

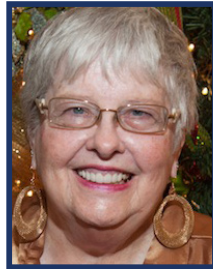
AIP Communicator

Spring 2019



GUEST PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Martha Womack Haun, Ph.D., PRP



Our publications have had a bit of a shuffle the last few months due to personal crises.

Health issues of the editor caused publication of the Parliamentary Journal to get a year behind. We've corrected that problem.

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Betsy Hilt at headquarters and I (as a former PJ editor from years ago) put three of the 2018 issues together. President Crews approved the content since some of the material was authored by me earlier in the summer. The Winter 2019 issue should be in your hands by now and Paul Lamb (a long-tenured former editor) put together a missing issue from 2018 (winter, I think as he explains in an editorial).

President Crews should be authoring this letter but has had her life more than filled with family crises that include the unexpected loss of her mother in Huntsville and responsibilities involving her sister who was in a serious auto accident. We all extend our condolences to her and look forward to the time when she can fully resume duties.

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for a contribution from Ted Weisgal's which provides an apt analogy of RONR as a Swiss Army knife! Thanks, Ted!!

Plan now for your attendance at the East Coast Practicum and our next annual meeting will be here before we know it! [see information elsewhere in this newsletter].

Hope everyone had a chance to celebrate the April 13, 1743, birthday of Thomas Jefferson! Find out how much your friends actually know about what his writings contributed to democracy!

Martha Womack Haun, Ph.D., PRP

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Additional information regarding dates and registration will be available on the AIP website at <http://www.aipparl.org> as they become available.

East Coast Practicum

May 31-June 2, 2019

Maritime Conference Center

Linthicum Heights, MD

Annual Session

July 25-27, 2019

The Centennial Hotel

Spokane, WA

West Coast Practicum

January 2020

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

529 Myatt Drive * Nashville, TN 37115

Tel: 888-664-0428 Fax: 615-530-1037

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Kay Allison Crews, CPP, PRP

president@aipparl.org

Vice President

Al Gage, CPP, PRP, PAP

vpresident@aipparl.org

Secretary

Robert M. Peskin, DDS

secretary@aipparl.org

Treasurer

Barbara J. Rosi, PRP

treasurer@aipparl.org

Directors

Lucy Hicks Anderson, JD, PRP

Director13@aipparl.org

Carolyn Hoxie

Director15@aipparl.org

Clyde Waggoner

Director14@aipparl.org

Atul Kapur, CP

Director11@aipparl.org

Ann Guiberson, PRP

Director05@aipparl.org

Mary Remson, CPP-T, PRP

Director03@aipparl.org

Jeanette Williams, CP-T, PRP

Director02@aipparl.org

The Hon. Daniel Ivey-Soto, CP-T, PRP

Director01@aipparl.org

Accrediting Director

E. Marie Wilson, CPP-T, PRP

accrediting@aipparl.org

Communications Director

Larry Cisar, Ph.D, CPP-T, RP

communications@aipparl.org

Education Director

Joe Theobald, PhD, CP-T, PRP

education@aipparl.org

Parliamentarian

Glen Hall, DDS, CP

parliamentarian@aipparl.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Audit

C.J. Cavin

audit@aipparl.org

Budget and Finance

Barbara J. Rosi, PRP

finance@aipparl.org

Bylaws and Standing Orders

Colette Collier Trohan, CPP-T, PRP

bylaws@aipparl.org

Ethics

Sarah E. Merkle, JD, CPP-T, PRP

ethics@aipparl.org

Member Services

Ann Guiberson, PRP

member@aipparl.org

Opinions

Michael Malamut, JD, CPP-T, PRP

opinions@aipparl.org

Youth Activities and Scholarship Committee

Al Gage, CPP, PRP

youth@aipparl.org

OTHER COMMITTEES & OFFICIALS

Annual Session Coordinator

Alison Wallis, JD, CP-T, PRP

annualsession@aipparl.org

East Coast Practicum

Mary L. Remson, CPP-T, PRP

EastCoast@aipparl.org

(General Coordinator)

Al Gage, CPP, PRP

EastCoast2@aipparl.org

(ECP Curriculum Director)

West Coast Practicum

Dollie McPartlin, CP-T, PRP

WestCoast@aipparl.org

(General Coordinator)

Mary L. Remson, CPP-T, PRP

WestCoast2@aipparl.org

(Curriculum Director)

Communicator Editor

Martha J. Haun, Ph.D, PRP

Communicator@aipparl.org

Parliamentary Journal Interim Editor

Martha J. Haun, Ph.D, PRP

pjeditor@aipparl.org

Deadline Dates for the “Communicator”

May 15, 2019

Summer Issue

August 15, 2019

Fall Issue

November 15, 2019

Winter Issue

Like a Swiss Army Knife

By Ted Weisgal

In the second half of the 19th century, two tools, Robert's Rules of Order and the Swiss Army Knife, were developed/invented. Robert's came first, in 1876. The Swiss Army knife came about 25 years later. They both have their uses, but the analogy is that while everyone seems to know what a Swiss Army Knife is, in an informal survey, 80 % of the people drew a blank when asked, "Do you know what Robert's Rules of Order is?"

When prompted, "You've seen it." "I move that." "I second it."

"All those in favor say aye." "Those opposed say 'no.'"

Then they get it. But this is a disservice to Robert's. Like the Swiss Army Knife, Robert's is a multifaceted tool. People don't understand that in their effort to drill down on the minutia that abounds in the document, authors of the 11th edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) may have done a disservice. Except in the Table of Contents, and one brief reference on page 394, it isn't until Chapter XX that readers discover, in this increasingly contentious society, that there is substantial attention devoted to Disciplinary Procedures. Knowing this early on, knowing that a possible trial lurks for perceived misdeeds, just might reduce acrimony in meetings.

In the case of a Swiss Army Knife, when you open the box, the tools are staring you in the face. That is not the case with RONR. Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Special Rules, while commendably appearing in the front of the book, on pages 12-18, are displayed erratically. In many sections of the book there is "form and example," but in the case of Bylaws/Constitution, only the nine elements are mentioned. Special Rules aren't set apart by a bold face header; Standing Rules are. In all three cases, there is no form and example.

When it comes to a critical element of a successful organization, the results of a committee meeting, the authors provide the reader with "FORM OF A DETAILED REPORT":

1. a description of the way in which the reporting body undertook its charge.
2. the facts uncovered or information obtained;
3. the findings or conclusion derived from the facts or information, and
4. resolutions or recommendations.

What's missing is an example. The words above, especially in number one, are too nebulous.

Perhaps this should have been mentioned earlier (organization here is a challenge, too), but for all the details related to a regular meeting or a meeting of a large board (Main, Subsidiary, Privileged, Incidental, and Motions that Bring A Motion Again Before the Assembly), RONR waits until pages 487-488 to identify the seven simple rules related to small board and committee meetings which is, fundamentally, where most organizational work begins.

If you are camping, there should be little debate. A Swiss Army Knife, especially the newest model, is the only tool of its kind you'll need. For the management of not just a meeting but an organization, regardless of its flaws, your parliamentary authority (usually) RONR is the tool for you.

Ted Weisgal is the co-author of Robert's Rules for Kids and Big Kids, A Guide to Teaching Children of All Ages the Basics of Parliamentary Procedure.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF AIP

Welcome new members of AIP through April 10, 2018. Be a supportive member and contact any who live near you.

Shaneesa Ashford
Atlanta GA

Scott Austin
4886 Ike Mooney Rd. NE
Silverton OR 97381

Joshua Beckman
4401 Conshohocken Ave #B15
Philadelphia PA 19131

Dayna Bischof
2 Chapel Hill Est
Saint Louis MO 63131

Richard Burrige
6410 Dublin Road
Harrisburg PA 17111

Patricia Casey
66 Franklin Street #215
Annapolis MD 21401

Joe Collins

Esther Coulson
506 W Berckman Street
Fruitland Park FL 34731

Tanya Crockett
New York NY

W. Mark Donald, DMD
90 N. Columbus Ave
Louisville MS 39339

Diana Duncan
924 New York Ave apt 1
Brooklyn NY 11203

Melody Eckardt

Lisa Egbert
790 W. Rahn Rd.
Dayton OH 45429

Thomas W. Gamba
2519 South 20th Street
Philadelphia PA 19145

Margaret Gingrich
106 Chestnut
Big Rapids MI 49307

Jollette Gowens
Las Vegas NV

Alan Healy
PO Box 296
Gobles MI 49055

Cindy Hinckley
5933 Birchill Rd
Watauga TX 76148

Bradford Holland
1121 Castle Bluff Cir
Waco TX 76712

Po-Yin Samuel Huang
2700 Cahuenga Blvd E #4109
Los Angeles CA 90068

Tal Hutchins
1613 Oxbow Dr
Blacklick OH 43004-9058

David Jackson
Huntington Station NY 11746

Gretchen Jahn
11347 Colony Circle
Broomfield CO 80021

Saniah Johnson
7715 Crittenden St #370
Philadelphia PA 19118

Demetri Kachafanas
320 Esplanade, Suite 401
Sydney NS B1P 7B9

Nicole Lawrence
Johnson City TN 37601

RAYMOND LAWRENCE
3293 cloudberry pl
Melbourne FL 32940

Peggy Lewis LeCompte
212 Bunker Hill Rd
Belleville IL 62221

Evan Lemoine
903 Providence PI #451
Providence RI 02903

Matthew Lewis
Saguaro Hall 221F #1110 E
South Campus Dr
Tucson AZ 85721

Baofeng Ma
844-A Blake St.
Indianapolis IN 46202

Timothy McBride
Eufaula AL 36027

Mark McClennan
14 Trafton Road
Framingham MA 01702

Brody McGuire
2473 S 155th Ln
Goodyear AZ 85338

Denisha McPherson
509 East 34th St
Brooklyn NY 11203

Catherine Milch
30 Elm St.
Dedham MA 02026

Cynthia Mills
7808 Chandler Road
Glenside PA 19038

Ellen Nobles-Harris
726 Loveville Road
Cottage 32
Hockessin DE 19707

CJ Parnell
20417 Aquasco Road
Aquasco MD 20608

Kenneth Pearson
8420 Baleek Point Ct.
Las Vegas NV 89123

Chad Reedy
981 W. South St.
Freeport IL 61032

Peter Renzland
701-710 Spadina Ave
Toronto ON M5S 2J3

Melvyn Ridgewell
Mississauga ON L5M 1V9

Federico Rivera - Llopiz
Contemporaneo A 25 Calle D
San Juan PR 00926

Jose A Rosado
Burien WA 98166

Jodie Sanders
4108 Eldridge St
Fort Worth TX 76107

George Schmidt
197 Ridgedale Ave #245
Cedar Knolls NJ 07930

William R. Schulke
4571 Woodbine Ave
Dayton OH

Gloria K Sharrar
PO Box 731
Powhatan VA 23139

MaryAnn Spicer
6001 Creston Avenue Unit 8
Des Moines IA 50321

Marcus Spiegel

Alicia Stukes
3907 Elite Street
Bowie MD 20716

Vicki Sweet
34334 Calle Naranja
Capistrano Beach CA 92624

Roger Sweets
1400 E. Hanna Ave.
Biology Department
Indianapolis IN 46227

Stefanie Tarr
419 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria IL 61602

Adam Thompson
1006 Gray Ridge Drive
Pike Road AL 36064

Pam Torell

Rob Tyree
2950 N Green Valley Pkwy
#1823
Henderson NV 89014

Brandon Walters
400 Cleveland Street
New Albany MS 38652

Vivian Walton-Small
972 E. 94th St.
Brooklyn NY 11236

Deborah Washington
1862 Beacon St. #3B
Brookline MA 02445

Ted Weisgal
12137 Stone West Drive
Houston TX 77035

David Whitaker
3333 Brookview Hills Blvd
Suite 107
Winston Salem NC 27103

Mary Wiggins
77 Boyden Avenue
Maplewood NJ 07040

Don Yasuda
4277 Patterson Dr
Diamond Springs CA 95619

Thank You For Your Contribution

Marie Lynn Diaz De Leon

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**AIP's generous members have made contributions to the funds of their choice:
Scholarship, Website, AIP Education Foundation or unrestricted donation.**

**We invite you to consider making one or more of these funds the recipient of your generosity.
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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

2019 EAST COAST PRACTICUM: THE CONTENTIOUS MEETING

MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2019, MARITIME CONFERENCE CENTER, LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MD

CAN THEY DO THAT?

A text was received notifying specific members of a proposed course of action. At the next meeting, several members are going to demand removal of the board of directors! A few members believe that the entire board of directors have mismanaged the organization's funds. This action, they believe will be a surprise, catching the board off guard will ensure success.

What can be done to prevent this possible contentious meeting? OR ...what can be done to ensure that however contentious the meeting, the will of the majority prevails?

2019 East Coast Practicum on Contentious Meetings is the place to be!

Register now and take advantage of the discounted cost available until May 10, 2019. AIP practicums presents instruction and practice on several levels. Students learn best with practice and the presiding sessions enhances the theory and instruction.

Curriculum Director Al Gage, CPP, PRP, PAP, is excited about the plans for this very interactive and informative practicum that you will not want to miss. The instructors are Colette Collier Trohan, MS, PRP, CPP-T; and Jesse Binnall, PRP, CPP-T, plus other guest presenters such as Kay Crews, PRP, CPP, are scheduled.

We will begin promptly at 9 am on Friday, May 31, and conclude around 3 pm on Sunday, June 2.

Download Registration and Hotel Information at

Hotel Information

Maritime Conference Center, 692 Maritime Boulevard, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

www.mccbwi.org

\$122/night single or double. Reservations must be made before Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

For Reservations call: 866-900-3517

Or email:reservations@mccbwi.org

Lodging rates are subject to 13% tax (DOES NOT INCLUDE DINNER*) includes use of indoor pool, fitness center, game room, on-site parking, and complimentary shuttle to/from BWI, Amtrak station, local shopping and restaurants. *NOTE: Upon request, individual MCC meal tickets can be purchased at the hotel front desk.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

2019 ANNUAL SESSION

JULY 25-27, 2019, THE CENTENNIAL HOTEL, SPOKANE, WA

AIP ANNUAL SESSION

July 25-27, 2019

The Centennial Hotel, Spokane, WA



The 2019 Annual Session will be held at The Centennial Hotel on the bank of the Spokane River in beautiful Spokane, WA. Attend to enjoy outstanding educational presentations, meet new and seasoned parliamentarians, and participate in business meetings with engaged parliamentary experts.

The Centennial Hotel

303 W. North River Drive, Spokane, WA 99201

Reservations:

Call 636-736-4071

or [Click Here to Make Reservations Online](#)

Reservation Code: AMER0722

AIP Group Rate: \$125

REGISTER TODAY: www.aipparl.org

For more information, contact 2019 Annual Session Coordinator:

Weldon Merritt, CPP, at annualsession@aipparl.org



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618 Church Street, Suite 520
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AIP has two separate ways we earn money from Amazon: through the **AmazonSmile** program and through items in the AIP bookstore at our website.

Items purchased through the bookstore pay us a higher rebate, but only if the item is actually listed in the bookstore. For that reason, some “gavel” items (*jewelry, clothes, and um, gavels*) are going into the AIP bookstore.

Put higher priced purchases and gifts into the AIP bookstore and purchase them through the bookstore for a higher donation to AIP. Anyone who would like to coordinate that type of activity need only contact President Kay Crews for help!

This is “free money” for AIP, and anyone who supports these programs is also supporting our professional organization!!!