



# The Virginia Gavelletter

## President's Corner

Happy New Year to each of you!! It is your President's wish that you are enjoying the holidays by spending precious time with family and friends. I really hope that Santa brought you all the special gifts you desired and lots of "Love." As we approach the New Year with such zeal to promote the NAP vision and much enthusiasm to share proper parliamentary procedure with members and others, let us focus on adding new members for our units/club, VSAP and NAP. We can do this easily through parliamentary activity, community workshops, educational programs and seminars. Your president hopes all your challenges will be met and your endeavors will be achieved in 2018.



## Historical Profiles

Have you ever let your thoughts wonder back to the year 1951? Some of us may have been in elementary or middle school, while others may not have been born. It was in 1951 when Kellogg's introduced Sugar Corn Pops Cereal, the average cost of

a new house was \$9,000 , the average wage per year was \$3,510, cost of a gallon of gas was 19 cents, average cost of a

new car was \$1,500 , while a

Volume 59 Issue 3 12 2017

Editor-in-chief: President Margie R. Booker, PRP

Editor: Gladys Jordan

Staff: Vivian Minor, CAP and Dorothy Fuller

loaf of bread was 16 cents and eggs per dozen were 24 cents. The Twenty-second Amendment of the United States Constitution was ratified which limits US presidential term of office to 8 years (two terms). It was also the same year that NAP issued a charter to the **Virginia Peninsula Unit of Parliamentarians.**



Let's take a look at the rich 1951 history of this unit.

## History of Virginia Peninsula Unit of Parliamentarians.

Submitted by Yulanda Humphrey, President

The Peninsula Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians has a proud history. Formed in the late 1940's, most of the members were also members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, fondly known as the DAR. These ladies were also part of the Peninsula's upper crust of society, their husbands well known attorneys, physicians and business owners. The group began to grow with the aid of Mrs. Virgilia Funk of NAP. She encouraged ladies from the General Federation of Women's Club to become knowledgeable in parliamentary procedures and thus Peninsula Unit began to grow.

Not only as a Unit, but also in forming the VSAP as many of the ladies became officers in the state organization. Peninsula Unit continued to grow through its encouragement of sharing the knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised with younger members of their own organizations and to the public. As the ladies of the DAR faded in their involvement, Women's Clubs, Military Wives Organizations, hospital auxiliary members were represented in the Unit. Pastors from local churches became involved and that prompted the "*People At Cocktail Parties Look Pretty Lively*" motions reminder to be changed to "*People At Church Picnics Look Pretty Lively*" to accommodate the non-drinkers in the group.

And again the Unit make-up has undergone change as educational workshops have promoted the study of Roberts and we have garnered new members from civic groups, leisure groups, alumni and occupational groups as well as the Pan Hellenic community from local colleges. Their involvement in our Unit ensures that there are future leaders to VSAP. We are proud of our legacy in our Unit and to VSAP and NAP and look forward to continued growth and understanding, thanks to those who realized the important role it plays in our life and the organizations that we belong to and serve.

Many thanks to Mrs. Millie Brown, PRP, retired, for her help in the writing of this article. Her knowledge of VSAP and Peninsula Unit and their formations were invaluable.



**The Chesapeake Unit of Parliamentarians (CUP)** was also selected this quarter to tell VSAP members about its rich history



Tony Riley, Steve Byrum, Martha Rollins, Mitzie Wright and Barbara Carraway

**The Story of the Chesapeake Unit**  
Submitted by Martha Rollins, President

At the outset of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the landscape for the study of parliamentary procedure was about to change in Southeastern Virginia. Two venerable units were scaling down activities because members and officers were scaling down. The Golden Gavel Unit was going strong with a roster of some thirty folks, meeting twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesdays at Thalia Lynn Baptist Church on Virginia Beach Boulevard, just east of the developing commercial center of Virginia Beach, and next door to Princess Anne High School—not that the students ever went to the meetings. Annual seminars were highlights. Programs were strong. Planning went beyond food for thought. For seminar lunches members simmered two choices of homemade soup to go with the sandwiches and choices of homemade bread and rolls. Sometimes college-aged children

of members participated when the event occurred during Spring Break. Members came from the Eastern Shore; members came from the Peninsula and as far as Toano; and members came from the heart of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and Chesapeake.

A team of regulars from the Golden Gavel Unit who lived in Chesapeake, the most southern part of the unit's reach, Roland Seel and Robert J. Adams, known as "Rollie" and "R.J.," and Michael Wagner-Diggs, the traveler from distant western countryside of Toano, decided to break the rhythm of the Golden Gavel meetings and to start a new unit in Chesapeake. The new energy in Chesapeake and the population growth in the southern geographic sector justified a new unit. The Clerk of the City of Chesapeake consistently fostered training opportunities for constructive meetings for the many boards and commissions of the City in addition to her duties supporting the meetings of the City Council itself. In the fall of 2003, letters went out over the signature of Rollie Seel inviting potential members to form a new parliamentary unit. The first meetings took place in the conference room of City Clerk Dolores Moore on the sixth floor of Chesapeake City Hall. The City Clerk from Newport News, Bea Berry, switched her membership from the Newport News Unit to help the new group get started. Other members of Golden Gavel who lived in Newport News, Ray and Barbara Duke, attended also and found that it was easier to drive to Chesapeake than to Virginia Beach. The new group selected the first and third Monday evenings for meetings.

The National Association of Parliamentarians issued a charter establishing the unit on April 13, 2004, with five members of the National Association of Parliamentarians named as members. The five members were Robert J. Adams, Bernice I. Berry, Ruby Roberts, Roland Seel, and Michael Wagner-Diggs. The first officers were Rollie Seal, President, and R. J. Adams, Secretary-Treasurer. Five members of the national association were required then, and are required now, as the minimum number of members to constitute an active unit. Reportedly, the emergence of a new unit surprised the annual convention of the state association when the association met that Spring and voted to approve the new unit.

At the annual meeting of the Chesapeake Unit on November 6 this year, the program focused on the requirements for a mass meeting and the organization of a society. Members discussed the early days of the unit. Only one charter member remains active with the unit: Michael Wagner-Diggs. Members quizzed Wagner-Diggs about who did what when to form the unit. The party favor for participants was a copy of a handout on mass meetings. The handout was prepared by state association member Donald Garrett who presented a workshop on types of deliberative meetings at the 2017 National Convention in suburban Chicago in September.

Over the years Wagner-Diggs has been very active as a parliamentarian, earning all certifications that NAP offers and teaching others at every level. For a few years in the 2000's, Wagner-Diggs and another active

Registered Parliamentarian, Karen Papasodora-Cochrane, traded the offices of President and Vice President, and the opportunities to present the monthly lessons for the unit. City Clerk Dolores Moore was Secretary and routinely sent the monthly lesson topic—*Speaker's Choice!* Wagner-Diggs also served as state president and later as district director, a position that placed him on the national board. Since 2012 the unit has relied on Wagner-Diggs to present the program at its annual community outreach event, sharing the leadership with the late Kenn Carraway after Carraway attained the credential of Registered Parliamentarian.

Another charter member, Ruby Roberts, was reached at her home in South Carolina. At heart, Roberts remains true to the traditions of the Golden Gavel Unit. Roberts and her late husband, J. Doug Roberts, founded the Golden Gavel Unit, along with other professional, and now lifetime, friends. One was Peggy Moss who served as parliamentarian of a credit union for federal employees. Others were allies in the feminine branch of the Toastmasters organization. Roberts supported the effort to spin off a sector of Golden Gavel membership. The geographic area, she said, could support another unit and probably more than one. If the new leadership in Chesapeake needed her membership to establish the unit, she would help. She became a charter member of the Chesapeake Unit. Her name, however, appears today on the roster of the Golden Gavel Unit.

One of the high points of the life of the Chesapeake Unit occurred when the unit

hosted the state convention in 2013. Wagner-Diggs was president of the state association. The unit president was Frank Guthrie, the study partner of Kenn Carraway, when both committed to earning their credentials as Registered Parliamentarians. Guthrie needed the credential to serve as national parliamentarian for a community organization; and Carraway, the unit vice president, was ready to serve as state parliamentarian for a governmental association. The immediate past president of the unit was Martha Rollins, also a former member and former President of Golden Gavel: she was enlisted as Convention Chair. The Honorable Barbara Carraway, the Treasurer of the City of Chesapeake and not incidentally the treasurer of the unit, handled arrangements. A newer member, Vicki Speziale, organized and published the convention workbook. In the opening ceremonies, Kenn Carraway sang our national patriotic hymn, *America*, in pure tenor voice *a cappella*. Chesapeake Mayor Alan P. Krasnoff—"the P is for Parliamentary"—delivered the keynote in a rousing rally for the value of parliamentary practice—orderly, fair, decision-making, without every civic meeting extending into the wee hours of the morning. The official NAP guests at the convention, Jim Jones and Darlene Allen, elected in September 2017 as the national president and vice president, remember the Mayor's keynote well. They treasure it as much as the local unit does. Allen has said that she wishes that we had the speech on video to share with everyone forever.

The Chesapeake Unit has a new royal blue banner featuring the ship's wheel constructed with spokes of gavels. Students formed study groups in parliamentary law month in 2017 at Chesapeake City Hall on the Wednesday lunch hour and at Norfolk Fitness Center on Wednesday after work. In October and November, the unit offered two Saturdays of basic study for the membership test. As a result, the unit has more than doubled its number of parliamentarians in the National Association of Parliamentarians. Please *LIKE US* on our Facebook page!



Barbara Carraway, Martha Rollins, Mitzie Wright, Tony Riley, Sandy Madison and Mayor Alan P. Krasnoff

Thanks to Beatrice Squire, President Northern Virginia Marching and Gavel Society Unit (NOVAMAGS) for suggesting that a unit or club be highlighted in the Gaveletter.



### **NAP Educational Foundation**

When the meaning of a bylaw is clear, the society cannot change that meaning except:

- A. by a unanimous vote.
- B. by a nine-tenths vote.
- C. by amending its bylaws.
- D. by a two-thirds vote.

See page 6 for the correct answer



### **Membership News**

A special thanks goes to Donald Garrett, PRP, Informational Technology Chairman, VSAP now has added the listserve to our technology contacts. If you desire to send announcements to all VSAP members or share information about your program, please contact Donald Garrett, PRP. The website address is

<http://www.virginiaparliamentarians.org>

Please feel free to send your comments, suggestions and ideas.

Catherine Whittman Unit  
Muriel Laliberte, President

Free Workshop – *Make Your Meetings Great!!* Sponsored in Celebration of Parliamentary Law Day on Saturday, November 18, 2017.



**Grant Funds are still available....Don't get left behind ...see below:**

The following unit and club have been added to the list for receiving "Grow Your Own" Grant funds for their programs this year.

- (1) Virginia Dalton and Eloise Engledove Richmond (VDEER) Unit
- (2) Parliamentary Law Club of Richmond

Chesapeake Unit of Parliamentarians  
Catherine Wittman Unit

Northern Virginia Marching and Gavel Society Unit (NOVAMAGS)

Remember: Your unit/club may receive up to \$350 for 2017-18 fiscal years. Guidelines are included in previous Gaveletters shown on the VSAP website.

***Congratulations!***

NAP Committees  
Professional Development Committee:  
Cynthia R. Mayo, PhD., PRP

Association Relations-sub (MERC)  
Lynda J. Baer, PRP

**Announcements**

Presidents: Please encourage your NAP members to pay their dues as soon as possible.

Please submit your list of 2017-18 officers to me as soon as possible. We are currently working on the VSAP directory and we need all changes immediately.

***SAVE the Dates***

**VSAP Board of Directors Meeting**  
Saturday, February 24, 2018  
Place TBA

**61<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Virginia State Association of  
Parliamentarians Convention**

Friday, May 5-6, 2018  
Marriott Hotel  
740 Town center Drive  
Newport News, Virginia  
757 873-9299

**NAP Leadership Conference**

Thursday, September 7-9, 2018  
Hyatt Regency Buffalo  
Buffalo, New York

**NAP 42nd Biennial Convention**

Thursday, September 5-8, 2019  
Westgate Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, Nevada

NAP Educational Foundation  
Answer: C RONR (11<sup>th</sup> ed.), p. 588, ll. 26-28

