



American Institute of Parliamentarians

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2019-2020 Board of Directors

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Welcome to AIP!

My first feeble steps were at an Annual Session in Las Vegas. I was known by a few people in the room and was encouraged to run for the Board of Directors and somehow was elected. That was the first step in a very welcoming and down to earth association of some of the most professional and knowledgeable parliamentarians on this planet.

The next thing that I attended was a Practicum and while I was part of the faculty, I again felt that welcoming feeling that our organization is known for. There was a great deal of knowledge from very knowledgeable and famous parliamentarians shared both in the classroom and in the halls between events. This is the part of AIP that I love. The camaraderie among what is a very small area of interest and expertise. In essence, it is a place where you can go speak the speak and be understood.

Now, everyone can't go to a Practicum: that's a sad reality of life. (Put it on your bucket list if you haven't been yet!) But everyone can participate in AIP in some form or fashion. First things first, check out our **New Member Orientation**. It will introduce you to AIP and our various projects and practica.

If you can't travel, you can certainly study! Check out the **bookstore** for educational books, many of which are written and produced by AIP and our members and the Education Department page for information on **correspondence courses**.

After you study, you can earn credentials! Check out the Accrediting Department page for information on how to earn your **Certified Parliamentarian credential**, or, if you have a recognized parliamentary credential from another organization, how to begin preparing for the -T (**Teacher of Parliamentary Procedure**) extender that can be added to your CP or CPP credentials.

And if study and credentials aren't your cup of tea, we welcome you to spread the word about AIP by participating in our communication efforts. The Communications Department page has various ways that you can get more involved in AIP by **reaching out to others** – both members and non-members – to spread the word about AIP and about the deliberative process in meetings.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at President@aipparl.org if I can provide any assistance.

In AIP friendship,

Al Gage, CPP, PRP, PAP
President