

The Official Publication of the Oregon Association of Parliamentarians

Oregon Agenda



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FROM

**THE
DESK
OF
THE
PRESIDENT**



My president's message for our last publication listed my goals for the next year. This is an update as to how we are doing.

- Establishing a new unit around the needs of political parties.
- Providing training for our partner youth organizations for their parliamentary procedure competitive teams.
- Having a public workshop in conjunction with OAP's annual meeting in 2019.
- Assisting more of our members to gain their credentialed status.

In regard to establishing a new unit, progress is being made, mainly with the help of Larry Taylor. He is helping to establish an e-unit. There are already a number of people who are interested, but a unit must have five members to be established. I will be proctoring the membership test for a possible member of the e-unit. Thank you for your great work, Larry.

The Rose City Unit is helping a number of people take their registration examinations. None have achieved that status as yet, but several are close. Because there are very few PRP's in Oregon, all requests for parliamentarians to serve clients cannot be met. I look forward to having a greater number of registered members to provide needed services.

No progress has been made regarding working with our youth partners, but school has been out since

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Next OAP Board Meeting

Saturday, October 20th, 10:00 a.m.

at the home of Alice Bartelt

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/>

UNIT REPORTS

Rose City Unit

Members of the Rose City Unit have been enjoying a wonderful summer break while still staying active.

A few members continue to study and take portions of the Registered Parliamentarian Exam in the hopes of passing all five sections by November 2018. They will be meeting for dinner on Monday, August 13th at 7:00 p.m. to share experiences and brainstorm solutions using parliamentary procedure for their respective organizations. Everyone is welcome to join.

Please contact Tina Penman, Rose City Unit President, at penman.t@gmail.com if you wish to join or please RSVP on Meetup: <https://www.meetup.com/Oregon-Association-of-Parliamentarians/events/252600524/>

Tina Penman, President

Tualatin Valley Unit

As we use advances in communications technology more and more in our personal interactions, this has not been a means of rejuvenating interest in the Tualatin Valley Unit. We soon realize it is necessary for us to become familiar with these technologies to be able to use them when appropriate.

To energize the unit, we discussed ideas to increase our connection with other organizations. We ask to remain in the loop with other units in relationship to Meetup. In addition to phone calls to members who are unable to attend regular meetings, an August 2018 meeting is scheduled to include a member who is unable to attend regular monthly meetings.

We meet the fourth Tuesday, September through May, unless otherwise announced, at Beaverton Elmer's Restaurant. Dinner - 6:30 p.m.; Meeting - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

President Ethelwyn (Wyn) Bowler

Secretary Elizabeth (Beth) McQueston

Treasurer Shirley Holmes, RP-R

Lauretta Slaughter

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June. We are hoping to make contact with the various groups within the next few weeks.

Finally, I am seeking folks who would like to work on the public workshop in March. I need ideas and any help that I can get in finding speakers.

I am looking forward to a successful year for OAP.

Alice Bartelt, OAP President

YOUTH COMMITTEE SEEKS MEMBERS

Larry Taylor, Chairman

If you are interested in outreach to high schools and youth groups to help cultivate the next generation of parliamentarians, please join the Youth Committee.

As I work with people who are finding themselves disenfranchised because they are unfamiliar with parliamentary rules, I hear a common question: "Why wasn't I taught this in school?" I don't know the answer to the past, but we can work on fixing this for the future.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Youth Committee Chair Larry Taylor, at lawrence.d.taylor@gmail.com.

A NEW LOOK FOR THE OAP WEBSITE

LARRY TAYLOR, WEBMASTER

The web site for the Oregon Association of Parliamentarians has a new look. Jeff Weston and Larry Taylor worked with a professional web site developer to come up with a design that was inviting to non-parliamentarians, while continuing to serve the needs of the organization. The web site is located at <https://www.oregonap.org>.

In addition to the home page, the following pages were created:

- Find a parliamentarian
- Annual Meeting (which will be updated as the event is developed)
- Units - contact information for each of the units in Oregon
- Become a Member - guidance for those interested in joining
- Newsletters - links to the current and past issues of *The Oregon Agenda*
- Contact Us - links to contact information for officers and committee chairs

The web site is hosted by Squarespace, a state-of-the-art website maintenance tool, which allows for the website to be easily updated and changed.

If you have pictures or videos of NAP and OAP events, please send them to us. Images are a great way to convey what parliamentarians are and do.

Your feedback on how to make the web site better and more useful would be most appreciated. The new site should be seen as a beginning rather than the end.

Please send your ideas to the Web Site Committee by selecting the button at the bottom of the "CONTACT US" page labeled "LET US KNOW".

Deadline for articles in the October issue of *The Oregon Agenda* is October 6, 2018.

Email articles to [OAP Editor](#)

WHAT IS A PARLIAMENTARIAN?

ALICE BARTELT PRP, OAP PRESIDENT

The parliamentarian is a consultant, commonly a professional, who advises the president and other officers, committees, and members on matters of parliamentary procedure. The parliamentarian's role during a meeting is purely an advisory and consultative one—since parliamentary law gives to the chair alone the power to rule on questions of order or to answer parliamentary inquiries. [RONR, p. 465, l. 10-16]. A parliamentarian's duties may vary depending upon the organization that is being served.

When a parliamentarian is needed, the president should be free to appoint a person in whom they have confidence. If a parliamentarian is needed only for one meeting, such as a convention, the appointment should be as early as possible. In such a case the parliamentarian needs to review all of the governing documents, minutes of the prior convention, and any other documents that would assist them in performing their duties.

The president, knowing in advance the business to come before the assembly, should confer with the parliamentarian before the meetings open, and during recesses, in order to anticipate any problems that may arise and to avoid, as much as possible, frequent consultation during the meetings. There is no set rule for the number of additional functions a parliamentarian may be asked to perform as a permanent appointee, such as teaching classes, holding office hours during conventions, and the like. [RONR p. 466, l. 3-12].

During a meeting the work of the parliamentarian should be limited to giving advice to the chair and, when requested, to any other member. It is also the duty of the parliamentarian—as inconspicuously as possible—to call the attention of the chair to any error in the proceedings that may affect the substantive rights of any member or may otherwise do harm. There should be an understanding between the

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parliamentarian and the presiding officer that there will probably be occasions when it may be essential for the chair to listen to suggestions being made by the parliamentarian, even if it means momentarily not giving full attention to others or asking the assembly to stand at ease during the consultation (see p. 82; p. 250, ll. 2–5). This practice will enable the chair to be in a position to act promptly at the correct time and be fully informed. In advising the chair, the parliamentarian should not wait until asked for advice—that may be too late. An experienced parliamentarian will often see a problem developing and be able to head it off with a few words to the

chair. [RONR, p. 466, l. 13-30]. After the parliamentarian has expressed an opinion on a point, the chair has the duty to make the final ruling and, in doing so, has the right to follow the advice of the parliamentarian or to disregard it. [RONR, p. 467, l. 1-4].

A member of an assembly who acts as its parliamentarian has the same duty as the presiding officer to maintain a position of impartiality, and therefore does not make motions, participate in debate, or vote on any question except in the case of a ballot vote. He does not cast a deciding vote, even if his vote would affect the result, since that would interfere with the chair's prerogative of doing so. [RONR, p. 467, l. 8-14].



We must never stop learning.

Regardless of age or years of experience, there's always something new to learn. That's why you need to be at NAP's Training Conference, September 7-9, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Buffalo, New York. Immerse yourself for a weekend in parliamentary procedure set against the backdrop of Buffalo's historical charm. There will be more than 30 interactive workshops from which to choose. They will be organized in four tracks:

Parliamentary Toolbox: Tips & Tricks
Technology

Professional Presiding
Parliamentary Potpourri

Our skilled presenters, some who you may have seen before and some new faces, will share their parliamentary expertise over two and a half days. Whether you are a beginner or an established professional, there will be workshops just right for you. There's always something new to learn.

Of course, all work and no play makes for a very boring time. Make sure you take time to explore Buffalo. No trip to Buffalo is complete without visiting the marvelous, picturesque Niagara Falls.

Plus there's so much more. Don't miss out, make your plans to attend now.

