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PRESIDENT

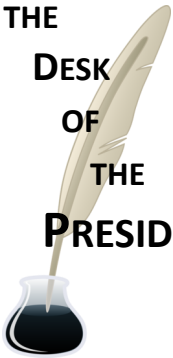
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FROM

**THE
DESK
OF
THE
PRESIDENT**



CODE OF ETHICS APPLIES TO EVERY NAP MEMBER

I just completed the Ethics module of the Parliamentarian Recertification Course. An important provision of our ethics code is not something that many NAP members think about, but a Code of Ethics exists and applies to every member, regardless of whether they are credentialed. The Preamble states:

The National Association of Parliamentarians® and the American Institute of Parliamentarians® join together in approving and supporting this Joint Code of Ethics on behalf of the entire parliamentary profession. Members of both organizations recognize the supreme importance

of respect for equal justice, the pursuit of truth, and the nurture of democratic principles. We regard as essential to these goals the protection of freedom of speech and the guarantee of equal opportunity through the use of parliamentary law. As guardians of parliamentary procedure, we play a vital role in the preservation of a democratic society. A consequent obligation is to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct. Therefore, we must find within our own conscience the touchstone against which to test the extent to which our actions should rise above these established minimum standards.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised also speaks to behavior of members outside of meetings:

§61. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

In most societies it is understood that members are required to be of honorable character and reputation, and certain types of associations may have particular codes of ethics to enforce. Although ordinary societies seldom have occasion to discipline members, an organization

(Continued on page 2)

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/>

(President's message, continued from page 1)

or assembly has the ultimate right to make and enforce its own rules, and to require that its members refrain from conduct injurious to the organization or its purposes. No one should be allowed to remain a member if his retention will do this kind of harm.

Punishments that a society can impose generally fall under the headings of censure, fine (if authorized in the bylaws), suspension, or expulsion. The extreme penalty that an organization or society can impose on a member is expulsion.

If there is an article on discipline in the bylaws (p. 583, ll. 6–11), it may specify a number of offenses outside meetings for which these penalties can be imposed on a member of the organization. Frequently, such an article provides for their imposition on any member found guilty of conduct described, for example, as "tending to injure the good name of the organization, disturb its well-being, or hamper it in its work." In any society, behavior of this nature is a serious offense properly subject to disciplinary action, whether the bylaws make mention of it or not.

Formal disciplinary procedures should generally be

regarded as a drastic step reserved for serious situations or those potentially so. When it appears that such measures may become necessary, proper and tactful handling of the case is of prime importance. It is usually in the best interests of the organization first to make every effort to obtain a satisfactory solution of the matter quietly and informally. RONR, p. 643-644.

All of this means that members of NAP have an obligation to act ethically as members of any organization.

The Code of Ethics for NAP has two items that particularly apply to members of organizations outside of NAP who are also members of NAP or AIP. One provision is aspirational. A parliamentarian shall:
1.5 Conduct oneself so as to reflect credit on the profession and inspire the confidence, respect, and trust of clients and the public. The other provision is regulatory. A parliamentarian shall:

2.1 Refrain from misrepresentation or other conduct that may reflect adversely on the profession.

All of this is to say that as parliamentarians, we have a higher duty of acting ethically regardless of which organization that a member may be dealing with.

Alice Bartelt, OAP President

UNIT REPORTS

Cascadia eUnit

Member Sarah Spansail passed her NAP exam, becoming Cascadia's most recent full member. Sarah is an alternate delegate to the Rules Committee of the Democratic Party of Oregon, and serves as vice chair of the Jackson County Democrats.

The Cascadia eUnit met continuously through the summer. The past two educational programs were on discipline and debate rules. The October educational program will be on bylaws, and the November program will be on motion types.

Larry Taylor, President

NOTICE OF OAP BYLAW CHANGES DUE DATE

BY PATRICIA GETCHELL, PRP-R,
OAP BYLAWS/PROCEDURE CHAIR

Per OAP Bylaws Article XIII: Amendments, amendments to the OAP bylaws must be submitted to the bylaws/procedure manual committee chair no later than November 30.

Please submit to Patricia Getchell, PRP-R, OAP Bylaws/ Procedure Chair any bylaw or procedure manual changes to me at pagetchell@centurylink.net or 92336 Simonsen Rd., Astoria OR 97103. You can call me at 503-458-5445 if you have any questions.

Deadline for articles in the next issue of *The Oregon Agenda* is February 1, 2020.

Email articles to [OAP Editor](#)