



Where Do I Start?

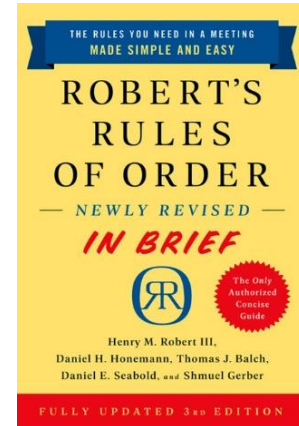
The answer depends on where you are, and where you want to be.

By Barbara Proctor, PRP, FSAP Education Chairman

If you are a provisional member who would like to understand how parliamentary procedure can assist you at your next meeting, read ***Robert's Rules of Order In Brief***. The 3rd edition is updated in accord with the 12th edition of RONR. Great news! It is available from Kindle which means you can refer to it on your smart phone to read in between meeting or to look up information during a meeting.

If you are a primary member, you may have already read ***Robert's Rules of Order In Brief***. Read it again, now that you have a better understanding and some training, different things will have more meaning for you – like watching a movie or TV show a second time.

If you are preparing to become a Registered Parliamentarian, create a slideshow or other training method based on ***Robert's Rules of Order In Brief*** for you to use to teach individuals how they can use parliamentary procedure at their next meeting.



For a better understanding of the terms and procedure, additional resources include the **National Parliamentarian** which is mailed to NAP members quarterly, and ***The Florida Parliamentarian*** which is available online at: <https://flparliamentarian.com>.

At your next meeting, or any meeting you can find on the internet, listen for the terms you've read and pay attention to the process. Did the presiding officer state the motion before asking for debate? Was the motion repeated again prior to voting? Did they announce the result of the vote? At a convention, were the following reports given and adopted: Credentials, Rules, and Program?

After a few meetings you will recognize the rhythm in processing business in a meeting, and understand how using proper procedure helps organizations to have better meetings, and what can happen if they don't.

If you are interested in obtaining the credentials to as a Registered Parliamentarian and be paid to serve as a parliamentarian, you have a decision to make: there is a limited time to take the **Legacy RP Exam** based on the 11th edition of RONR, or take the **New RP Exam** based on the 12th edition of RONR. NAP has resources to guide you through this process. It would be helpful to find someone or a group to study with – which can easily be done with Zoom or other online meeting sources readily available.