

The Official Publication of the Oregon Association of Parliamentarians

Oregon Agenda



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FROM

**THE
DESK
OF
THE
PRESIDENT**



Hot! Hot! Hot!

I am writing this on a hot day that is breaking all sorts of temperature records for Portland. I hope that everyone is staying cool and is enjoying their summer.

While our units are taking their summer break, the activities of parliamentarians do not stop. We continue to have our social event on the first Tuesday of each month at the Elmer's at 10001 NE Sandy Blvd., in Portland. Our next social event is on Tuesday, September 5th. Additionally, many of us are heading to the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) biennial convention from September 7th to the 11th

in Lombard, Illinois, near Chicago. Our professional parliamentarians are also working with various local groups to help keep their meetings running effectively.

Your president is also busy this summer. I attended the combined NAP District 7 and 8 meeting in June and am also attending the NAP convention. I taught a parliamentary workshop to the Democratic Party of Marion County and filled in for Alice Bartelt as the parliamentarian for the Democratic Party of Oregon for one of their recent meetings.

One of the topics I am frequently asked to talk about is that of the rights of members. All of us can probably recite from memory the various groups that *Robert's Rules* gives rights to: the majority, the minority (especially a strong minority), individual members, absentees, and all of these together. However, what does this mean in practice?

We know the rights of the majority reside primarily in the fact that most motions require a majority vote to be adopted. We recognize that the rights of the minority are protected in that motions to take away rights from members (like the right to debate) require a two

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OAP Website: <http://www.oregonap.org/>

OAP on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OregonAP>

OAP on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OregonAP>

OAP Meetup Group <http://www.meetup.com/Oregon-Association-of-Parliamentarians/>

ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE?

It is that time again for us to nominate candidates for office. Open for consideration are the following:
President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer

Per the OAP Bylaws Article V: Officers, Section 4. Term:

A. An officer shall serve a term of two (2 years) or until the successor is elected and assumes office.

D. No officer may serve in the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms and

So it appears that our officers are available for another term of (2) years if they wish to continue, all except the Treasurer.

Please let me know if you wish to continue in your position. Or if anyone is interested in serving on the board as an officer please let me know by September 1, 2017. Thank you for your consideration and service. If you don't contact me, I will be calling you. 😊

Pat Getchell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee

pagetchell@centurylink.net and 503-440-3293 or 503-458-5445

THE SECRETARY'S TABLE TERESA STONE PRP, OAP SECRETARY, NAP SECRETARY



NAP Secretary reporting in...

The two-year term of my office will come to a close at the upcoming NAP Convention in September, and it has been a great learning experience and adventure. When I ran for secretary in 2015, I truly felt I would not be elected, as I had no national experience, and truly knew very few people at that level. But with the election, a very inappropriate analogy immediately came to mind - I have chased the car, and caught it - now what?

Thankfully, a great Board of Directors was elected alongside me, and we all got right to work - supporting each other, individually and as a working group, committed to what was best for NAP.

As for my personal secretarial responsibilities, I learned very quickly how the national minutes were to be written, submitted to the Minutes Approval Committee, approved and then published on the NAP website. I learned very quickly how to "bug" the board members for their monthly reports, formulate the board meeting packet, along with the President's agenda, and send out in a timely manner.

Meetings, with rare exceptions, including the two yearly face-to-face meetings, were held each month via AdobeConnect - where we could simultaneously hear and see each other (that is, we could be seen if we turned on our personnel web-cams!). President Randolph was always on camera, not so much the rest of us - whew! Unless the meeting was held in executive session, any NAP member could attend, but unless requested by the President or the board, did not have speaking privileges. All the board did have that privilege, as did the Executive Director and the board parliamentarian. The board always had a technology advisor, who really saved us when there were issues - and our own OAP President Weston stepped in to help at one meeting and didn't miss a beat! The AdobeConnect program allowed the board full participation in the meeting by pushing any number of buttons - to hold up our hand to be called upon to talk, to write messages in a chat box, enter motions in the main frame and vote secretly, with the tally and percentage available concurrently.

I am so glad now that I did get elected. The experience was invaluable, and being a member of a terrific board - especially serving along side a great President - was exceptional! Word of advice? Try it!

UNIT REPORTS

Rose City Unit

Rose City Unit congratulates Keri Capen on passing the National Association of Parliamentarians membership exam!

We meet once per month, usually on the third Friday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., from September until May, with the exception of December when we hold a holiday party instead of a regular meeting. We meet in the Rose Garden conference room at Lloyd Corporate Plaza, 919 NE 19th Ave., in Portland. Guests are welcome to attend our meetings, but note that access to the building is restricted. If you do wish to attend, please let us know so that we can make sure you make it into the building.

Our next meeting is Friday, September 15th.

Jeff Weston, President

Mount Hood Unit

Our 2017/18 program continues our exploration of the *NAP Membership Study Guide* and *Roberts Rules in Brief*. The next meeting will be on September 14th, and the program continues with chapters 8 and 9 on Voting, Nominations and Elections.

MHU monthly meetings are at St Luke's Episcopal Church, 120 SW Towle Ave, Gresham, on the second Thursdays from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with dinner beforehand at 6:00 p.m. at Heidi's in Gresham. There are no meetings in the summer or in December.

Tad Davis, President

Tualatin Valley Unit

"Last year HOA-USA completed the nations only complete directory of 351,000 homeowner associations. Collectively, this represents over 40 million households or 53% of the owner occupied households in America. It also represents millions of volunteers that serve on association boards and committees. This is important since approximately 70% of all homeowner associations are completely managed by volunteers!" according to HOA-USA.com (ND).

When you buy a residence in the area of a homeowners association you must become a member. These organizations are incorporated; therefore, they are subject to state statutes that govern nonprofit organizations and bylaws. Often, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* is the organization's parliamentary authority. When disagreement occurs, one option is to request the services of a parliamentarian.

For the TV Unit, the inactivity of the summer months was brightened several days ago when the resident of a homeowners association in Hillsboro requested the services of a parliamentarian. Is this the beginning of an increased awareness that decision making using parliamentary procedure can bring benefits to membership-based organizations? Will the TV Unit gain provisional members who discover how quickly they learn that there are ways to bring order and meaning to the meeting experience?

TVU meets in Beaverton at Elmer's Restaurant, 1250 NW Waterhouse Ave, on the fourth Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., September through May.

Lauretta Slaughter, President

The next issue of
The Oregon Agenda
will be in October.

Deadline for articles is
October 14, 2017.

Email articles to [OAP Editor](#)

Next OAP Board Meeting

Saturday, October 14th
10:00 a.m.

Alice Bartelt's Home

WHAT CONSTITUTES NOTICE FOR A BYLAW AMENDMENT?

ALICE BARTELT, PRP, OAP VICE PRESIDENT

An organization has the following provision that must be met in order to amend its bylaws: No bylaw amendment may be brought to the floor unless notice has been given by the Rules Committee or by its proponents, either at a previous meeting, or by at least 45 days written notice to the members.

What would constitute sufficient notice of a proposed bylaw amendment? Many would think that the entire language of the proposed amendment must be provided to the members at the prior meeting or at least 45 days before the meeting. But, that is not what is required by RONR.

If previous notice is given at a meeting, it can be given orally, unless there is a rule that says that it must be in writing. Unless the rules require that the full text of the bylaw amendment be submitted in the notice, only the purport needs to be indicated; but such a statement of purport must be accurate and complete. This is important, because the notice will determine which amendments may be made when the motion is considered. The notice becomes invalid if the motion is amended beyond the scope of the notice that was given. (RONR, p. 122, ll. 19-29). For example, an announcement to raise dues to \$30 would require that any amount greater than \$30 would be outside of the scope of the notice, so could not be considered.

Ideally, notice of proposed bylaw amendments should be in writing, with the specific wording to be considered. But, is the following sufficient to provide notice? This was included in the minutes of the previous meeting: The Rules Committee Chair also reported that under consideration at the Rules Committee are three proposed by-laws changes. One is a proposal to change how standing committee chairs are elected; the second one addresses the question of when delegates take their seats and the third one changes the makeup of the Executive Committee by reducing the elected officials entitled to seats on the committee.

Is this enough for the proposed amendments? Is saying that changing how standing committee chairs are elected enough to indicate what the proposed amendment would say? Is saying that another one addresses when delegates take their seats enough to indicate that the date of the beginning of their terms is being considered, and when that would be? Is reporting that there is a request to reduce that number of a category of Executive Committee members enough to indicate what that number should be as an alternative to the current bylaws?

There are not any exact answers to these questions. These kinds of questions are ones that could arise when the amendments are considered by the membership. If a member objects to the lack of notice, it will be up to the chair and the membership to determine if they feel that they received sufficient notice. There is always the option of returning the proposed amendments to the Rules Committee. It would make sense to have exact wording sent to the membership 45 days before the next meeting. That kind of notice would certainly be a best practice.

(From the Desk of the President, continued from page 1)

-thirds vote, and thus a strong minority is able to protect their rights. We can see how one member can exercise their rights through raising a Point of Order or a Question of Privilege. We know that the rights of absentees are protected through rules like quorum and that changing an action requires a larger vote than what was necessary to take it in the first place.

I get the occasional question about why should a certain group use parliamentary procedure instead of something else. One possible answer is how *Robert's*

Rules ties all of these rights together on page lii: "The application of parliamentary law is the best method yet devised to enable assemblies of any size, with due regard for every member's opinion, to arrive at the general will on the maximum number of questions of varying complexity in a minimum amount of time and under all kinds of internal climate ranging from total harmony to hardened or impassioned division of opinion."

I look forward to seeing you all at our events in the coming months!

Jeff Weston, OAP President