

Florida Parliamentarian

AUGUST 2026

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!

NEXT: One week excursion to Birmingham for the NAP NTC.

After Texas, Florida will be the second most represented state: Edward Moore, PRP (FSAP Treasurer), and Carol Austin, PRP, are organizing the event; Carol Prahinski, PRP (FSAP Education Chairman), Tim Wynn, PRP, and Barbara Proctor, PRP (FSAP President) are each giving presentations; Sarah Russell, RP (FSAP First Vice President), Julie Palm, PRP (FSAP Youth Committee Chairman) and Carol Nelson-Goedert (P.L.A.T.O. President) will be representing SE Florida; Hattie Mary Young, RP (FSAP Corresponding Secretary) and Novella Franklin, RP (President of the North Florida Unit of Parliamentarians), will be representing North Florida; in addition to Paul Green, RP, Marshall Vanardsdall, RP, Wanda Simms, PRP, and FSAP's newest member, Vy Doan, in addition to our FSAP Affiliate members: Joyce Brown-Watkins,



PRP, Myra Celestin, PRP, Esther Heller, PRP, Dianne Edgerton-Norman, RP, and Linda Peterson, RP – who will all be attending in person. **It's not too late for everyone to register to attend virtually** – although you will be missing some of that great southern hospitality.

If you are not able to join us in Birmingham, make plans to join us, in person or virtually, on **Saturday, November 7th in Lakeland, FL for the FSAP – hybrid - Fall membership meeting and Henry M. Robert Day Education Conference featuring a pirate extravaganza!**



Following the membership meeting, NAP Board Member Justin Pappano, PRP, will train “the crew” to prepare for a series of mock meetings featuring different captains after a lunch break for us to recharge. **Save the date!**



Help Shape Our Future: Submit Your Proposed Bylaws Amendment



The FSAP Bylaws Committee is calling for proposed bylaw amendments.

The FSAP Bylaws give every member the opportunity to propose amendments. The Bylaws Committee reviews each proposal and prepares recommended amendments for consideration by the membership. Because proposed amendments must be distributed with the meeting notice at least 30 days before the vote, the committee requests that all proposals be submitted to Joyce Brown-Watkins, PRP, Chairman: watkins.j261@gmail.com on or before **August 31, 2026**, for publication in the September newsletter, *The Florida Parliamentarian*. Editorial changes will be made by the Bylaws Committee pursuant to Standing Rule 22 following the November 7, 2026, Fall membership meeting. Current bylaws are readily available on the FSAP website behind the Member Portal. If you do not remember the password, contact an FSAP officer.

"This invitation is issued pursuant to Article VIII, Section 3(B), and Article XIV of the FSAP Bylaws."



Join us for this practical TechTips session hosted by FSAP Webmaster, Sam King, PRP, to discover how to:

Tuesday, August 18th Unlock the Power of QR Codes!

Have you ever wondered how one small square can instantly connect people to a website, meeting agenda, membership form, presentation, video, or registration page?

QR codes have become one of the easiest ways to share information, save time, and make meetings more interactive. Whether you're promoting an event, distributing handouts, collecting feedback, or helping members access resources, QR codes can simplify the process.

- Create your own QR codes in minutes
- Use QR codes for meetings, conferences, and training
- Share documents without printing stacks of paper
- Connect members to websites, forms, and videos with a simple scan
- Learn creative ways parliamentarians and organizations can use QR codes every day

No technical experience is required.

Bring your curiosity and leave with a skill you can use immediately!

One scan will open a whole new world of possibilities.

Discover how easy it is!

Presiding – Triumph and Terror and Questions for You

I didn't want to serve as Parliamentarian, feeling unsure and new. Would I know enough? What if I said the wrong thing? Maybe something would be extremely complicated, and all of the little page tabs in the "big book" might not be enough. But with encouragement, I said yes.

It started off very well. Putting together the meeting script was fun. Following a template for the agenda, and combining information from two sample scripts was challenging but seemed straightforward. I met with the Chair and determined his preferences for the order of certain business items; he filled in the missing names of appointees and participants. Together we did a dry run of the script with accompanying slides. So far so good.

The day of the meeting the big concern was whether we'd get a quorum, so all of the contingencies were discussed. I had a member ready to make a motion to adjourn the meeting until the call of the chair in case we failed to get a quorum. Whew! Quorum present. The meeting is going really well, but then we hit the one controversial item of business. After a committee report a recommendation is presented on a slide, and the Chair stated "The question is on the adoption of the ("business") as shown on the screen. Is there any discussion". One member was recognized and said she wanted to make an amendment but wasn't sure if it was in order as she hadn't heard a motion yet.

I was consulted, and said that I believed the Chair had indeed stated the question. What I didn't say was that since this was proposed by a committee it didn't need a second, which was why the member didn't think a motion had been made. Would you have added that?

After a properly worded amendment had been made and seconded, the Chair did a good job of trying to encourage debate just on the amendment – there were only a few people who actually commented. I assumed that it was an unpopular issue. The Chair called for the vote.... And it was a tie!!!!

All of you reading this are probably already thinking, "So what...the amendment was lost", but I was frantically searching through my RONR because I remembered something about a Chair's vote but couldn't remember what it was! I stammered some apologetic phrases and contacted an experienced Parliamentarian who clarified the rule for me.

I returned to the meeting and announced that the Amendment had failed unless the Chair wished to vote and overturn this ruling. He said he would remain silent, and the Amendment failed. Should I have asked the Chair privately if he was going to want to rule, and just announced that the Amendment had failed? What would you have done?

Share your answer by email to: flparliamentarians@gmail.com

Leaders are not born; they are made through experience, growth, and the courage to take the first step. Every student has the opportunity to explore their potential, develop their voice, and become the kind of leader who makes a difference. FCCLA is where that transformation begins, and Where Leaders Are Made.



The 2026–2027 annual theme is not just a statement; it is a call to believe in what is possible. Through FCCLA, students are empowered with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to lead in their careers, their communities, and their lives.

Through Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) education, FCCLA connects students with hands-on learning, career preparation, and leadership experiences that empower them to thrive. Members gain more than technical knowledge; they discover purpose, develop resilience, and build the confidence that they have the power to make a lasting impact wherever they go.

For FCCLA Members This theme is a call to action. Whether you dream of teaching, designing, cooking, launching a business, serving your community, or creating something entirely new, FCCLA helps you discover who you are and who you want to become. You are not just preparing for a career, you are preparing to lead a meaningful, purpose-driven life.



For FCCLA Advisers This theme honors the extraordinary influence you have on every student you support. You do far more than simply guide instruction; you shape confidence, nurture character, and often recognize a student’s potential before they see it in themselves. Your encouragement helps students believe in their ability to lead, grow, and step into a future that reflects their highest potential.

Where Leaders Are Made is more than a theme. It is a truth. It is a reminder that leadership lives in every student, and that FCCLA is the place where it is sparked, supported, and strengthened. **In FCCLA, the future is not written in ink. It**

is sketched in pencil, shaped by experience, and strengthened by choice.

This year, Where Leaders Are Made challenges us all to lead with courage, grow with purpose, and step boldly into every opportunity to learn, serve, and succeed. FCCLA is where potential turns into power and where leadership is not just imagined, but made real. So, step into your story. Into your growth. Into the leader you are ready to become.

Because this is Where Leaders Are Made.

**WANTED: FSAP members to judge FCCLA parliamentary competitions on
March 20–24, 2027, at the Hilton DoubleTree Theme Park Resort in Orlando, Florida**

The Parliamentarian

Advancing Good Governance Strengthening Organizations



A parliamentarian provides leadership, guidance, and clarity in meetings and organizations—ensuring that rules are followed, decisions are fair, and every voice is heard.



Presiding as the Chair

Leading meetings with impartiality, ensuring order, fairness, and effective decision-making.



Serving as a Meeting Parliamentarian

Providing guidance on parliamentary procedure and ensuring meetings run smoothly and in accordance with the rules.



Teaching Robert's Rules of Order, 12th Edition

Educating individuals and groups to build confidence in parliamentary procedure and effective meetings.



Opinion Writing

Providing clear, authoritative advice on parliamentary questions and meeting situations.



Script Writing

Creating well-structured scripts for meetings, training, presentations, and special events.



Governing Documents

Developing bylaws, policies, standing rules, and other essential documents that support strong governance.

Expert Guidance. Stronger Organizations. Better Decisions.

Whether you are leading meetings, building your knowledge, or strengthening your governing documents, a parliamentarian is your partner in good governance.



Clear Rules.
Strong Leadership.
Better Meetings.
Stronger
Communities.



EDUCATE



GUIDE



SUPPORT



STRENGTHEN

Your Partner in
Parliamentary Excellence





Report on NAP Virtual Spring Conference

March 28, 2026

Track C: Enduring Principles - Evolving Practices;

Building Your Parliamentary Voice

Edward Nelson, PRP

Terminology in RONR: Changes Since the Nineteenth Century

Presented by David C. Mezzera, PRP

The speaker wonders about the many editions of *Robert's* and asks, Why do editions change from one edition to the next? Have you ever wondered whether the rules ever change from one edition to the next? The revision of the 1915, 4th edition (404 pages), contained 75% new material than the 1893, 3rd edition; the 1970, 7th edition (555 pages), was enlarged from the 1951, 6th edition; and the 2020, 12th edition, is “bumped up even more” to 633 pages plus appendices!

For one example: On the matter of changes from one addition to another, the speaker found two, calling them “180° Reversals in RONR.”

1. On minutes approval from the 10th to the 11th:
 - In the tinted pages of the 10th (t-18), approval of minutes is by a motion and a majority vote;
 - In the tinted pages of the 11th (t-18), approval of minutes by a motion is not voted on.
1. On the matter of recapitulation from the 10th to the 11th:
 - In the 10th edition, if you have taken a roll call vote and reconciled how each member voted, under no circumstances should a recapitulation be taken;
 - In the 11th edition, a recapitulation may be asked for by a member, regardless.

Other examples of changes from one edition to another focused on changes in terminology:

1. From the 6th edition of “chairman” to adding “chair” in the 7th, 8th, and 9th.
2. For the 10th, 11th, and 12th editions, “chairperson” added.
3. On updating Previous Question, adding, in successive editions, that which was only prescribed in the 6th edition as “I move the previous question”; and having the chair treat them all as a proper motion:
 - 7th (1970): “I move we vote now.”
 - 8th (1981): “I call for (or call) the question.”
 - 9th (1990): “I move to end (or close) debate.”
 - 10th (2000): “I move we vote now.”
 - 11th (2011): The same as 7th through 10th.
 - 12th (2020): “or in any other nonstandard form.”
1. The term “supermajority” appears in the index and is referenced by the speaker as a “threshold greater than a majority,” essentially a two-thirds vote, a three-fourths vote or a vote of the majority of fixed membership, and additional examples provided by the speaker as “previous notice and...”; “majority of those present,” “double majority.”

And finally, Henry M. Robert being a military man, “call to order,” “stand at ease,” and other actions appearing to have sprung from military jargon were mentioned.

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Unlock the Secrets to Becoming a NAP Member



Mondays at 7 p.m. ET
Facilitated by Carol Prahinski, PRP

 **EXCLUSIVE
ACCESS**
 **INSIDER
KNOWLEDGE**
 **VALUABLE
CONNECTIONS**

Discover the benefits, resources,
and opportunities waiting for you.

YOUR KEY TO MORE STARTS HERE

Florida State Association of
PARLIAMENTARIANS

Unlock the Secrets to Becoming a NAP Credentialed Member



Wednesdays at 7 p.m. ET
Facilitated by Stephanie "Sam" King, PRP

 **STAND OUT
In Your
Profession**
 **ACCESS
Exclusive
Resources**
 **CONNECT
with a Network of
Industry Leaders**

Discover the knowledge, resources, and
Opportunities that open the door to
Professional excellence.

**UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL
BECOME NAP CREDENTIALLED**

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Let All Things Be Done Decently and in Order



**Wednesdays
at 2 p.m. for 1-hour**

ON DEMAND TRAINING:
Videos from NAPU
FOR AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF RONR
with
Sarah Russell, RP

Target Audience

- You recognize that setting aside a consistent weekly time is the only reliable way to review NAPU videos and prepare for the credentialing exams.
- You want to assess your understanding one question at a time.

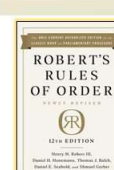
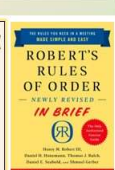


Click [HERE](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8446666666) to Register:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8446666666>

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NAP MEMBERSHIP
STUDY GUIDE
The first step to learning
how to master meetings

**QUESTIONS ANSWERED:
Basic Review
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES**

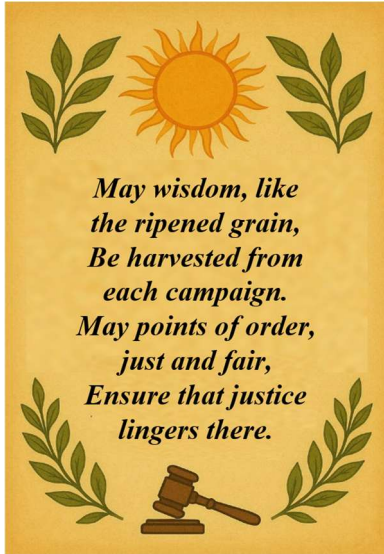
**Fridays
at 2 p.m. for 1-hour
with
Sarah Russell, RP**

Target Audience

- You have questions and a desire to learn basic terminology and procedures
- You want to understand how these procedures benefit members in an organization
- You prefer a friendly and conversational learning environment



Click [HERE](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8446666666) to Register:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8446666666>



Building Consensus Through Debate

Scripture:

“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

— Ephesians 4:3 (KJV)

Reflection:

Unity does not mean the absence of disagreement; it means a shared commitment to move forward together. Deliberative bodies become stronger when members seek common ground and work toward constructive solutions.

Parliamentary Principle:

Debate exists to refine ideas and help the assembly reach the best possible decision for the whole body.

Call to Action:

Seek collaboration over division, and help your assembly move forward with shared purpose.



“Unity can only be manifested by the Binary. Unity itself and the idea of Unity are already two.”



Small Board

Informal procedures

Presiding officer may make motions, debate and vote
Discussion is allowed with no motion pending

Tech Tip: How to open a QR code from a cell phone: Touch it! Touch the QR code! Sometimes it takes you where you want to go, or copy and past the link.

Misunderstanding Motions

Scenario:	Problem:	Tip:
A member makes a motion, but it's unclear what the motion entails, leading to debates about its meaning.	Unclear motions cause confusion and may delay the meeting.	Ensure that motions are stated clearly and in writing if possible. The chair should ask for clarification if needed.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Education & Training

- Members learn what to expect and how to participate
- 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

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

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).

