

The Florida Parliamentarian

DECEMBER 2025

Florida State Association of
PARLIAMENTARIANS

Let All Things Be Done Decently and in Order



CHARTING THE COURSE

Welcome aboard the FSAP Cruise Ship as we sail around the great state of Florida!

As the year draws to a close and the holiday season surrounds us, there is a natural pull to slow down. We gather with friends and family, step away from full calendars, and allow ourselves the space to rest, reflect, and reconnect. Taking this break is a gift, it is not a luxury. It helps to renew our energy, to sharpen our perspective, and to remind us why what we do matters.



That same spirit of connection is at the heart of what we do together as members to create our community, our network of parliamentarians throughout Florida. The procedures in Robert's Rules of Order, when thoughtfully applied, offer more than structure or efficiency, they create a shared experience that is meaningful to each individual member. Just as holiday traditions bring people together around a common table, parliamentary procedure brings members together in a way that is intentional, respectful, and inclusive.

At its best, Robert's Rules create an environment where people feel comfortable participating, confident in speaking, and supported by the group. Members know when it is their turn to speak, how to be heard, and how decisions will be made fairly. It is this transparency that creates clarity to build trust - trust builds engagement - and engagement transforms an organization from a collection of individuals into a true community.

As leaders, we know that membership participation does not happen by accident, it happens when we engage members by inviting them, encouraging them to participate in debate, to welcome different viewpoints, and allowing time for thoughtful consideration. That is the value of the holiday season: to bring balance, to allow for growth in reflection and return refreshed stronger to lead, ready to listen, and ready to continue building community where every voice matters.



But for now, I encourage you to take this season as it is intended: pause, recharge, and enjoy the people who matter most to you.

Warm wishes for a joyful holiday season and a renewed year ahead.

Reminder:

End of the Year To Do List

- ☐ Unit members pay Unit dues to Unit Treasurer
- ☐ Primary NAP members pay dues to NAP (which includes FSAP dues)
- ☐ Affiliate FSAP members pay \$25 dues to FSAP Treasurer

- ☐ RPs and PRPs verify you've met the CEU requirements to maintain your credentials
Use this link to take a retired status instead by completing the [credential reclassification form](#) on the NAP website.

- ☐ **Sunday,
December 21st
at 7:00 p.m.**

Jim Slaughter, JD, PRP, CPP-T will explain key motions often used at conventions and annual meetings to enable members to contribute effectively as delegates

– **NAP approved for 1 CEU** sponsored by the Albuquerque Unit of Parliamentarians



VIRTUAL PARLIAMENTARIANS
Sunday Forum
MASTER POINT OF ORDER!
Learn about Parliamentary Inquiry, and Personal Privilege in this focused session. Step into meetings with confidence and authority!

Approved for 1 CEU
December 21, 2025
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EST

REGISTER



<https://bit.ly/vp-zoom>

GUEST SPEAKER
Jim Slaughter, JD, PRP, CPP-T

vpoo.toastmastersclub.org

FSAP 5th Tuesday

December 30, 2025

at 7:00 p.m.

Registration [LinkHE](#):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/SYV0cnh5TS2s4b5whbw2Ug>


The Protector of Democracy: The Man Behind the Book

Presented by Barbara Proctor, PRP

Who was he?

**What led him to choose the
procedures he chose?**

Why did he say that?



'Twas the night before meetings, and all through the land,
No rules yet existed, no guidance at hand.
Assemblies were messy, debates ran astray;
The loud ruled the moment, the meek kept away.

With no common method, no motions to guide,
The rights of the members were swept to the side.
Democracy wavered - its footing unsure
For without proper order, no voice could endure.

Then Henry M. Robert, with thoughtful concern,
Observed all the chaos and sought to discern
A way to bring fairness where none could be found
To steady assemblies and keep them well-grounded.

So by lantern's warm glow on a long, quiet night,
He drafted a manual both simple and right.
A pocket-sized treasure, a gift wrapped in grace,
To guard every member and bring order to place.

He tied it with motions, main, privileged, and more,
With rules for procedure no one had seen before.
He added agendas so business could flow,
And limits on speaking so all voices could grow.

But the heart of his work, with its structure so tight,
Was protecting assemblies and each member's right:
The majority ruling, the minority heard
A balance of power in each written word.

This gift wasn't just for the meetings of then,
But for future assemblies, again and again.
A present to generations who gather to say,
"We'll govern with fairness the parliamentary way."

And when 1876 dawned with cheer,
His manual appeared with hope shining so clear.
"It is moved and seconded...." echoed with pride,
As democracy strengthened and order complied.

So now when your meeting runs smooth, fair, and bright,
Remember the soldier who wrote through the night.
For he gave us a gift that will forever endure:
Happy meetings to all - and let order be sure!

Don't be an only child.
Come our unit meeting to meet your
extended parliamentary family!
We want to hear why you are
interested in our favorite topic!



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Link to FSAP local unit information:
<https://flparliamentarian.com/local-units/>

Link to NAP to become a member of a unit:
<https://www.parliamentarians.org/reclassification-unit-association/>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF PARLIAMENTARIANS®

Professional Development Committee
MENTORING PROGRAM

Have you considered
becoming an
NAP MENTOR?



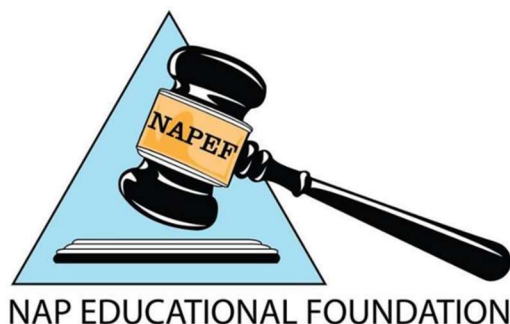
The NAP Professional Development Committee Mentoring Program is in need of Mentors! If you are credentialed and are willing to share your knowledge and time to assist regular members to become credentialed as RPs and RPs to become PRPs, please follow these steps:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF PARLIAMENTARIANS®

2026 NAP National Training Conference ♦ August 26th – 30th

"Tag Your Bags for BHM"
BIRMINGHAM

Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.inbirmingham.org



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS®

PARLIPREP 2026

A Comprehensive Study of Parliamentary Procedure
for Credentialing Exam Preparation

JAN 11, 2026 - APRIL 26, 2026

Sun or Wed 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Central

PP
PARLIPREP
CREDENTIALING
EXAM PREPARATION

Scholarship Committee Report - Henry M. Robert's Day 2025

“In a galaxy not so far away... the FSAP Scholarship Committee charts its course toward greater transparency and accessibility.”

Members of the Scholarship Council convened twice this term to bring balance to the Force — or, more precisely, to make scholarship eligibility more accessible, transparent, and user-friendly for all members of the FSAP Alliance. Missions completed and in Process are:



- Performed review and comment on a proposed motion from the Audit Committee to the Executive Board to open a dedicated checking account for scholarships and to designate a CD as “Scholarship.” This initiative will bring new clarity and visibility — much like illuminating the dark side — to FSAP’s financial reports.
- Work is underway on a fillable scholarship application form to be launched on the FSAP website. The goal being that applicants are able to complete and transmit their applications directly to the committee — no droids required.
- Developing a proposed amendment to FSAP Standing Rules that clearly outlines eligibility criteria for scholarships, ensuring that all who seek knowledge may know the path to apply.
- Members are reminded that the scholarship funds are not self-replenishing — they are not powered by the Kyber Crystals of Yavin IV. Contributions from individual members and units are vital to sustain this effort and ensure that future scholars may rise as Padawans of professional growth.

The Scholarship Jedi Council consists of:

Mary Giddens, Chairman
Craig Culbreth
Diana Smith
Darlene Sparks
Education Chair Carol Prahinski
Ex officio: President Barbara Proctor.

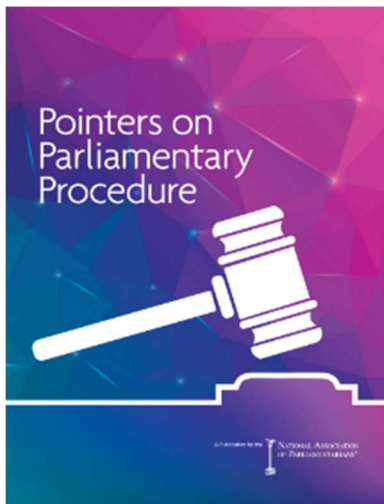
**Together, we uphold the light of education and opportunity within the FSAP galaxy.
*May the funds — and the forms — be with us all.***

***Pointers on Parliamentary Procedure*, available from the NAP bookstore for \$25 is an excellent resource for education programs at unit meetings and for individual study.**

Hattie Mary Young, RP
FSAP Corresponding Secretary



This 156 page booklet includes 26 individual lessons with citations to RONR (12th ed) including a quiz to review and test one's understanding of each topic.



Individuals at their convenience can easily learn and understand:

- the basic principles
- different types of meetings and organizations
- motions
- the duties of officers, and
- procedures for nominations and elections

Attendance at unit meetings becomes important because it is always helpful to have opportunities to ask questions, and actually practice saying the words and using the procedures. Use the **FSAP Tech Tip for Parliamentarians** from FSAP Treasurer, Edward M. Moore, PRP, in the October issue of *The Florida Parliamentarian* found under Publications on the FSAP website - to scan and share a quiz before, during, or after unit meetings.



NAP MEMBERSHIP - FSAP is offering four 1-hour training sessions monthly to assist individuals and provisional members to prepare for the NAP membership exam which is based on *Robert's Rules of Order In Brief, 3rd edition*.

Contact the following individual for the specific days and times most convenient for you:

January – FSAP Education Chairman, Carol Prahinski, PRP
February – FSAP President, Barbara Proctor, PRP
March – FSAP Communication Chairman, Sam King, PRP

FSAP RPs and PRPs are available to assist you!

Unity in Diversity



Scripture:

“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office.”
—Romans 12:4 (KJV)

Reflection:

Every member of a deliberative body brings a unique voice, experience, and role. Like the body described by Paul, unity is not sameness - it is harmony amid difference. Parliamentary procedure honors that diversity by ensuring each voice is heard in turn and each role respected.

Parliamentary Principle:

Rules of debate and order are designed to give every member equal opportunity to participate, regardless of rank or tenure.

Call to Action:

Create space for every voice, especially those less likely to speak, and let unity grow from mutual respect.



***“True Unity
Honors
All Voices.”***



Annual Meeting

Types of Annual Meetings:

- Regular Meeting is designated as the Annual Meeting
- Membership Meeting held once a year (board governs other months)
Business includes annual report of officers and standing committee, elections, and any other business the bylaws may prescribe
- Minutes are approved at the next regular meeting

FSAP Tech Tip for Parliamentarians - Carol Prahinski, PRP – FSAP Education

Chairman. Arrows are often used as a graphical symbol to indicate transition, direction, or movement, to add clarity and emphasis to text. A keyboard shortcut to typing an arrow is a:

--> to create: → or <-- to create ←

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Education & Training

- Reach new leadership potential
- Earn credentials as an RP or PRP

Resources

- Access FREE guides & publications
- NAP University & NAP Bookstore
- Virtual Training Sessions

Advocacy

- Promote leadership skills
- Learn best practices for your organization

Networking

- Connect with other leaders and professionals
- Answers to your questions



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – If you have questions regarding your membership, contact FSAP Second Vice President, Mary Smith, RP (maryhsmith@yahoo.com).

WANTED: Judges for Student Competitions - Check your calendar to see if you are available, then contact FSAP Youth Chairman Julie Palm, PRP, to volunteer as a judge in Orlando or in your local school district.

INTERESTED IN FSAP EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES? If your organization or unit, or someone you know is interested in learning more about parliamentary procedure, be it general training or preparing to take the NAP exam to become a member, the RPCE, or the PRPCE, contact FSAP Education Chairman, Carol Prahinski, PRP (prahinski@gmail.com).