

# The Florida Parliamentarian

APRIL 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!***

### **May 16<sup>th</sup> – FSAP Virtual SPRING CONFERENCE**

***Beginning with the FSAP Membership Meeting, followed by four outstanding speakers presenting on meaningful topics centered on Practical Governance.***

March and April have been full of energy, growth, and opportunity in the parliamentary world. From Parliamentary Youth Month to Parliamentary Law Month, there has been no shortage of ways to learn, connect, and advance.



Through NAP initiatives and FSAP programming, members have been actively engaged:

- NAP ParliPrep sessions kicked off in January and continue through April

- The NAP Spring Conference bringing members together for learning and connection

- FSAP's 5th Tuesday feature: "Oops! The Minutes"

- Weekly FSAP training sessions building practical skills

- Members preparing for the NAP Membership Exam

- Candidates working toward RP and PRP credentials through the RPCE and PRPCE FSAP credentialed members generously serving as mentors

- A NAP Town Hall hosted by the Credentialing Committee

- And a once-in-a-lifetime milestone: the NAP 150-Year Celebration on April 30

With so many opportunities, it is easy to feel overwhelmed.

The key is not to do everything, but to be intentional:

- Use the FSAP website and NAP Events Calendar to stay informed

- Make a plan that aligns with your goals

- Stay focused on what matters most to your development

- Give yourself permission to attend selectively

Being aware of opportunities does not mean you are obligated to participate in all of them.

This season is a reminder that parliamentary procedure is not just about rules. It is about growth, leadership, and working together effectively. Celebrate the journey, stay balanced, and keep moving forward with purpose.

# NOTICE

**FSAP Membership Meeting** via Zoom  
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Saturday, May 16, 2026**

## Practical Governance



**Approved for up to 4 CEUs**



**Click to pay  
\$20 online  
and Register**

<https://fl-state-assoc-of-parliamentarians.square.site/>

**OR mail \$20** check payable to FSAP

Edward M. Moore, PRP

FSAP Treasurer

1730 Sandy Circle, #208

Cape Coral, FL 33904

**and click for Zoom Registration**



[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/pjc4xS3lTdK\\_4pQQ1Cq37Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/pjc4xS3lTdK_4pQQ1Cq37Q)

Your email receipt from Square will look like this this!  
Click on the "Event link" below for the Zoom meeting.

Order status

**\$20.00**

2026 Virtual Spring Conference - \$20

Notes: 1) The meeting will be held virtually using Zoom 2) Each individual must pay and register with their own email address to receive a...

Event link ←←←←



**10:45-11:50 am**

### **Parliamentary Principles**

Miriam Simmons, PRP

**12:20-1:25 pm**

### **Mastering the Meeting Landscape**

(Describing the types of deliberative assemblies)

Dr. Jacquita Wright-Henderson, PRP

**1:35-2:40 pm**

### **We Can Do Better - Improve Board**

**Performance Through Self-Assessment**

Carl Nohr, PRP

**2:50-3:55 pm**

### **Committees:**

**The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly**

Mary Remson, PRP



## Notice of Proposed Bylaw Amendment – May 16<sup>th</sup>

Motion to amend Article XIV to strike out “annual, fall, or special” and insert “membership” before “meeting” including conform amendments in Section 1 and in Section 2.

Current	Amendment	If Adopted
<p>Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-<u>thirds</u> vote at any annual, fall, or special-meeting of FSAP, provided that the content of any proposed amendment has been noticed in writing with the call of the meeting at least thirty days before the meeting. Without previous notice, these bylaws may be amended at any annual, fall, or special meeting by unanimous vote.</p> <p>Section 2. A proposal for a bylaw revision may only be authorized at an annual meeting. The proposed bylaw revision shall be presented at the next annual meeting or special meeting and shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed revision has been noticed with the call of the meeting at least thirty days before the meeting.</p> <p>Section 3. Amendments to, or a revision of, these bylaws shall become effective at the adjournment of <del>the annual meeting or special</del> meeting at which they are adopted unless otherwise provided.</p> <p>Section 4. Any amendment to these bylaws necessitated by amendments to NAP bylaws shall be effected by the FSAP Executive Board and reported to the membership in writing at least sixty days following the adoption of such amendments by NAP.</p>	<p>Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-<u>thirds</u> vote at any <b>annual, fall, or special membership</b> meeting of FSAP, provided that the content of any proposed amendment has been noticed in writing with the call of the meeting at least thirty days before the meeting. Without previous notice, these bylaws may be amended at any <b>annual, fall, or special membership</b> meeting by unanimous vote.</p> <p>Section 2. A proposal for a bylaw revision may only be authorized at an annual meeting. The proposed bylaw revision shall be presented at the next annual meeting or special meeting and shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed revision has been noticed with the call of the meeting at least thirty days before the meeting.</p> <p>Section 3. Amendments to, or a revision of, these bylaws shall become effective at the adjournment of the <b>annual meeting or special membership</b> meeting at which they are adopted unless otherwise provided. Section 4. Any amendment to these bylaws necessitated by amendments to NAP bylaws shall be effected by the FSAP Executive Board and reported to the membership in writing at least sixty days following the adoption of such amendments by NAP.</p>	<p>Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-<u>thirds</u> vote at any <b>membership</b> meeting of FSAP, provided that the content of any proposed amendment has been noticed in writing with the call of the meeting at least thirty days before the meeting. Without previous notice, these bylaws may be amended at any <b>membership</b> meeting by unanimous vote.</p> <p>Section 2. A proposal for a bylaw revision may only be authorized at an annual meeting. The proposed bylaw revision shall be presented at the next annual meeting or special meeting and shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed revision has been noticed with the call of the meeting at least thirty days before the meeting.</p> <p>Section 3. Amendments to, or a revision of, these bylaws shall become effective at the adjournment of the <b>membership</b> meeting at which they are adopted unless otherwise provided. Section 4. Any amendment to these bylaws necessitated by amendments to NAP bylaws shall be effected by the FSAP Executive Board and reported to the membership in writing at least sixty days following the adoption of such amendments by NAP.</p>

Rationale: Allow bylaw amendments to be considered at any membership meeting and go into effect at the adjournment of that meeting unless otherwise provided.



**NORTH FLORIDA PARLIAMENTARY UNIT  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

**Youth Training by Novella L. Franklin**  
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated  
Alpha Upsilon Zeta  
Youth Auxiliaries – Archonette  
Youth Director Cindy Jackson-Waymon

**Building Leaders with Purpose:  
Archonettes Strengthen Their Voice  
Through Parliamentary Training**

The AYZ Archonette Club recently took an important step in strengthening their leadership skills by participating in an engaging training on Robert’s Rules of Order, by Ms. Novella L. Franklin, a Registered Parliamentarian.

This informative session equipped members with the knowledge and confidence to effectively conduct meetings and work together with intention.

Throughout the training, the young ladies learned the fundamentals of conducting structured and productive meetings. From calling a meeting to order to understanding how to make motions and vote, the session provided practical, hands-on insight into how organizations operate efficiently and with purpose.



FSAP supports its members and to inspire the next generation of parliamentarians, by donating one RONR to a student group working with an RP or PRP on an annual basis. This initiative is intended to promote learning, confidence, and effective participation in deliberative assemblies.

Adding energy and excitement to the experience, Ms. Franklin incorporated interactive activities that allowed members to practice their new skills in real time. The club was also



provided with a current desk reference of Robert's Rules of Order to support proper meeting procedures, along with valuable information on youth training and certification opportunities in parliamentary leadership.

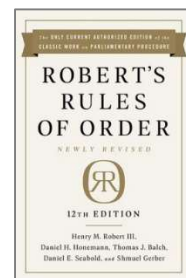
One of the most impactful lessons focused on the

importance of shared responsibility. The Archonettes learned that a successful meeting is not led by the president alone, but by the collective effort of every member. As the club's president Ms. Zaniya Brown shared, ***“One thing I've learned from the meeting is that everyone's role matters. Working together is a key aspect of running a meeting, and it's not just the president that helps the meeting run smoothly. Everyone's individual 'jobs' are what make a successful discussion.”***

The training also emphasized the value of growth over perfection. Members were encouraged to see meetings as a space to learn, develop, and build confidence, regardless of their position. Ms. Melody King another member shared, ***“I also learned that not every meeting has to be strict and perfect. It's an opportunity for everyone to grow. We were taught many different skills and job functions in just one lesson, and it reinforced the power of our voices.”***

Additionally, the training introduced the importance of leadership structures, including the Executive Board and Parliamentarian, as key to conducting meetings with fairness, order, and clarity. The Archonettes developed a deeper understanding of how these roles contribute to building strong and effective organizations.

Overall, the training enhanced the club's ability to function as a cohesive team while providing each member with leadership skills that will benefit them in the future. With increased confidence and a clearer understanding of their voices, these young ladies are learning not just to participate, but to lead effectively using Robert's Rules of Order.





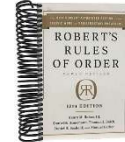
# CONGRATULATIONS!

FBLA 2026 Florida State Leadership Conference

**Mater Academy Charter High School**

**FBLA Parliamentary Team – State Champions!**

Anthony Molina, Juan Gonzalez, Ammie Damas, and Luis Fabbian



**Thank you so much!!!!**

**Your participation in judging Chapter Team means so much to the students and their advisors. We truly appreciate your help as volunteer event coordinator and judges:)**

Sincerely,  
Martha Flynn Florida TSA





## My overview of the NAP Virtual Spring Conference

Carol A Austin, PRP

Here are the sessions I attended. It started at 11:00 a.m. eastern time and ended at 5:30 p.m. with a very very brief break. This was Track C titled Enduring Principles Evolving Practice and Building Your Parliamentary Practice.

***Where Robert's Stops and the Law Begins*** presented by Carole R. Albright, PRP, Carole is also an attorney. This seminar provided parliamentary authorities, procedures that cause risks and of course to always be careful to not practice the unauthorized practice of law.

***Enduring Principles*** by Boyd Ready, RP discussed the principals of deliberative assemblies and the foundation in historical documents and their relationship to common law and modern practices. A comparison was made to the Jefferson Manual to RONR.

***Filling Blanks: From Inception to the 12<sup>th</sup> Edition*** by Carol Prahinski, PRP. The steps were discussed in creating a blank. The suggestion(s), the vote to fill blank and then the final vote to adopt a suggestion. A majority vote is needed, An example such a buying high and selling low. An interesting discussion took place regarding how the minutes are reflected with this motion. RONR 12:102 covers Voting on the Suggestions.

***Terminology in RONR: Changes Since the Nineteenth Century*** presented by David Mezzera, I enjoyed this session. This is on the various editions of RONR and how it keeps up with the times. I am a Navy veteran and we discussed some of the various military commands which I still vividly remember such as “*Stand at Ease*” . We discussed what happens when the chair states Stand at Ease and someone objects. We ended what we think should be included the the next edition of RONR.

***Point of Order: The Rules Then and Now*** presented by Joyce Brown Watkins, PRP.

Here we discussed the Point of Order, an incidental motion. The term super majority, which is a threshold of greater than a majority. RONR Index 709-710 gives examples.



Our President Barbara Proctor, PRP and our Past President Stephanie “Sam” King, PRP were the two individuals who coordinated this conference. Kudos to them for their time and talents in putting together this conference, which to me was a remarkable success.



**Report on NAP Virtual Spring Conference**  
March 28, 2026  
**Track C: Enduring Principles - Evolving Practices;  
Building Your Parliamentary Voice**  
Edward Nelson, PRP

Track C consisted of one session distinguishing the practice of parliamentary law from the law as practiced in the legal community, and four sessions of historical surveys on the evolution of the parliamentary lexicon found in Henry M. Robert’s rules of parliamentary law from the first edition of 1876 to the current edition of 2020.

**1. Where Robert’s Stops and the Law Begins - Presented by Carole R. Albright, PRP**

On distinguishing between parliamentary procedure and the law as practiced in the legal community, the speaker noted that parliamentary procedure generally results only in making a procedural correction not likely to have legal consequences, whereas violating a law or statute or ordinance risks exposure to legal liability. Discussion on the category of governing documents familiar to all parliamentarians focused on the correspondences to, and the related hazards from, parliamentarians advising clients on legal matters.

**2. Enduring Principles - Presented by Boyd Ready, RP**

The speaker provided commentary on rights derived from a historical analysis of the texts of several parliamentary related documents with anniversary years occurring in 2026 (e.g., *Magna Carta*, 801st; Jefferson’s *Declaration of Independence*, 250th) and, by way of those examples, argued the case that all parliamentary procedure is a form of common law.

**3. Filling Blanks: From Inception to the 12th Edition - Presented by Carol Prahinski, PRP**

The speaker provided commentary on the historical evolution of the prescriptive statements concerning the process of filing blanks found in preceding editions of *Robert’s Rules of Order* up to and including the present day’s edition. There was much lively discussion about the meaning of the phrases in several edition texts used to characterize the suggestions themselves for filling a blank—Are suggestions *independent motions* or *independent propositions* or *independent original motions*?—and their correspondence to whether suggestions should or should not be recorded in the minutes.

#### **4. Terminology in RONR: Changes Since the Nineteenth Century - Presented by David Mezzera, PRP**

The speaker wondered 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! A number of additions and changes in text throughout the editions were provided.

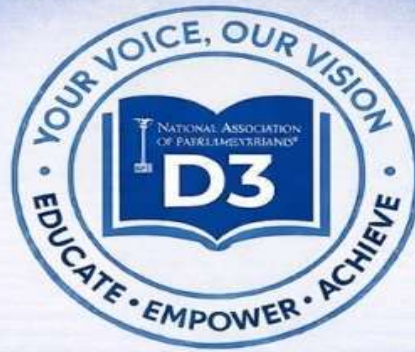
#### **5. Point of Order: The Rules Then and Now - Presented by Joyce A. Brown-Watkins, PRP**

On the matter of questions of order, the speaker noted that in "the earlier manuals the Incidental Motions were not actually separated but grouped together" such that there "was not a clear distinction between Point of Order, Parliamentary Inquiry, and Request for Information," even though the fundamental concepts of each remain the same then as now. Discussion included comments on raising a point of order and noted that between the 10th and 11th editions there were "some wording changes but the intent was the same."

### **Conclusion**


Parliamentarians interested in the history of Henry M. Robert's rules of order would do well to review the videos of these sessions. The body of historical facts presented is a testament to the thoroughness and quality of research on the part of the speakers.





## SAVE THE DATE

2026 District Three  
**Innovation in Motion:**  
*Parliamentary Spotlight Forum*

 Saturday, June 20, 2026



Join **District Three** for a dynamic and engaging virtual forum highlighting **innovation, best practices,** and thought leadership in **parliamentary procedure.** This event will feature insightful presentations and spotlight discussions designed to inform, inspire, and elevate **parliamentary excellence.**

Contact **Steven Cook, PRP, District Three Director**  
email: [d3d.cook@nap2.org](mailto:d3d.cook@nap2.org)



**FIRST STEPS:**  
**FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS**

**Mondays**  
from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (ET)  
New 4-week session starts every month  
Presented by FSAP Expert Parliamentarians

Florida State Association of PARLIAMENTARIANS  
*Let All Things Be Done Decently and in Order*

**Target Audience**

- You want to learn more about parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order.
- You want to have great meetings.
- You want to become a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians.

Click [HERE](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81054940000v3PdlHIE7gA) to Register:

**NEXT STEPS:**  
**APPLICATION SKILLS OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**  
**From Confusion to Credibility**

**Wednesdays**  
at 7 p.m. (ET) for 1-hour  
facilitated by  
**Stephanie "Sam" King, PRP**

Florida State Association of PARLIAMENTARIANS  
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**Target Audience**

- You are seeking opportunities to ask questions to understand specific procedures and to practice using your skills
- You have questions about items listed in the NAP Criteria for Credentialing or following NAP's ParliPrep sessions

Click [HERE](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/825401R7m5d0x1-EW71A) to Register at:

**QUESTIONS ANSWERED:**  
**Basic Review**  
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

**FRIDAYS**  
at 2 p.m. for 1-hour  
with  
**Sarah Russell, RP**  
Click [HERE](#) to Register

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

Florida State Association of PARLIAMENTARIANS  
*Let All Things Be Done Decently and in Order*

**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

**ON DEMAND TRAINING:**  
**Videos from NAPU**  
FOR AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF RONR

with  
**Sarah Russell, RP**

**Wednesdays**  
at 2 p.m. for 1-hour  
Click [HERE](#) to Register

Florida State Association of PARLIAMENTARIANS  
*Let All Things Be Done Decently and in Order*

**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.

**FSAP Tech Tips**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays**  
at 7 p.m. (ET) with  
**Barbara Proctor, PRP**

**Robert's Rules in Every Format: Matching Format to Function**  
April 21, 2026

Florida State Association of PARLIAMENTARIANS  
*Let All Things Be Done Decently and in Order*

**This session explores four common formats:**

- Kindle edition
- Printed book
- Spiral-bound version
- Thumb Drive - digital to evaluate how each supports efficiency, accessibility, & authority in real meeting situations.

Click [HERE](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81226765Uuu181A7v5A1Q) to Register:

*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!*

Florida State Association of PARLIAMENTARIANS  
*Let All Things Be Done Decently and in Order*

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

Link to NAP to become a member of a unit:  
<https://www.parliamentarians.org/credentialing-20th-anniversary/>

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:



NAP EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

To register and for updated information, visit the FSAP website [FLparliamentarian.com](http://FLparliamentarian.com)