



# THE VIRGINIA GAVELETTER

## President's Corner



Your President wishes each of you a Safe, Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year as we come to the close of 2018. Let us look forward to new beginnings for VSAP utilizing our talents, skills and imaginative abilities to create ways for promoting masterful parliamentary procedure services throughout Virginia communities. We must strive to help schools, churches, public and private organizations to develop proper meeting management, which allows for more efficient and productive use of time and resources.

VSAP congratulates the newly installed officers of M. Stanly Ryan Unit of Parliamentarians. Your President had the honor of installing officers for the historic unit created by the legendary Mr. M. Stanley Ryan, who was a prominent author, instructor, lecturer and consultant of parliamentary procedure.



Left to Right – Second Vice-President James Carney, First Vice-President Rhiannon Liker, President Sala Powell and VSAP President Margie Booker, PRP. Not shown: Treasurer Aleatha Conway. Photograph by Sala Powell

Volume 60 Issue 3 December 31, 2018  
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## What's in a Name?

By: Beatrice Squire, Second Vice President, VSAP and NOVAMAGS President



William Shakespeare, English poet, playwright and actor, did not think that names should matter very much. In *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet says, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Many people would disagree with Shakespeare on how much a name matters. A name can represent or tell a lot about an organization.

The Northern Virginia Marching and Gavel Society Unit (commonly referred to as NOVAMAGS), was chartered in 1983. Several charter members were active in politics and civic activities. They supported the establishment of an organization where they could study parliamentary procedure and improve their parliamentary skills, and become more fluent, persuasive and articulate in meetings. In deciding upon a name, one of the charter member recalls that the group decided that the study of parliamentary procedure needed some "lightening up." They wanted a name that was a bit humorous and at the same time generate interest and not offend. They zeroed in on the gavel and what it

symbolizes, and considered the "parading" that sometimes go on in politics.

The name definitely set a tone and achieved something transformational. While the acronym NOVAMAGS provides no clue as to its product or service, when spoken in full the name is descriptive, has a visual vigor that sparks imagination, and creates a favorable first impression. The name is perceived well without negative emotion, and people want to know more about the organization. Admittedly, some are pleasantly surprised to learn that we do not march in formation or around tables during meetings.

NOVAMAGS is an acclaimed unit, with name and person recognition. Many NOVAMAG members have served at all levels of the National Association of Parliamentarians. The late Evelyn Kane, PRP, was a past District II Director and VSAP President. She attended all NAP Training Conferences and Conventions, and had the ability to solve problems in a non-confrontational way. Evelyn was widely known for hosting friendly and relaxing evening soirees, with assistance from the late Jean Mostrom, PRP, at conventions when the meeting had adjourned for the day. The late Gene P. Moore was a teacher in the Fairfax Public School system and served as treasurer extraordinaire under more than one VSAP administration.

Additionally, the late Babs Rasely, a charter member and PRP, enthusiastically embraced parliamentary procedure and had few equals when it came to being thoroughly familiar with the latest edition of RONR. She entered law school "late in life," successfully passed the bar exam, and had a thriving law practice. Jane Wood, RP (retired), was a member of the Virginia Senate and the Virginia House of Delegates, and in 2002 was appointed the Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Gene Moore and Jeff Greenfield served

several terms on the Fairfax City Council. Other NOVAMAGS members have made indelible marks in the community or other organizations with their knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Currently two NOVAMAGS members serve as VSAP officers.

In the annals of parliamentary procedure, NOVAMAGS goes beyond the ordinary. It has a stellar record of attending and participating in NAP activities at all levels. At the 1992 VSAP Convention, NOVAMAGS presented a parliamentary jeopardy workshop that was well received, and the traveling Jeopardy board was in demand. NOVAMAGS was the first or among the first NAP units to prepare study questions as part of its program at unit meetings. NOVAMAGS has presented numerous workshops on parliamentary procedure, and under contract on two occasions, presented workshops to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The humorous anecdote, "If you see a turtle on a fence post, he probably had help getting there," aptly applies to NOVAMAGS. NOVAMAGS has always had resounding support from experienced VSAP members, such as the late Paul Jacobi, PRP, the late Mary Barber, PRP and the late Jean Mostrom, PRP, all past VSAP Presidents, and T. Page Johnson, PRP, District II Director. They presented workshops, installed officers, and provided assistance to the fullest extent in numerous other ways.

People are vulnerable when they do not know what to do, and the risks can be enormous. Being outraged and paralyzed with fear does not solve problems. A knowledge of parliamentary procedure helps eliminates or minimizes chaos and anguish, and provides the opportunity to do the right thing. The name NOVAMAGS is powerful. The name is an identity marker, and in touch with reality. Parliamentary procedure is fun

and the unit's name helps to convey that idea.



## *District 2 Conference*

Members met at The Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia. There were twenty-seven registrants present. Educational programs included: “The Urban Legends of Parliamentary Procedure: Starting Off on the Right Foot” lead by Roger Hanshaw, NAP District 2 Director, and “The Parliamentary Procedure of Impeachment – A case study in the parliamentary procedure of constitutional crisis.” Mr. Jason Pizatella of Spilman, Thomas & Battle LLP lead this educational program. Members had an opportunity to preside during two sessions of, “Presiding Like a Pro,” *Facilitated Presiding Practice Exercise*.



Lynda Baer, PRP, First Vice President VSAP and President, Frederickburg Parliamentary Unit and Yulanda Humphreys, President Virginia Peninsula Unit of Parliamentarians

During the business session Cynthia Mayo, PhD, PRP, Immediate Past President of VSAP was elected as the new District 2 Director. District 2 covers the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia Cynthia will be installed

during NAP 42<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention, September 5-8, 2019 at the Westgate La Vegas in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Left to Right: Darlene Davis, Joyce Henderson, Margie Booker, PRP, VSAP President, Cynthia Mayo, PhD, PRP, Immediate Past President VSAP, Brenda Kelly Nelum

## *Membership News*

Your President reported in the September, 2018 Virginia Gavelette that VSAP was the **SECOND LARGEST ASSOCIATION** in NAP according to President Jim Jones, PRP, announcement in his “Presidential Year-In-Brief” report. As fate would have it, by the time we left Buffalo, New York for NAP-NTC in September to Hot Springs, Virginia District 2 Conference in November, VSAP had become the Third Largest Association. Virginia members let us move forward and regain our rightful place. The difference between the two states is five (5) members. Your President challenges you to work diligently to retrain current membership and strive to recruit new NAP members by the May, 2019 Roanoke convention. There will be prizes to the two units/club with the largest number of new NAP members added since May 1, 2018 per NAP’s April roster.



*Are you still looking for funds to support that workshop?*

We'll look no further... submit a proposal for a "Growing Our Own" workshop and/or "Presiding with Passion" session to promote NAP membership examinations in Virginia for Units/Club. Grant funds are available up to \$350.00. Email your proposal to:

**Margie R. Booker, PRP, VSAP President**  
[mrbooker@aol.com](mailto:mrbooker@aol.com)



### **NAP Educational Foundation**

If the regular presiding officer of an organized society fails to perform the duties of the chair properly in a meeting, a motion can be made to

- A. Declare the chair vacant.
- B. Declare the vice-president as the presiding officer.
- C. Suspend the rules and take away from him the authority to preside during all or part of a given session.
- D. Elect another member to serve as a temporary presiding officer.

(See bottom of page 4 for the correct answer)



### **SAVE the Dates**

#### **VSAP Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday, March 2, 2019

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Olive Garden

7113 W. Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23294

804 672-6220

#### **62nd Annual**

#### **Virginia State Association of Parliamentarians Convention**

May 4-5, 2019

Hilton Garden Inn

4500 South Peak Boulevard

Roanoke, VA 24018

#### **NAP 42nd Biennial Convention**

September 5-8, 2019

Westgate Las Vegas

Las Vegas, Nevada

### **Congratulations!**

#### **New NAP Members**

#### **August - October**

##### **Roanoke Valley Unit**

Marquitta Joyce

##### **MAL**

Dionne Bridgeforth

Michelle Carter-Bolden

Sonia Harris

Estelle Kendall

Shanecca Williams

#### **NAP Educational Foundation**

Answer: C

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