

The Official Publication of the Oregon Association of Parliamentarians

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# Oregon Agenda

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**FROM THE DESK OF THE  
PRESIDENT . . .**



I would like to begin my first Agenda article with a heartfelt thank you to Alice Bartelt, who as president the past four years has guided OAP. Under her leadership, a much needed overhaul of the Procedures Manual is underway and near

completion. In addition, her invitation to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Parliamentarians resulted in OAP being asked to host the National Convention in September, 2013 - a true honor! In the next year the Board will be reaching out to all OAP members for assistance in hosting this important national meeting. Again, a big thank you to Alice for taking on the role of NAP Convention Coordinator.

As your newly elected President, I would like to introduce myself... I have been a Registered Nurse for 41 years, with a specialty in neonatal intensive care. As an RN, I became very involved in the Oregon Nurses Association, which ultimately lead to my election as its' President - and my interest in parliamentary procedure. I took the

first parliamentary exam, then the Registered exam, both under the expert tutelage of Peggy Long, to whom I will be forever grateful. Unfortunately I could not take her to the Professional Qualifying Course, but thankfully I did pass. As your OAP Vice-President the past four years, and OAP parliamentarian before that, I hope to have gained the knowledge and wisdom to lead the organization for the next two years - but only with your help!

Teresa Stone, PRP, CP, President

**OAP BOARD MEETING**  
Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.  
925 NE 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232

The building is called Lloyd Corporate Plaza. We will need to enter through the North entrance. We will be inside the Rose Garden conference room. The building has a parking lot that is accessible from NE 19th Ave. near the intersection of NE 19th Ave. and Pacific St. Click for a map of the area: <http://bit.ly/MJLtRA>

## From the Desk of the Vice-President

I am honored to be elected as your vice-president for the 2012-2014 term. My responsibilities include writing educational articles for The Oregon Agenda. My educational article for this issue is on preferential voting. If you have suggestions or feedback regarding my educational articles, please let me know. I have also been appointed to chair the OAP website committee. You will see my report on this committee elsewhere in this issue.

Jeff Weston, OAP Vice-President  
[jjweston@gmail.com](mailto:jjweston@gmail.com)

### Website Committee Report

I have been appointed to chair the Oregon Association of Parliamentarians website committee. In case you weren't aware, the OAP website is currently hosted on the National Association of Parliamentarians website:  
<http://parliamentarians.org/or/>

I view the OAP website as one of the best available tools for recruiting new members. I have a number of improvements I am considering for the OAP website. One of the best ways to get people to keep coming back to your website is to constantly generate new content. I am considering creating a blog for the OAP website as a way of generating content and providing a discussion forum. I would also like to see some of the material we already have available, such as issues of The Oregon Agenda and the OAP bylaws, get placed on the website. If you have ideas for the OAP website, or want to join the OAP website committee, please contact me.

While I'm working on these long-term improvements to the OAP website, I will maintain the current OAP website. In particular, I have updated our list of officers to reflect those officers that were elected during our annual meeting. I have noted a handful of other changes I will be making to the website as I find time. If you see

anything that needs to be updated, please let me know.

Jeff Weston, OAP Website Committee Chair  
[jjweston@gmail.com](mailto:jjweston@gmail.com)



## UNIT REPORTS

### Rose City Unit

Rose City Unit held its annual meeting on May 11th at 7:00 PM at the Elmer's on Waterhouse Ave. in Beaverton:

Elmer's  
1250 NW Waterhouse Ave.  
Beaverton, OR 97006  
(503) 466-9699

A meeting room was reserved starting at 6 PM so that members could arrive early and have dinner before the meeting. At this meeting, we elected new officers for the 2012-2014 term. OAP President, Teresa Stone, performed the installation. The Rose City Unit nominating committee nominated the following candidates for office:

President: Beverly Przybylski  
Vice-President: Elaine Carlson  
Secretary/Treasurer: Laretta Slaughter

Also at this meeting, Beverly Przybylski presented a program involving running a mock meeting.

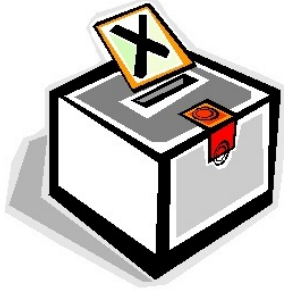
After this meeting, Rose City Unit will be on a break for the summer and will resume regular meetings again on September 21st.

Jeff Weston, Rose City Unit President

## Mt. Hood Unit

Mt. Hood Unit held its last meeting of the fiscal year in May with a program on Previous Question presented by Peggy Long. The unit has completed the year with a lesson on subsidiary motions at each meeting. The unit will resume meetings in September on the second Thursday.

Peggy Long, President



## PREFERENTIAL VOTING

We all know the basic procedure in Robert's Rules of Order for running elections. All eligible voters cast their votes and whoever receives a majority of the votes is the winner. If none of the candidates receive a majority of the votes, you repeat the process until a candidate wins the election. Simple, right?

But... What do you do if repeating the voting process isn't so simple? For example: I'm on the board of a society that wants to perform a mail ballot election with approximately 13,000 voters. It costs thousands of dollars to mail a ballot to all of these voters and it takes a long time to wait for voters to mail their ballots back. If we wind up with an election with no candidates receiving a majority of the votes, it is simply not feasible for us to repeat the mail ballot.

Fortunately, Robert's Rules of Order gives an alternative that a society can use for cases like this: preferential voting. The 11th edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised describes a simple preferential voting process on pages 425 through

428. Here is a quick overview of the process:

First, instead of voters only selecting one candidate for an election, they rank all of the candidates in order of preference. When tallying votes, votes are assigned to candidates based upon the highest preference of the voters. If a single candidate receives a majority of the votes, that candidate wins the election. Otherwise, you eliminate the candidate with the lowest number of votes. Any voter who ranked that candidate as their highest preference will now have their second highest preference be used instead. You again tally the votes and repeat this process until a single candidate has a majority of the votes.

Of course, if you can perform repeated balloting, Robert's Rules of Order recommends repeated balloting over using preferential voting. With preferential voting, voters cannot base their second and subsequent votes on the results of earlier ballots. Also, since preferential voting eliminates candidates with the lowest number of votes, this prevents those candidates from becoming a compromise choice.

Is preferential voting the right choice for your society? While I can't answer that, I hope that this article gives you one more tool that you can use for helping the societies that you're involved with run more efficiently.

Jeff Weston, Vice-President/Education Chair

### **Please note address correction:**

The NAP Directory has an incorrect address for Peggy Long. Please note in your directory. I have not moved, it is still 1635 SE Williams Ave., Gresham, OR 97080.

Please advise me of any other address changes, telephone numbers or email addresses that may have changed before I complete the OAP Directory.