

THE VIRGINIA GAVELETTER

President's Message:

Beatrice Squire, PRP



Hooked on Parliamentary Procedure

Many of us are hooked on parliamentary procedure and nowhere was this more evident than the 2021 National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) Biennial Convention in September. It was the ingenuity of a virtual convention -- a moment in time that was groundbreaking and historic.

NAP has an immensely rich history and culture, and has never lost its intensity to inspire and sustain members and the community in the face of challenges, choices and changes. With combined talents and skills, a committed NAP staff, and the powerful forces of outstanding officers and committed chairs, NAP accelerated transformational change, and the convention was outstanding. With 883 registrants, it was the largest event NAP has ever held.

Despite so much uncertain news in the world today, nothing remains unchanged. The 2021 convention was an entirely new chapter in NAP's long history. Guidelines were implemented on voting, asking questions and conducting the meeting, while maintaining the fundamental principles of equity, and ensuring that justice prevailed, and it did. The power of the convention remained in the hands of the

members -- all having equal rights to make motions, speak in debate and vote. It was really powerful to see so many members using their voices to speak for or against a motion, ask questions, and let their opinions be known. The rules of debate were enforced with tact, civility and respect, without teeth grinding, ugly looks, interruptions or drowning out the speaker in a loud voice. The President presided impartially, and remained calm, courteous, and firm while doing so.

NAP conventions always refresh my spirit, and this year was no exception, especially its unwavering commitment to effective meetings and excellent leadership. The principles embodied go a long way to create understanding and camaraderie among members. There is no threat to democracy in parliamentary procedure. The member is paramount.

Appreciation to all who worked so hard and put their shoulder to the plough for an unforgettable and successful moment in time.

Let's continue to work together to ensure and protect the rights of everyone, as we "Dare to Dream, Believe, and Execute: Together in Harmony."

Inappropriate: Postpone to a Certain Time or Lay on the Table

Time is nigh. A motion was adopted at the October VSAP Board meeting that all vouchers for partial reimbursement for delegates attending the 43rd NAP Convention must be submitted by close of business, Monday, November 29, 2021.

If you have not submitted your voucher or have questions, contact Arlene Skinner, RP, VSAP Treasurer. She may be contacted at skinnera@verizon.net

To Be Or Not To Be: In-Person 2022 VSAP Convention

The Hampton Roads area is in full swing: A cordial welcome is ready to greet you, flags are ready to be flown, and balloons released.

Although no decision has been made whether the convention will be virtual or in-person and whether held in April or May, plans are being made and venues investigated. At the October VSAP board meeting, the following motion was adopted: "State and local health and safety orders and regulations permitting, VSAP will hold an in-person convention in 2022 at the location that would be normal rotation, e.g., Hampton Roads."

Donald Garrett, First Vice President, PRP, and Martha Rollins, PRP, Chesapeake Unit, will provide further information.

VSAP Bylaw Amendments

A new year is fast approaching. Article XIV, Section 1, of the VSAP Bylaws provides that proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Bylaws Committee prior to January 1. If you have questions, contact Lawrence Williams, Bylaws Chair.

Lifetime Achievement Award:

VSAP's prestigious and distinguish award is its Lifetime Achievement Award. Do you know individuals you think are deserving of this meritorious award or would you like to know more about the criteria? Stay tuned for additional information from Anne Dryden, chair of the committee.

Committee Volunteers Needed

Your talents and time are investments in VSAP's programs, services, and initiatives. If you are not serving on a committee, consider volunteering for one. Flint Lewis, RP and President of the Catherine Wittman Unit, and Marquitta Joyce, President of the Roanoke Valley Unit, recently agreed to serve as vice chairs of Ways and Means.

Do you like to teach or present workshops? There is a spot for your expertise. Dr. Cora Salzberg, PRP, Chair of the Youth Committee, is seeking at least two additional members, preferably members with experience writing proposals and budgeting.



Share the News

Have you told someone recently about VSAP? Become an ambassador and share the word about our organization via social media and other means as to how we can help organizations have better and stronger meetings.



Events In And Around Town and Elsewhere

Much is happening within VSAP and NAP. Dr. Cynthia Mayo, PRP, a former VSAP President, is NAP District II Director. Expect to hear from her soon about the District's activities for 2022.

Units, State Associations and club publish their meeting dates on the NAP calendar. If your schedule permits, check out their meetings. Further, if you do not list your meeting dates on the NAP calendar, consider doing so.

NAP presents webinars and training on a periodic basis that are generally free to members. Correspondence from NAP is a great source for keeping informed.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues* It's Renewal Time!

December 31, 2021, is quickly approaching and it's time to renew your NAP membership. The VSAP dues are included with notice of the NAP dues. If you have not received an email from NAP, you should once the information is available online. You may contact NAP via the website: <https://www.parliamentarians.org> or telephone, Office: 816-833-3892, Toll Free: 888-627-2929



Sad News

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal;
love leaves a memory no one can steal."
(Anonymous)

It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of the following beloved members:

Betty F. Tunstall, PRP, passed on October 26, 2021. She served two two-year terms as Director of NAP District II. She joined the Sartwell Unit in 1976, which changed its name to the Sartwell-Tunstall Unit in 2014.

Dr. Debra Anne Henry, PRP, passed on July 15, 2021. She was a member of the Catherine Wittman Unit.

Lucy Wells, a member of Parliamentary Law Club of Richmond, passed on August 10, 2021

Sharon Worthy, a member of the Catherine Wittman Unit, passed on August 18, 2021.

Holiday Wishes

Whether you celebrate the 8 days of Hanukkah, the 12 days of Christmas, the 7 days of Kwanzaa or the winter solstice, best wishes for a very Happy Holiday season filled with peace and love, and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.



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