A few weeks short weeks ago my family and I celebrated Thanksgiving, one of my favorite holidays. Soon it will be 2018. I ask myself, "what have you done in 2017?" Like many, I fuss, complain, and carry on unnecessarily at times about life in general, and matters beyond my control. No matter what, I am thankful for family and friends, the country in which we live, the many men and women who have fought for the freedoms we enjoy, and ancestors who kept hope alive and never gave up.

With all the political chaos and universal madness surrounding us, it becomes difficult at times to be positive. People seem to be more anxious, stressed, frizzled and exasperated than ever. Recently the Senate burned the midnight oil and without debate passed its version of a tax bill. Many Senators did not have the opportunity to read or analyze the bill and did not know for what they were voting. Further, amendments were hand-written in the margins. The writing was illegible and words omitted, and in some instances hand-written edits were cut off on pages that were photocopied. The amendments received no serious scrutiny.

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, Independent, Socialist, social liberal, fiscal conservative, or confused, put politics aside. The process for adopting changes and participating in meetings are different under Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, (RONR), 11th Edition. I am thankful. RONR provides an organized system to accomplish the work for which people meet, and in the best possible manner. There are no politics, or left or right position. Even hostile amendments are considered as long as they are germane to the main motion. Every member has rights that are equal to every other member. Each proposition is entitled to full and free debate. The will of the majority is carried out, while preserving the rights of the minority. The chair is the servant of the assembly, not its master, and can only exercise those powers the assembly allows or as provided by the bylaws.

In Parliamentary Law, Centennial Edition, page 4, Henry M. Robert states in pertinent part: "The great lesson for democracies to learn is for the majority to give to the minority a full, free opportunity to present their side of the case, and then for the minority, having failed to win a majority to their views, gracefully to submit and to recognize the action as that of the entire organization, and cheerfully to assist in a carrying it out, until they can secure its repeal."
Organizations exist to fulfill a mission. Under RONR, an organization in which all members are able to disagree with one another, and present points of view without fear, disrespect or intimidation, is better able to achieve its objective and mission.

As you prepare for the coming New Year, take time to pause, appreciate, and reflect deeply on the meaningful things in your life and how you can make the world better. Whether you celebrate Chanukah (Hanukkah), the winter solstice, the Christmas holidays, Kwanzaa, or relax during this special season, enjoy life. Focus on love, peace and goodwill, and in the words of Mary Stewart (The Collect), "And, oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind!"

Happy Holidays.

GIVE ME A BREAK!
DONALD GARRETT, PRP

Have you ever been part of a meeting that just dragged on and on without a break in sight? Fear not! Robert’s Rules of Order has the solution for you. The motion to recess is a motion that creates an intermission in the meeting for you. It can be made independently during the course of a meeting or when an item of business is pending and requires a majority vote.

To make the motion, the mover should seek recognition from the presiding officer and state, “I move to recess [for x minutes, until 2 p.m., etc.]” If the motion to recess is made while business is pending, it is not debatable; however, if it is made while no business is pending, the opposite is true. In either situation, the motion is amendable so another member could offer an alternative.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, December 14, 2017
NOVAMAGS Meeting
2pm-4pm
Richard Byrd Library
7250 Commerce St
Springfield, VA 22150

Saturday, December 16, 2017
NOVAMAGS Holiday Dinner
6pm
Bonefish Grill
5920 Kingstowne Center
Alexandria, VA 22315

Thursday, January 11, 2017
NOVAMAGS Meeting
2pm-4pm
Richard Byrd Library
7250 Commerce St
Springfield, VA 22150

Thursday, February 8, 2018
NOVAMAGS Meeting
2pm-4pm
Richard Byrd Library
7250 Commerce St
Springfield, VA 22150

September 7-9, 2018
2017 NAP National Training Conference
Hyatt Regency
Buffalo, NY

At each NOVAMAGS meeting we include a study period of questions for the Registered Parliamentarian examination.

NEWSLETTER ATTACHMENTS

- National/State NAP membership dues letter from the NAP Executive Director
- Flyer for the NOVAMAGS Holiday Party
Dear Donald

It's hard to believe, but another year is quickly coming to an end, and so is your NAP membership. We want to thank you for your continued support over the past year. Members like you are the lifeblood of this association and your contributions - membership, donations, and participation - help make NAP a stronger organization.

Before you get wrapped up in the holidays, please take a few minutes and renew your membership today. It's easy: you can renew online, by phone, or by mail. Renew by December 31 to be entered into a drawing to win exciting new NAP merchandise (watch your inbox for more details).

Be sure to review the information on your invoice and make any changes needed. We also ask that you consider rounding up your national dues and donate the difference to the Henry M. Robert III Fund. Whether it's $6 or $100, every little bit helps NAP better serve you.

How to Renew Online

2. Log in and click on "My Transactions"
3. Click on "Pay Open Orders," check the box next to the dues order; click "Next"
4. Click "Next" on the Affiliated Membership Page, as you do NOT need to select anything. Your affiliated membership (aka state membership) is already included in your dues order.
5. Enter the amount you wish to donate to the Henry M. Robert III Fund and NAP Educational Foundation. Remember your donations are tax deductible.
6. Enter your credit card information (we accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover)
7. You will receive a confirmation in the email.

You may also call us at (816) 833-3892 or (888) 627-2929 (toll free) and renew over the phone using your credit card. Paper invoices are in the mail and will be receiving them soon if you prefer to pay by mail or fax.

Thank you!
Cyndy (Cyndy) Launchbaugh
Executive Director

National Association of Parliamentarians®, 213 South Main Street, Independence, MO 64050
You Are Invited!!

Celebrate the Holidays With the Northern Virginia Marching and Gavel Society (NOVAMAGS)

When: December 16, 2017

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: Bonefish Grill
5920 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria, VA 22315
Telephone: 703.971.3202

RSVP by Monday, December 14, 2017 with
Beatrice Squire
Email: Knight757@msn.com
or
Donald Garrett
Email: donaldigarrett@gmail.com