AIP COMMUNICATOR

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

FALL 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Educational Deadlines	2
Past President's Message	3
AIP Board of Directors	4
New Federal Registration of AIP Credentials	5
2026 AIP Annual Session Recap	6
Educational Musings—Updates from the Education Department	7
Expanding Access to Parliamentary Education	8
Welcome, New Members!	9
Silent Gavels	10

President's Message: Delivering Value, Confidence and Community



Atul Kapur, MD, MSc, CPP-T, PRP
President

As I begin my term as AIP President, I keep returning to one simple question: how can AIP deliver to every member the same sense of value, confidence, and community that it has delivered to me? My own path to this role was shaped by AIP's education, mentorship, and fellowship, and I want this first message to begin with that same commitment to you: whatever brought you to AIP, your membership should help you grow, connect, and feel supported in the work you do.

Like many of you, I began by learning parliamentary procedure out of necessity. As an undergraduate, I suffered through meetings of my University Students' Council with an untrained chair, so I taught myself enough to protect my rights. For years after that, I was the person in the back of the room offering unsolicited (and sometimes unwanted) advice. In 2015, when AIP Past-President Jim Lochrie trained a board on which I served, I discovered that this practical knowledge was not just a useful hobby; it was a professional skill that organizations needed.

Jim generously took me under his wing, encouraged me to pursue formal training, and introduced me to AIP. It was wonderful to meet a group that shared an understanding that parliamentary procedure is not a set of rules to memorize for their own sake but is a shared agreement about how groups make decisions. This allows organizations to spend less time arguing about procedure and more time addressing real issues.

My first AIP meeting was the 2015 Annual Session in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I found leaders who were welcoming, generous with their knowledge, and genuinely interested in helping newer members grow. At my first practicum, the lectures accelerated my learning and the presiding sessions helped me become more comfortable and confident chairing meetings. Just as importantly, all of it happened in an environment that felt friendly, supportive, and safe for learning.

Every practicum, annual session, and learning opportunity since then has reinforced the same lesson: AIP helps members build knowledge, confidence, and connection. It has helped me serve organizations more effectively, chair meetings with greater assurance,

and turn to a warm and supportive community when I need perspective or advice. My membership has become a vital part of how I continue to grow as a parliamentarian.

That is the experience I want every member to have. Not everyone intends to become a professional parliamentarian, and not everyone will use parliamentary knowledge in the same way. But whether you are serving on a board, supporting an association, advising a community group, teaching others, or simply trying to make meetings work better, I want AIP to be a place where you can experience the value of its services, education, and community.

To support that goal, we will be trying new ways for members to learn from one another, including virtual get-togethers where experienced parliamentarians can discuss interesting and challenging situations and newer members can ask questions in a setting other than the Members' Forum. These sessions are meant to make AIP feel even more accessible and connected throughout the year.

The greatest source of new ideas, however, is you. Please tell me what would make your AIP membership more valuable. What did you hope to gain when you joined? What kind of programming or support would help you most now? What could we do differently to make AIP more useful to you?

I also invite you to help us extend AIP's reach. Who do you know — an association, board, nonprofit, civic group, student organization, or colleague — who would benefit from better meetings and stronger decision-making? If someone comes to mind, please tell them about AIP and help us connect with them.

I want to thank the many members who generously volunteer their time to support our community. I invite every member to join in strengthening AIP by sharing ideas, participating in programs, welcoming newer members, referring organizations, and helping us deliver the service, education, and value that members want.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and suggestions on how we can do this together. Please email me at president@aipparl.org with one idea, one question, or one person or organization that could benefit from AIP. I will be grateful to hear from you and look forward to working with you to achieve the goal of helping you grow, connect, and be supported in the work you do.

Atul Kapur, MD, MSc, CPP-T, PRP

President, American Institute of Parliamentarians

Educational Deadlines

CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN® Exam
Application Deadline: November 6, 2026
Exam Window: January 18-29, 2027

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN® Exam
Application Deadline: May 7, 2027
Exam Window: July 29-31, 2027
Annual Session, Nashville, TN

Past President's Message: Leaving AIP Stronger Than We Found It



Robert Peskin, DDS, CP-T
Immediate Past President

With my tenure as President of AIP now concluded, I've found myself reflecting on my years of service to our organization and, more importantly, on the remarkable evolution of AIP during that time. Throughout those years, I had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the dedication, generosity, and commitment of our members. Those experiences have left me with a deep appreciation for what makes AIP such a special organization and great confidence in its future.

Education has always been—and must remain—AIP's raison d'être. Everything we do ultimately supports that mission.

While the Annual Session remains the one occasion each year when members gather to conduct the business of AIP, elect its leadership, and participate in outstanding educational programming, AIP's longstanding commitment to year-round education continues to evolve and expand. Collectively, the Winter and Spring Practicums and the Learning Center—with its on-demand offerings—continue to expand opportunities for members to learn, teach, and grow throughout the year. These initiatives complement—not replace—the unique educational and governance experiences of our Annual Session.

If education defines what we do, credentialing reflects the standards to which we aspire. AIP's credentialing process remains one of the defining pillars of our organization. Earning the **CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN®** credential demonstrates knowledge, experience, and a commitment to excellence in parliamentary procedure. Those who go on to earn the **CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN®** credential have attained the highest level of achievement within AIP's credentialing process. That progression distinguishes AIP and reinforces the high standards that have long characterized our organization.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the dedicated work of our Accrediting Director, Kay Crews. Through her leadership and unwavering commitment, she has helped strengthen and safeguard the integrity of AIP's credentialing process. Indeed, her influence extends well beyond credentialing and has helped shape many of the initiatives that have become central to AIP's identity.

I'm also grateful to the many members who participated in our recent membership-wide survey regarding the importance and value of AIP's credentialed members. Your thoughtful feedback will help inform an important initiative now underway to further strengthen the value and recognition of AIP's credentials.

Throughout its history, AIP has always benefited from the dedication and generosity of members willing to share their time, talents, and expertise in service to the organization. The dedication and commitment of these volunteers continue to be the driving force behind AIP's educational programs, credentialing, governance, communications, and Annual Session. Their willingness to serve has strengthened AIP in countless ways and ensures that our organization remains vibrant, responsive, and prepared for the future.

Although my tenure as President has concluded, my commitment to AIP has not. I look forward to continuing to serve this remarkable organization in new ways while supporting the outstanding leadership that will guide AIP in the years ahead.

I offer my warmest congratulations to our incoming President, Atul Kapur, and to each member of our newly elected Board of Directors. I know AIP is in capable hands, and I have every confidence they will continue building upon the strong foundation laid by so many dedicated members over the years.

Leaving AIP stronger than we found it is never the work of one individual or one administration. It is the product of members working together, each contributing in ways large and small, while remaining faithful to our shared mission. I believe AIP is stronger today because of that collective commitment, and I look forward with optimism to all that lies ahead.



Robert M. Peskin, DDS, CP-T
Immediate Past President

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

121 State Street
Albany, NY 12207
P (888) 664-0428 | F (847) 517-7229
aip@aipparl.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Atul Kapur, MD, MSc, CPP-T****, PRP

Vice President
Valoree Althoff, CPP-T****, PRP

Secretary
Laura Meade, CPP-T****, PRP

Treasurer
Evan Lemoine, CPA, CFE, CGMA, PRP

Directors
Todd Brand, CP-T**, PRP
Patrice Burgess, MD
Shawn Paine, JD, CP-T**, PRP
Manushag "Nush" Powell, PhD, CP-T**
Nilda Rivera, JD, CPP***, PRP
Sean Schilke, CP*
Justin Schmid, CP-T**, PRP
Wanda Sims, CP*, PRP

Accrediting Director
Kay Allison Crews, CPP-T****, PRP

Communications Director
Brandon Walters, CP-T**, PRP

Education Director
W. Craig Henry, CPP-T****, PRP

Parliamentarian
Glen Hall, DDS, CPP-T****

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Audit
David Jackson, DHSc, CP-T**, PRP

Budget and Finance
Evan Lemoine, CPA, CFE, CGMA, PRP

Bylaws and Standing Orders
Todd Brand, CP-T**, PRP

Professional Responsibility
Sarah E. Merkle, JD, CPP-T****, PRP

Member Services
Wanda Sims, CP*, PRP

Opinions
Lucy Anderson, JD, CPP-T****, PRP

Youth Activities and Scholarship Committee
Tochi Iroku-Malize, MD, CP*

OTHER COMMITTEES & OFFICIALS

2027 Annual Session Coordinator
Wanda Sims, CP*, PRP

2026 Spring Practicum
C.J. Cavin, Esq., CPP-T****, PRP (General Coordinator)

David Jackson, CP-T**, PRP (Curriculum Director)

2026 Winter Practicum
Kay Allison Crews, CPP-T****, PRP (General Coordinator)

Al Gage, CPP-T****, PRP, PAP (Curriculum Director)

***Communicator* Editor**
Rachel Miller-Bleich, CP*, RP

***Parliamentary Journal* Editor**
Manushag “Nush” Powell, PhD, CP-T**

* Holder of the **CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN®** Credential

** Holder of the **CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN-TEACHER®** Credential

*** Holder of the **CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN®** Credential

**** Holder of the **CERTIFIED PROFESSIONALPARLIAMENTARIAN-TEACHER®** Credential

Congratulations, New Credential Holders!

Congratulations to the newest holder of the CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN® credential, Dan Brown, CP #475.

Manushag ‘Nush’ Powell, CP-T received her CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN-TEACHER® credential.

Our credential marks are now federally registered. Thank you!

Dear AIP Members,

We have news to share: on September 22, 2026, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office registered all four of our credential marks on the Principal Register:

- **CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN®** (Reg. No. 8,446,622)
- **CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN®** (Reg. No. 8,446,623)
- **CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN-TEACHER®** (Reg. No. 8,446,637)
- **CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN-TEACHER®** (Reg. No. 8,446,638)

This is a milestone for AIP and for everyone who has earned one of these credentials. Federal registration gives the marks stronger legal protection and reinforces the value of the credentials you worked hard to earn.

To the members who signed declarations: this would not have happened without you. You took time out of your schedules to provide declarations supporting our applications, and your willingness to speak to what these credentials mean in the marketplace made the difference. On behalf of the Board, thank you.

We also thank our counsel at Spencer Fane LLP for their skillful work guiding these applications through to registration.

What this means for you

Protecting these marks depends on using them consistently. To help, the Board has adopted the **AIP Trademark Usage Guide,** which is linked here. If you create AIP educational or marketing content, or use the marks to identify your credential or AIP programs, please review it. In brief, the Guide asks that you:

- Use the full mark rather than the abbreviation in marketing or identifying content,
- Set the mark in bold capital letters,
- Place a superscript ® after the mark, and
- Use the mark as an adjective, for example, "the **CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN®** credential."

Questions about the Guide can go to communications@aipparl.org. Also, be on the lookout for additional guidance in a future article in the *Parliamentary Journal.*

Thank you again for being part of this achievement.

Sincerely,

Atul Kapur
Holder of the **CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN-TEACHER®** Credential

CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN®, CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN®, CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN-TEACHER®, and CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN-TEACHER® *are registered service marks of the American Institute of Parliamentarians. U.S. Reg. Nos. 8,446,622; 8,446,623; 8,446,637; and 8,446,638.*

2026 AIP Annual Session Recap

July 29 – August 1, 2026

Old Town San Diego, California

C.J. Cavin, CPP-T, PRP & Shawn Paine, CP-T, PRP, Coordinators

What a session! The 2026 AIP Hybrid Annual Session, held July 29 through August 1 in beautiful Old Town San Diego, brought members together for four days of learning, business, and community.



We completed two successful business sessions, and attendees had their choice of ten outstanding educational workshops:

1. “I'm Ron Burgundy? Script Writing” — C.J. Cavin
2. “The Art and Science of Being Indecisive” — Todd Brand
3. “The Rules Behind the Rungs: Navigating the AIPSC2 Motion Ladder” — Valoree Althoff
4. “Reference Committees Then and Now” — David Jackson
5. “A Proviso Is Not an Amendment, and Other Things Your Bylaws Committee Needs to Know” — Kay Crews
6. “Coaching & Teaching Parliamentary Procedure to Youth” — Troy White
7. “Beyond the Book” — Eli Mina
8. “Ethical Dilemmas: Circumstances Faced by Parliamentarians” — Craig Henry
9. “Evolution or Revolution? Balancing Consistency and Modernization in Parliamentary Procedure” — Justin Schmid



10. “Understanding Your Fiduciary Roles” — David Jackson

Beyond the sessions and workshops, this year's gathering offered wonderful networking opportunities, giving members a chance to reconnect with familiar faces and build new relationships across the parliamentary community.

Thank you to everyone who presented, participated, and made this year's Annual Session a success. We look forward to seeing you at the next one.



Educational Musings – Updates from the Education Department

W. Craig Henry CPP-T, PRP, Director-Education Department

Well, the 2026 Annual Session is complete and was a rousing success, educationally! Not only did we have 10 hybrid educational sessions, almost every session was 90 minutes long. Working with the National Association of Parliamentarians, attendees could receive up to 8.5 CEUs and 4.5 Professional Responsibility CEUs for their NAP credential renewal as well as the 14.75 Category 1 Education Points for AIP credential applications and renewals.



This Annual Session was the first to be completely run (almost) through the AIP Learning Center – only the balloting was run through Election Buddy. The use of the Learning Center has kept everything in one place, provided scheduling, reports, presenter biographies available, and handouts for instant downloading. Additionally, recordings of the educational sessions were available within 24 hours of their presentation for viewing by the Annual Session registrants.

If you missed The Annual Session educational workshops, don't feel left out. AIP's Learning Series returns this Fall. Our next two speakers will be:

- Evan Lemoine, CPA, CFE, CGMA, PRP – October
- Brandon Walters, CP-T, PRP - November

Dates and topics are being finalized, but you do not want to miss these dynamic speakers!

The Department is growing as well. With the advent of the Learning Center, many more activities are on-going. In addition to myself and Kay Crews, CPP-T, PRP, as Chair of the Printed Materials Division, we are joined by the following individuals:

- P. Troy White, CP-T, PRP – Assistant Education Director
- Steven Cook, CP-T, PRP – Content Development
- Shawn Paine, CP-T, PRP – LMS Administrator

In the next few weeks, we will be developing a plan for the 2026-2027 term and beyond. If you have prepared presentations that you would like to contribute as the basis for eLearning Courses or volunteering to present to a Practicum, Annual Session, or as a virtual presentation on a webinar, we always welcome you to submit your name, the title of your presentation and how you might contribute. If you have ideas about curriculum/topics you would like to see, feel free to drop me an email at education@aipparl.org .

If you plan on taking the **CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN®** examination or for those members holding a current AIP credential these presentations or preliminary work on publications count for points as service to AIP.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next educational event!



Expanding Access to Parliamentary Education

AIPEF strengthens scholarship outreach and renews its focus on fundraising

By Nilda Rivera, CPP, PRP, Chair,
AIP Educational Foundation

At its August 1, 2026 annual meeting, the American Institute of Parliamentarians Educational Foundation (AIPEF) focused on expanding awareness of its scholarship program and strengthening support for parliamentary education.

To improve outreach, the chair appointed a three-member Grants Committee consisting of the AIPEF chair, treasurer, and chair of AIP's Youth Activities and Scholarship Committee. The committee will publicize available sponsorships, review completed applications, and recommend recipients to the Board of Trustees for approval.

AIP members are always welcome at AIPEF meetings. The Board meets at least twice each year—during the AIP Winter Practicum and AIP Annual Session—providing members opportunities to learn more about the Foundation and its work.

Scholarship Opportunities

AIPEF sponsorships help eligible AIP members pursue parliamentary education. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have previously completed a qualifying parliamentary course or event.

Awards may cover up to 80 percent of eligible expenses, including registration and approved travel-related costs. Applications, including a required recommendation, must be received at least 60 days before the event. Recipients must attend all sessions, provide required documentation, and submit a report about their experience.

Application materials are available on the AIPEF website. Completed applications and supporting documents should be sent to **aipef@aipparl.org.**

Looking Ahead

The trustees unanimously adopted the fiscal year 2025 audit and noted the auditor's recommendation to cross-train key officers or volunteers to support continuity in the Foundation's financial operations.

Fundraising will also receive increased attention. The Board plans additional meetings to develop strategies before the 2027 Winter Practicum. Every contribution helps AIPEF expand access to parliamentary education and invest in future leaders.

The AIPEF Board of Trustees includes **Nilda Rivera, CPP, PRP, chair; Valoree Althoff, CPP-T, PRP, vice chair; Kay Allison Crews, CPP-T, PRP, treasurer; Carol Johnson Davis, CP-T, PRP, secretary; and Rachel Miller-Bleich, CP, RP, trustee.** The Foundation also expressed its appreciation to Dr. Robert M. Peskin, DDS, CP-T, for his dedication and service to AIPEF since 2015.

Help build the next chapter of parliamentary education. Learn more, apply for funding, or donate through the AIPEF homepage: aipef.org

American Institute of Parliamentarians
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Welcome, New Members!

William Adams
Venice, FL

Tiffany Aho
Minot, ND

L. Joy Baker
LaGrange, GA

Rita Meng-Chi Liu Ballard
Dallas, TX

Sandra Barber
Allen, TX

Meredith Beach
Chestertown, MD

Ed Beaman
Pleasant Hill, IA

Andrew Black
St. Louis, MO

David Boney
Austin, TX

Micaela Bowers
New Orleans, LA

Melissa Boyd
Vero Beach, FL

Michael Burke Kirby
Falls Church, VA

Kelly Caverzagie
Portland, OR

LaToya Chisolm
Forest Heights, MD

Peter K Cocolis
Springfield, VA

Alisha Cole
Kansas City, MO

Ellis Conley Davis
East Saint Louis, IL

Denise Cooper
Pooler, GA

Jose Antonio Cordero Serrano
Carolina, PR

Richard Creecy
Clinton, IA

Cerddwr Cysgodol
Thonotosassa, FL

Gregory Darrisaw
Quinton, VA

Jacob Demree
Washington, D.C.

Holly Hamilton
Sebastian, FL

Laurie Harari
Delray Beach, FL

Chris Harper
Toronto, ON

Anitra Harris
Hampton, VA

Ronald Herbison
Washington, D.C.

Tyler Hughes
Peterborough, ON

Tanya Hunter
Garrisonville, VA

Lisa-Marie Ikonomov
Anchorage, AK

Chanelle James
Greensboro, NC

Matthew Janson
Reed Point, MT

Dennis Jones
Warner Robins, GA

Wendy Lattibeaudiere
Farmingdale, NY

Robert Laverick
Hope Mills, NC

Cheryl Lawrence
Washington, D.C.

Cynthia Lepley
Cathedral City, CA

Robert Loflin
Port Lavaca, TX

Joseph Manzella-Kane
Ivoryton, CT

Harvey Mars
Teaneck, NJ

Laurent McDonald
Monson, MA

John Miller
Anchorage, AK

Darlene Moore
Charlotte, NC

Rosangela Ortiz
Santa Fe, NM

Julie Powelson
Naples, FL

Trenace Pyles
Atlanta, GA

Cody Regester
San Francisco, CA

Janice Rich
Friendswood, TX

William Robbins
Denver, CO

Allegra Rosenbaum
Brooklyn, NY

Jennifer Russell
Benton, WI

Allison Sabo
Salt Lake City, UT

Lenore Sears
East Norriton, PA

Diego Segovia
Gilroy, CA

Ashley Shorter
Lake Charles, LA

Deborah Stauring
Buffalo, NY

David Takitaki
Big Rapids, MI

Nancy Terpening
Norwalk, OH

Lauren Thoden
Coppell, TX

Bestine Tourijigian
East Saint Louis, IL

Brandon Ulstad
Madison, MN

Michael Wagner-Diggs
Toano, VA

Valencia Walker
Marina Del Rey, CA

Sharon Wells
Malverne, NY

Shelly Williams
Indian Head, MD

Jennifer Wilson
Santa Fe, NM

Stephanie Woods Miller
Macon, GA

Christopher Wright
Spokane, WA

Patrick Wynne
Nesconset, NY

Garrett Zahner
Rosendale, MD

Silent Gavels—Remembering colleagues who have passed

Bernard Joseph Sussman, CP #250

Millsboro, DE
b. August 30, 1947 – d. January 17, 2026

Bernard Sussman loved to read and had a massive collection of books. He loved to socialize, and he loved animals, especially cats. Bernard was most proud of his work. He was a Law Librarian for the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for 18+ years. Bernard held the **CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN®** credential and enjoyed mediating for many different organizations and meetings. Bernard also began teaching sign language at work to assist with a deaf employee. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Kathleen Sussman, as well as many great nieces, great nephews, cousins and in-laws.

Ann Iona Warner, CPP #223

Glen Mills, PA
b. 1957- d. April 16, 2026

Ann belonged to both the American Institute of Parliamentarians (AIP) and the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) and served as the Executive Director of AIP for nearly a decade. She held the **CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN®** credential and served as parliamentarian for a northeast chapter of Overeaters Anonymous, as well as online and international chapters. She was parliamentarian of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for over 25 years. Ann was a journalist by training and had a passion for music, needle crafts and serving those in need. Ann is survived by her husband, David, sons Daniel and Matthew (Liz Amato) and their children, Patrick and Bianca; brother Steven, and Mother Nancy.

Submit an Article to the Communicator

2027 Deadlines:
Winter Issue: November 15, 2026
Spring Issue: February 15, 2027
Summer Issue: May 15, 2027
Fall Issue: August 15, 2027

Questions? Contact communicator@aipparl.org

Have an article for the Parliamentary Journal? Contact pjeditor@aipparl.org