizations in Oklahoma.



Oklahoma State Association Members
Cheryle Sherman, Mary Early, Linda Lawson, Jim Lawson, Deborah Burroughs, Virginia McComas,
Craig Henry, C.J. Cavin, Russ Guthrie, Patricia Hudson, Robert Fink

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Texas State Association

Howdy ya'll from the great State of Texas. Right off the bat we want to invite you all down to Galveston for one of the most exciting parliamentary events you'll have a chance to be part in for many years. We have the honor of having Henry M. Robert III and Burke Balch come to Galveston to participate in workshops and other events both parliamentary and entertainment in nature. The events are on November 14-16, 2014. Sorry for the short notice – but if you still have that date available – or can make it become available you won't want to miss this. Workshops on Friday (14th) will focus on procedures used in governmental boards, councils, districts, etc. After the workshops there will be a reception (and book signing) for the authors followed by a talk by Mr. Robert on his grandfather's contributions to Galveston and the Gulf coast (i.e. the building of the Galveston seawall, ship channel, etc.) This year marks the 110th year of the completion of the seawall. A dinner will conclude Friday evening with the entertainment being the humor of parliamentary procedure.

More workshops on Saturday (advanced and basic tracks) followed by a tour of the Moody Mansion (where the workshops will take place – and where we believe that General Robert himself would have dined while on the island). Please note that Mr. Balch and other parliamentarians of national renown will be speaking at both the Friday and Saturday workshops. For those inclined to comic opera there is a fantastic opera company which will perform at the 1894 Grand Opera House that evening (optional). The Grand (as the islanders call it) was built in 1894, survived the great storm of 1900 which devastated Galveston, and has been restored to its opulence.

On Sunday – for those who can stay – you can join Mr. Robert as he visits the seawall at the marker honoring his granddad – followed by a visit to several Galveston venues which we think all will enjoy.

If you have interest in this event – please visit the following website for registration information. <http://www.houparlunits.org/workshops> Please note that the registration only includes the workshop events and the reception. All other events, including dinners, the opera, admissions, hotel, etc. will have to be paid separately. There is a block of rooms set aside at the San Louis Resort and Conference Center on Seawall Blvd for this event. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this event. If you have interest I'd be happy to send you more information. Also – it is very important to note that the seating for the Saturday workshops is absolutely limited to the first 110 folks who register for this event. So if you have interest – NOW.

That is the big parliamentary news in Texas right now – but we do hope that those of you who enjoy learning at every opportunity – please put the dates of May 1-3, 2015 on your calendar. This is the date for the Texas State Convention. We have some wonderful ideas for great learning experiences at the meeting in Houston.



Texas Delegation at the 2014 National Training Conference, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,

Richard Hayes, Sheryl Womble, George Nassar, Rhonda Clark-Randle, Tophas Anderson (behind Rhonda), Carol Habgood, Lucy Anderson (behind Carol), Alison Wallis, Dennis Clark, Ron Stinson, Ann Guiberson, Adolph Garcia (behind Ann), Daniel Ivey-Soto, Kay Crews, Betty Green, Nylanne Scheidegger, Sheryl Minear, Joe Petronis, Sharon Daughtery, Charlene Berry

Unit News

Baton Rouge Unit (LA)

Baton Rouge Unit of Parliamentarians held its monthly meeting on August 26th at 6:00pm at Cafe' Americain. New members, Artis and Alexander, were welcomed by President Holliday-James. Brooks provided update from training he attended in OK stating that technology is the way to go in parliamentary procedures. Members studied motions and their function. The next meeting will be on October 28 at 6pm at Cafe Americain.

~~ Sarah Holliday-James



Seated L- R: Troy Watson, Clara Earl, Sarah Holliday-James, Carole Gloger and Nicole Learson

Standing L-R: Jaia Edwards Artis, Desiree Alexander, Cynthia Sampey, Porcha Maten and Barry Brooks

Golden Gavel (TX)



The Golden Gavel (GG) Registered Unit is located in Fort Worth, Texas. The GG Unit has five members. They are Dr. Ruth C. Amend, PRP-R, Pauline Campbell, PRP-R, Betty Green, PRP, Charlene Berry, RP, and Dorothy Rencurrel, RP. All are members of the Fort Worth Unit.

Betty Green, Charlene Berry and Dorothy Rencurrel attended the 2014 NAP Training Conference in Oklahoma. The NAP Training

Conference continued our training in Parliamentary Procedure.

The August 23 Workshop was co-sponsored by the Golden Gavel Unit and the Fort Worth Unit. The Theme was "Managing Meetings through Parliamentary Procedure." There were 32 that attended the workshop. Each left with a new knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure and how to use it.

The goal of the golden Gavel Unit is to continue our study of Parliamentary Law and share our knowledge with those wanting to learn about Parliamentary Law.

~~Dorothy Rencurrel

Gulf Coast Unit (TX)

Texas will have the honor of having two of the members of the authorship team of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* visit Galveston in November. Henry M. Robert III and Burke Balch will be in Galveston on November 14-16, 2014. There will be several workshops that weekend and other events that we believe our members will enjoy and find to be extraordinarily informative. So, mark your calendars for this event and come enjoy Galveston on that weekend.

Contact *Cherlyn Crear*, crearcq@hotmail.com

Metaire Unit (LA)

Members of the Metaire Unit enjoying the National Training Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Metaire Unit - Metairie, Louisiana
Richard Brown, Peter Kastl, Alison Wallis

The Sounding Block Unit (TX)

The Sounding Block has been busy. We ended the summer with a Leadership Retreat for officers and Chairman. Sessions focused on succession planning, officers roles and responsibilities, and electronic tools for unit use. Information learned at the National Training Conference served as the source for many of the sessions. Officers and committee chairman were provided time to draft their program plans for the upcoming program year.

Continued on page 12.



The San Luis Resort and Spa and Conference Center
Galveston, Texas

Unit News

This fall is off to a busy start. Our first unit meeting after the summer break was held on September 8th. Vice President Mona Bates chaired the meeting. In the absences of the president. The meetings agenda consisted of reports from officers and chairman sharing their goals for the year. Vice President Bates also was co-host of the meeting along with Treasurer Michelyn Washington. The ladies provided a wonderful lite dinner. Thanks ladies.

The Sounding Block Unit of Parliamentarians will be five years old in November. A celebration to commemorate this occasion is being planned. Samuel Bates, planning committee chairman, says the event will be another benchmark event for the unit. The gala event will feature a brief program, dining, dancing, and a silent auction. All are invited to attend.

Contact Samuel Bates
mtate@sbcglobal.net



The Sounding Block Unit - Dallas, Texas

Seated (L-R)- Michelyn Washington, Treasurer; Rhonda Clark-Randle, President/
 Mona Bates, Vice President; Mary Nickson, Secretary.

District Director's Digest

Continued from Page 1.

Finally, in New Mexico, we are preparing for the next District Conference, which will be held April 17 – 19, 2015, in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the New Mexico State Association of Parliamentarians. Initial information is available in this issue, with a link to the Association webpage. More details, information, and registration forms will appear in a future issue. Each NAP member in District 6 is invited to attend (and we are working hard to make it worth your while to be here).



Welcome to our New Members

James W. Duffy	AR
Sarah E. Trice	AR
Matthew Allen	LA
Larry L. Beane II	LA
Loretta Brehm	LA
Brian Bridges	LA
Brandon D. Brown	LA
Francine Collins	LA
Jennie L. Curry	LA
Leslie A. DeLong	LA
Clara C. Earl	LA
Daniel Eric Hayes	LA
Richard H. Iverson	LA
Porcha E. Maten	LA
Patti Millan	LA
Carole Vest	LA
Tracy M. Wenzl	NM
Christopher James Cavin	OK
Alecia K. Olinger	OK
Deborah Lynn Arrington	TX
J. Dean Craig	TX
Alice Watts Emeny	TX
Amy L. Gamber	TX
Ghada Mohamed Ghannam	TX
Alicia Todd Grinage	TX
Brianna A. Hardy	TX
Cindy Hinckley	TX
Michael Kinser	TX
Heather McIntosh	TX
Phyllis S. McMakin	TX
Joe R. Petronis	TX
Mary B. Petronis	TX
Frances Rizo	TX
Reinaldo Rodriguez	TX
Jodie L. Sanders	TX
Delores L. Shaw	TX
Bonne K. Stroman	TX
Gary Glen Taylor	TX
Deana Everett Tollerton	TX

Congratulations to our New RPs and PRPs

New RP's:

Louis R. Davis,	TX
Patrick Giam,	TX
James Lawson,	OK
Marsha Thornton	TX

New PRP's:

Sharon Daugherty,	TX
Russell A. Guthrie,	OK

Board Behavioral Difficulties

~~Robert C. Harris, CAE

During an orientation for new board members one director whispered to another leader, “Don’t worry, the nominating committee told me there’s really *nothing* to serving on the board.”

The other director replied, “And since the organization pays all our expenses these meetings will be like a vacation!”

Sound familiar?

Take a look at these classic examples of misdirected board behavior. You know you need improvement as a board member when:

1. The comments you make about the staff or volunteers are consistently negative and you offer no positive input.
2. Common meeting rules of order confuse you, you disrespect the meeting chair, and you use the agenda to make a paper airplane.
3. You make a derogatory remark about a subgroup of the association, or worse, about someone’s race, religion or gender.
4. You receive the board meeting agenda and packet and read it on the way to the meeting, or open it for the first time after the meeting is called to order.
5. You take no responsibility for the well-being of the organization as a *whole*. Your focus remains on your personal agenda, or on the district, chapter or subgroup that got you elected to the board.
6. You talk more than you listen.
7. A majority of the board has never supported a motion you made; they won’t even second your motions!
8. You have never left the meeting agreeing with the decisions — rather you openly criticize decisions, directors, committees and staff.
9. You renew your membership last — after the third billing notice and a call from staff reminding you that to serve on the board you must be a member in good standing.
10. You scheme about how you might start your own company to offer better member benefits rather than working to improve benefits and services for members.

Recognize these Board Traits?

Participants at a church seminar in New Brighton, MN identified characteristics of “difficult people” in the congregation, parish and synagogue.

- ⇒ Highly critical but not constructive.
- ⇒ Resistant to change for no clear reason.
- ⇒ Eager to control and dominate every situation.
- ⇒ Driven by personal agendas and going to any lengths to accomplish them.
- ⇒ Adversarial; expressing conflicts as “us” vs. “them.”
- ⇒ Seeing everyone except themselves as the cause of all problems.
- ⇒ Taking ownership of too many aspects of the organization.
- ⇒ Always needing attention.
- ⇒ Clinging to past history. (“We’ve always done it that way.”)
- ⇒ Coping poorly with change.
- ⇒ Taking on too many responsibilities to the point of ineffectiveness.
- ⇒ Gossiping or rumor mongering.
- ⇒ Thriving on crisis.
- ⇒ Not willing to discuss a complaint with the person involved but talking instead to everyone else about the problem.
- ⇒ Possessing a poison pen: Writing scathing letters or e-mails or initiating spontaneous petition drives.



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Professional Development

October 24-26, 2014
[NAP Professional Qualifying Course \(Kansas City\)](#)

November 14-16, 2014
[NAP Professional Renewal Course \(Kansas City\)](#)

District Six Parliamentarian

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Upcoming Events

Gulf Coast Parliamentarian Institute

November 15, 2014
San Louis Resort and Conference Center on Seawall Blvd
Galveston, Texas Moody Mansion, 2618 Broadway
Contact *Cherlyn Crear*, crearcq@hotmail.com

Sounding Block Unit 5th Anniversary Celebration and Silent Auction

December 5, 2014 Dallas, Texas MoMo's Italian Kitchen, 2800 Routh St. #165
Contact *Samuel or Mona Tates*, mtates@sbcglobal.net

District Six Conference

April 17-19, 2015 Albuquerque, New Mexico
Conference Host: New Mexico Association of Parliamentarians,
Convention Host: District Six, Adam Hathaway, Director
Conference Coordinator Barbara Posler poslong@ymail.com

61st Texas State Association Convention

May 1-3, 2015 Houston, Texas Hilton Westchase Hotel
Convention Coordinator Patricia Cook pcook43@gmail.com
Convention Host Units: Bayshore Flonnie Mae Larimer Gulf Coast Spring / Klien
Presidents: Vicky Fransham Patricia Cook Cherlyn Crear James Stublefield

National Association of Parliamentarians 40th Biennial Convention

September 4-7, 2015 Arlington, VA
Biennial Convention Host: District Two, Darlene T. Allen, Director
Convention Coordinator Rosalie Stroman

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