

A I P COMMUNICATOR

SPRING 2020



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President's Message: Misunderstanding, Mayhem, Mischief and Mystery!

By Al Gage CPP, PRP, PAP



We just had the most successful West Coast Practicum in the recent history of AIP. I am not sure what the best attendance has been, but we had over 50 participants. The theme of dealing with House of Delegates and Conventions attracted a great many medical and dental professionals along with a broad spectrum of other interested parties. Of course, being taught by Glen Hall, DDS, CP-T and Barry Glazer, MD, CPP-T, PRP, two of the finest convention parliamentarians I know, certainly didn't hurt. As always Curriculum Director Mary Remson, CPP-T, and General Coordinator Dollie McPartlin CP-T, PRP, ran a tight but very fun and entertaining (cruise) ship.

MISUNDERSTANDING

As I work with a wide variety of clients and the general public, I find that there are two fundamental misunderstandings of the **role** of a parliamentarian. I am not talking about the misunderstandings of the material itself because those would simply be too numerous to iterate. I am talking about errors in the public's perception of the fundamental role that a parliamentarian plays. For the purposes of this discussion, we will only address the role of actual parliamentarian and not secondary roles as a professional presider and/or floor parliamentarian (hired to advocate for a specific party.)

The first is the widespread perception that *the parliamentarian makes all the rulings and decisions about parliamentary law*. This will be demonstrated by comments like "We are paying a parliamentarian, they should make the ruling!" or "Oh, you're the parliamentarian, you're the rules police!" More commonly, it will be something along the lines "You're here to keep us in line and on track!" While it is certainly true that we can guide the organizations in these directions assuming we have the cooperation of the chair and we can offer methodologies of doing things that are efficient and at times spare personal feelings as well, we cannot single-handedly enforce the rules or make a meeting go smoothly. In my personal opinion, one of the great flaws in our parliamentary authorities is that they were all written under the perception that members in attendance want to accomplish business and have the best interest of the organization at heart. This simply isn't always the case!

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The second misconception, which is the genesis of the topic for the East Coast Practicum, is that *all of the answers can be found in at least one of the parliamentary authorities!* This is not true as well! At our practicum, we will explore how to apply the fundamental principles of parliamentary procedure when there is not a definitive answer in the book. I find many occasions when colleagues that frequently bounce unique situations off each other disagree based on the applicability of various portions of a parliamentary authority. Sometimes this also occurs when there are multiple professional parliamentarians at a meeting in various roles in what can best be described as a parley! Really sad parliamentarian joke, that meeting is a parley pro meeting. Bottom line, “following the rules” is not nearly as black and white as we would like to think!

MYSTERY

For a great segment of the general public, even individuals who routinely operate in a meeting environment, the who area of parliamentary procedure is a complete unknown. Yes, many of them know that at some point you need a motion and a second (as demonstrated by the So-Moved phenomenon) but that is about the extent of their knowledge. It is our job as students of parliamentary procedure to educate the public on both the actual rules and their application but also the reasons or the “why” for the rules. Rules such as not allowing a committee chair to preside when giving their report and why it is preferable to require a majority not a plurality in elections as well as not simply dropping the lowest vote recipients from a ballot, are fundamental to the basic fairness and equity in an organization. To many, these rules seem arbitrary and time-consuming stumbling blocks to the one motion they know well- the motion to adjourn.

MAYHEM AND MISCHIEF

I just love the Mayhem commercials from Allstate! My favorite individual commercial is the one where the car thief rings the gentleman’s doorbell camera and tells him he is going to steal his car, essentially daring the car owner to do something about it!

I attend many meetings where an individual or vocal minority has the intent of stealing the meeting. The meeting thief generally is known or has a reputation for having a fair bit of parliamentary knowledge and fully intends to weaponize it for the duration of the meeting. While they have every right to attempt it, the rest of the body suffers through it and eventually shuts down or more commonly just stops attending the meetings. The parliamentarian’s role in this scenario is simple. Don’t let the rest of the body be disenfranchised by their own lack of knowledge of how to combat such an effort.

I often employ training of members so that they attain an equal footing and also have the chair employ many of the tactics found in Cannon’s to combat this vocal minority. Eventually, the vocal minority in the face of a well-educated membership realizes that they simply do not have the votes to carry the day and will cease the meeting theft attempt.

Many presiding officers believe that the way to accomplish this is to be very heavy handed in the beginning and simply not tolerate such efforts, but this will usually backfire either in this meeting or at the next election. I prefer to advise the chair to allow a couple of volley’s (the meeting thieves usually can’t wait and will fire their rounds prematurely) and the chair then increasingly gains the support of the membership to express their intolerance for such behavior.

There are also many misconceptions that we constantly have to overcome because they were either taught wrong in the individual’s parliamentary infancy or not corrected as they matured (or they watch too much C-Span!). Examples such as yelling “Question!” from the audience and that meaning that we must vote on either the Previous Question or Close Debate and Vote Immediately or more egregiously the underlying motion is a prevailing perception we must overturn.

It is our job as students or practitioners of parliamentary procedure to educate the general public about the importance as well as the implications of improper use of procedure. We MUST change the misunderstanding of our roles, aid the public in thwarting the mayhem and mystery of procedure and in general shedding light on the mystery of it all.

Al Gage CPP, PRP, PAP
AIP President

“For a great segment of the general public, even individuals who routinely operate in a meeting environment, the who area of parliamentary procedure is a complete unknown”



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Additional information regarding dates and registration will be available on the AIP website at aipparl.org as they become available.

East Coast Practicum Cancelled

The American Institute of Parliamentarians Board of Directors has determined unanimously to cancel this year's East Coast Practicum due to the National Emergency based on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Annual Session

July 29 - August 1, 2020
Hilton Charlotte Executive Park
Charlotte, NC



Deadline Dates for the "Communicator"

May 15, 2020	Summer 2020 Issue
August 15, 2020	Fall 2020 Issue
November 15, 2020	Winter 2020 Issue
February 15, 2021	Spring 2021 Issue

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AIP is Saddened to Share the Loss of John Stackpole and Joseph “Joe” Hairston



John Stackpole provided the parliamentary world with many seminars and articles starting with “A Treasurer’s Smorgasbord” in the January 1975 issue of Parliamentary Journal. His last contribution was “Standing Rules for the Implementation of Elections” in January 2017. In addition, John helped AIP members understand different topics such as preferential voting methods and rules for electronic meetings. John will be missed by many parliamentarians, family and friends.

Joe Hairston was a long time member of AIP Board of Directors and member of NAP, a decorated Buffalo Soldier, philanthropist, and church servant. Joseph joined the Army and went to Officer Training School, reaching the rank of Captain and earning the distinction of becoming the Army’s first African American helicopter pilot. Most of Hairston’s service was with the 92nd division also known as the Buffalo Soldiers. He served both WWII and Korean Wars earning the Air Medal. Joseph was a member of many organizations and served them in various capacities including the AIP, National Bar Association, Washington Bar Association, American Bar Association, various charitable organizations.



Congratulations to the Newest AIP Certified Professional Parliamentarian, Atul Kapur!



When he was in university, the Students’ Council meetings were being chaired so poorly that Atul Kapur, MD, MSc, CPP, PRP had to learn parliamentary procedure “in self-defense.” That knowledge assisted him in his various roles as a director and/or presiding officer of charities, provincial and federal medical associations, and the provincial and federal branches of a major political party. However, he was solely self-taught until he met AIP Past-President Jim Lochrie, CPP-T. Atul joined AIP in 2015 and took advantage of as many learning opportunities as he could, which led to his recent certification.

Atul is a director of AIP, chairs the Membership Committee, and is the Canadian advisor to the Opinions Committee. While still practicing as an emergency physician in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, he is looking forward to continuing to learn and expanding his career as a professional parliamentarian.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF AIP

Jerry P. Abraham,
Los Angeles, CA

Erika Anderson

Santiago Arrabaca
Cagayan De Oro City, Philippines

Sandra Baker
Scotch Plains, NJ

Dawnjalice Brown
Arlington, VA

Therese Campbell

Lawrence Cheung

Judith Clinton
Stonington, CT

Azella Collins

Sharon Crockett
O'Fallon, IL

Tanya Crockett
New York, NY

Jaime De Jesus Vinas
San Juan, PR

Joe Dorman
Oklahoma City, OK

Diana Duncan
Brooklyn, NY

Angela Foster
Washington, D.C.

Thomas Gabel
Newport, PA

Amanda Gagne
Bristol, CT

Rocco Garro
Rome, New York

Shmuel Gerber
Brooklyn, NY

Beverly Glynn
Pasadena, TX

Katrina Hoesly
Denmark, WI

Jeanninem Hunte
Brooklyn, NY

Demetri Kachafanas
Sydney, Canada

Gary Leach
Dunnigan, CA

Francis MacMillan
Exeter, NH

Rod Martin

Edwin Miles
Windcrest, TX

Sallie Milner
High Springs, FL

Leslie Milteer

Scott Morse
Arlington, TX

Nathan Moyer
Selinsgrove, PA

Sean O'Reilly

Justin Pappano
Sudbury, Canada

Kenneth Reed
Marana, AZ

William Reynolds

Brandi Ring
Denver, CO

Robert Robinson
Brooklyn, NY

James Runyan
Rushville, IL

Joseph Schlies
Denmark, WI

Peter Senopoulos
Jamaica Plain, MA

Marcus Spiegel

Danny Steffenauer
Pasadena, TX

Dana Van Brimmer
Hays, KS

Janice Webster
Brockton, MA

Colin Williams
Toronto, Canada

Richard Wilson
St Louis, MO

Welcome new members of AIP! Be a supportive member and contact any who live near you.

Another Year Another Practicum

The 2019 Class President David Jackson welcomed the 47 participants and four staff members to the 39th Annual West Coast Practicum in Las Vegas, Nevada, in mid-January. At the Saturday evening dinner, President Jackson conducted the election of 2020 Class President Cameron Decker. After certificates were distributed, President Decker adjourned the Practicum sine die. In-between the welcome and the adjournment Dr. Barry Glazer, CPP-T and Dr. Glen Hall, CP led the instruction on **“House of Delegates, Conventions, and Annual Sessions.”**

Curriculum Director Mary Remson, CPP-T, PRP began the Practicum by presenting “Start with the Credentials.” Followed by Barry and Glen’s topics which included the usual ones such as “Hearings – Hear Yea! Hear Yea!” “Agenda, Consent, Priority,” “Tellers’ Count the Vote,” “Voting Irregularities,” “Scripts and the Script,” “President, Speaker, Chair,” “Cannon’s Philosophy & Presiding Magic,” “What? The PA is not enough?” and “Adopt in-Lieu-of & possible Irregularities.” If any of these topics intrigue you, ask one of the attendees who came from all parts of the United States as well as Canada to elaborate.

Cameos by Dr. David Jackson and Immediate Past AIP President Kay Crews highlighted what gems we have in attendance at AIP events. David presented “Delegates Briefing” and “One Powerful Committee” and Kay presented “Where’s the Teck?” The three cameo presentations were very well received.



Of course, three separate presiding practice sessions were guided by various experienced members.

Your General Coordinator appreciates all the assistance she received before, during, and after the Practicum.

Dollie McPartlin, CP-T, PRP
West Coast Practicum General Coordinator



Teacher Certification Course

July 27 - 28, 2020

After conducting an informal survey, we have decided to hold a Teachers' Course on July 27 - 28, 2020, as part of our 2020 Annual Session. As many know, we were not quite able to elicit sufficient interest in holding a Teachers' Course in conjunction with the recent West Coast Practicum. Please stay tuned for registration details.

Given completion of a Teachers' Course, what else is required in order for members to be awarded their T? Pertinent and relevant experience after completion of the Teachers' Course and within five years of their application to the Accrediting Department is all that is needed. (The requirements for the T designation are set by the Education Department and administered by the Accrediting Department.)

The applicant needs to have taught parliamentary procedure on several occasions to groups larger than six students. The teaching can occur in a formal classroom, as a workshop, as part of community outreach, or in any other educational setting. In fact, it is required that there be a variety of teaching experiences. It may involve the same material to different groups of students, different material to the same group, or combinations thereof. Supporting our practicums and annual session workshops is an excellent way to accumulate suitable teaching credit.

An additional requirement is that the teaching experiences submitted all occurred after the applicant has earned at least their CP credential. This particular requirement, which dates back at least a decade or so, was imposed to ensure the teacher applicants meet a threshold level of knowledge and are teaching from the basis of a common familiarity with our two primary parliamentary authorities, RONR and AIPSC.

We are still interested in identifying those educational professionals currently active in AIP as well as those with a commitment to excellence in education. Please send me a note at education@aipparl.org with your ideas and thoughts on how we can best fulfill our educational obligations to AIP and the public.

Joe Theobald, PhD, CP-T, PRP
Education Director, AIP





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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 Al Gage for help!

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