

THE VIRGINIA GAVELETTER

Volume 63, Number 1 July 2021



President's Message:

Now is an exciting time to be President of the Virginia State Association of Parliamentarians (VSAP). I am extremely honored, grateful, and excited, and will endeavor to uphold the high standards set by previous administrations. Thank you for your confidence and trust.

After more than a year of staying distanced to keep each other safe, the good news is that as we start a new VSAP year, brighter days are on the horizon. Despite the daunting and trying pandemic crisis that began in March 2020, the prior administration gallantly soared and we extend praises.

My commitment is to provide excellence in parliamentary procedure leadership in a warm, friendly and fun environment that meets members' needs and provides service to the community.

Among VSAP's tremendous assets are its brand and a connection between units/club. The Board of Directors is eager to begin work and is open to new ideas. Goals include:

- Retaining members
- Recruiting new members
- Increasing the number of RPs and PRPs
- Exploring new ways to attract younger members
- Working in partnership with youth and community organizations

I believe in dreams (out of dreams come ideas), harmony and togetherness. No one person can whistle a symphony; it takes an orchestra. Let's connect, celebrate, have fun, and enjoy the experience. To paraphrase Ralph Smedley, founder of Toastmasters International, people learn best in moments of enjoyment. The theme for the term is, "Dare to Dream, Believe, and Commit: Together in Harmony."

Beatrice



VSAP's Special Meeting of April 24, 2021

Highlights

With timely and proper notice that included everything VSAP wanted covered, a special meeting was held. The meeting balanced what would have been an annual convention. (VSAP's bylaws were recently amended to provide for electronic annual meetings.)

Installation Ceremony

Installing new officers is an important occasion with special significance. It is an integral part of VSAP's biennial "renewal" process. Leadership is passed from current officers to a new set of officers eager to build upon the Association's legacy and put their plans into action.

Darlene Allen, PRP, President of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP), was the installing officer. To some Ms. Allen is solely NAP President. To VSAP she is a long-time friend, mentor, supporter and champion.

Elected Officers

Beatrice Squire, RP, President
Donald Garrett, PRP, First Vice President
Cynthia Mayo, Ph.D., PRP, Second Vice president
Rhiannon Liker, Recording Secretary
Arlene Skinner, RP, Treasurer

Workshops.

Each workshop provided an opportunity to gain new knowledge, clarify information and enhance understanding of parliamentary procedure. The lineup:

“Bylaws: The Backbone of an Organization”
Presenter: Steve Berke, PRP
(VSAP will provide a copy of Mr. Berke’s handout upon request.)

“Have you ever played Mad Libs®?”
Presenter: David Mezzera, PRP
(No single-page handout, info on half pages, VSAP will provide copies of Mr. Mezzera’s attachments upon request.)

“Dispelling Parliamentary Myths”
Presenter: Tim Wynn, PRP
(Mr. Wynn’s presentation can be downloaded by clicking the following link: perfectrules.com/myths.)

Life-Time Achievement Award

VSAP presented its first Life Time Achievement Award to Raymond “Ray” H. Duke, PRP-R, posthumously. Mr. Duke passed in December 2020. He had a significant and wide-range impact on VSAP and many organizations.

Among Mr. Duke’s many activities were VSAP President from 2013-2015, and a chief architect of the “Grow Your Own” initiative, President of the Virginia Alpha Unit from 2009-2011, and Treasurer from 2012-2020, member of the Virginia Peninsula Unit more than ten years, and served as the unit’s President for two terms. During earlier years he was active in the Golden Gavel Unit and held office in every elective position.

Silent Gavel (Memorial Service)

The Silent Gavel service provides an opportunity for members to celebrate and pay tribute to the life of persons no longer with us and offers a sense of closure. The tributes were to Raymond “Ray” H. Duke, member, Virginia Peninsula Unit, and Shirley Mae Higgs, member, Parliamentary Law Club of Richmond. Gladys Jordan conducted the service.

Delegates to NAP Convention

Based on VSAP’s membership, 26 delegates were elected for the 2021 NAP’s Virtual Convention. (VSAP minutes of the April 24, 2021, meeting reflect the names of the individuals.)

Editor in Chief: Beatrice Squire, RP, President
Editor: Michael-Wagner-Diggs, PRP
Staff Member: Gladys W. Jordan

Other VSAP Matters

Not Applicable: Postpone Indefinitely or Lay on the Table

Sooner or later, it may happen to the best of us. Something does not get done because we were unaware it was due, forgot, put it aside, or procrastinated.

Bylaws

If NAP does not have a copy of your club/unit’s bylaws, provide a copy immediately. The date is past due.

Officers and Members

The VSAP Standing Rules, item 4, provide that by July 1, each unit/club is to provide a list of officers and members, with appropriate membership designation, full addresses and telephone numbers as well as dates of meetings to NAP Headquarters and to the elected and appointed Association officers.

Appointed Officers

Christopher Marston, Corresponding Secretary
Yulanda Humphrey, Historian
Michael Wagner-Diggs, PRP, *Gavelletter* Editor
Mary Loose DeViney, PRP, Parliamentarian

Standing Committee Chairman

Budget and Finance, Donald Garrett, PRP
Bylaws, Lawrence Williams
Education, Donald Garrett, PRP
Lifetime Achievement Award, Anne Dryden
Membership, Sala Powell-Dabney
Publicity/Public Relations, Marian Martin, PRP

Special Committees

Information Technology, Donald Garrett, PRP
Ways and Means, TBA
Youth Development, Cora Salzberg, PD., PRP

Save the Date

NAP 43rd Biennial Convention is
September 8-11, 2021