



The Virginia Gaveletter

President's Corner

Volume 59 Issue 4 March, 2018

Dear Members:

Is it truly amazing that it is spring already and it continues to snow, even near the end of March. Surely, you are ready for beautiful warm spring days. So why not spring into action now and make your way to Newport News for the 61st Annual VSAP Convention. Your president is looking forward to seeing each of you at the convention. The Peninsula Unit is working expeditiously preparing for this year's great convention. Don't forget to reserve your Marriott room by April 1, 2018 at the special rate. By all means mail your convention registration by April 6, 2018. Presidents please don't forget to send those unit/club annual reports and delegate form by April 6 as well.

Like many of you, your president was saddened to learn of the untimely death of our member and friend, LaVonne Parker Ellis. We will miss her presence dearly.



April is Parliamentary Law Month

What has your unit/club done lately to share parliamentary procedure with other organizations and the community? Perhaps this is a good month to simply promote your brand by planning a special event to introduce or enhance the usage of proper parliamentary procedure for others.

Editor-in-chief: President Margie R. Booker, PRP
Editor: Gladys Jordan
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On November 18, 2017, in celebration of Parliamentary Law Day, the Catherine Wittman Unit (Alexandria, Virginia) of the Virginia State Association of Parliamentarians hosted a workshop on parliamentary procedure. The title of the event was "Make Your

Meetings Great!" and focused on the fundamental principles outlined in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th ed.* The event was conducted at the Beatley Central Library in Alexandria, Virginia, and was well attended by more than 60 participants from the general public.

Many attendees were elected officers, committee chairmen, or appointed parliamentarians of various community and civic groups, and government entities, who expressed a desire for a better understanding and improved implementation of parliamentary procedure within their organizations. Other attendees were genuinely interested in learning the foundation of a structured meeting, and how to make their meetings more efficient.

The Keynote Speaker was Ms. Darlene T. Allen (PRP), Vice President of the National Association of Parliamentarians. Ms.

Allen's topic, "Everything Must Change: The Motion to Amend," was very well

received by both the attendees and the members of the Catherine Wittman Unit. The subject was thoroughly engaging and generated conversation on the ranking and handling of motions, amendments, debate, decorum, objections, and consent and approval.

The workshop also covered the following topic areas:

- Understanding Your Governing Documents
- Common Errors in Parliamentary Procedure
- When Your Question is Really an Answer: The Motion—Request for Information

The schedule of events included presentations by members of the Unit, a question and answer period, and concluded with a “fun facts” parliamentary quiz and door prizes.



The goal of the Law Day event was to instruct the audience on the fundamental principles of how an organization makes effective and efficient decisions while ensuring fairness to the minority while giving each member right to voice an opinion. The Catherine Wittman Unit believes that an educated assembly creates efficient rules for self-governance, and that

effective self-governance results in improved internal and external relationships and mutually beneficial practices. It hopes to offer similar workshops in the future.

Muriel Laliberte, President

Developing Effective Meetings for Leaders

On Saturday, March 10, 2018, the Parliamentary Law Club of Richmond, Virginia held a community-based workshop



on parliamentary procedure at Fifth Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The theme of the workshop was, “Developing Effective Meetings for Leaders.” It was funded with the “Growing Our Own Grant.”

The workshop presenters were Dr. Cynthia Mayo, PRP, immediate past president of VSAP and Mrs. Margie Booker, PRP, president of VSAP and member of PLC of Richmond.

Twenty-three of the twenty-five registered participants were present from a variety of community organizations. Representatives from many local churches, AARP, sororities, women groups, and groups focusing on children gathered to sharpen their parliamentary procedure skills.

Following a bountiful continental breakfast, time was allowed for a “getting to know you” phase. Participants were introduced to literature that is germane to successful meeting and given opportunities to win a copy of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th Edition*, a copy of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief*, and several authentic parliamentary note pads.



PLC President, Rev. Nancy Parker, gave an overview of the purpose of the workshop, the role of PLC to the community, and introduced the presenters for the day.

Both workshop presenters were motivating and informative in their interactive discussions that provided parliamentary procedure for effective meeting practices. Topics covered included: effective leadership in conducting meetings; proper handling of motions; and writing effective minutes. Participants were enthusiastic and had a thirst to learn more parliamentary procedure.



The workshop was a great success and the evaluation results indicated a high rating for its overall effectiveness. The incredible team work of the PLC members in implementing the job was accomplished in an excellent way.

Nancy Parker, PLC President

Membership Renewal

The 2018 membership renewal period has ended and 87% of NAP members renewed. Virginia had 90.16% of its members to renew. VSAP ranked 18 out of 44 association membership renewals as of March 12, 2018. Great job units and club!!

Did you know that NAP has announced that the association with the highest percentage of growth in membership as of December 31, 2018, will win a \$100.00 NAP Bookstore Gift Certificate? We can win this gift. So presidents and members, let’s start renewing, reinstating and inviting new persons to join the units and club now. Not only will VSAP benefit with membership growth and the \$100.00, but units, club and NAP benefit in meeting their membership goals.



Grant funds are still available with one month to complete the project....Consider doing a workshop for Parliamentary Law Month.

This month Fredericksburg Parliamentary Unit joined the unit/club list below for receiving "Growing Our Own" grant funds for programs this year:

Chesapeake Unit of Parliamentarians
Catherine Wittman Unit
Northern Virginia Marching and Gavel Society Unit (NOVAMAGS)
Virginia Dalton and Eloise Engledove Richmond (VDEER) Unit
Parliamentary Law Club of Richmond

Remember: Your unit/club may receive up to \$350 for 2017-18 fiscal years. Guidelines are included in Gaveletters for June and September, 2017. Go to the website at (<http://www.VirginiaParliamentarians.org>).



NAP Educational Foundation

The amount of dues, if stated in the bylaws, should generally be included in which article?

- A. Finances.
- B. Object.
- C. Executive Board.
- D. Members

(See page 4 for the correct answer)

Congratulations!

New credentials, New NAP members and New unit.

Catherine Wittman Unit

Debra Henry, MD, PRP
Kendra Riley, RP

Chesapeake Unit of Parliamentarians

Robert Grandon
Sandra Madison
Sunny Smith

Green Gavel Electronic

Ruth M. Anderson

SAVE the Dates

61st Annual Virginia State Association of Parliamentarians Convention

Saturday, 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: D
RONR (11th ed.), p. 571, ll. 27-29