

Florida Parliamentarian

JULY 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!

The Dog Days of Summer have a way of slowing us down.

The calendar becomes less demanding, vacations replace meetings, and family gatherings often take priority over committee work. It is a welcome change of pace and an opportunity to step away from our usual routines.

Give yourself permission to relax. Spend time with family and friends. Enjoy a favorite hobby. Watch the sunset, take a walk, or simply appreciate a quieter schedule. Rest is not the opposite of productivity. It is often what prepares us for our best work.



USA FOREVER

Summer is also an ideal time for reflection. Think back on the meetings, conventions, and board sessions you attended during the past year. What parliamentary situations stood out? Was there a motion that generated thoughtful debate? Did the chair handle a difficult situation particularly well? Was there a ruling that surprised you or a procedure you would like to understand more completely?

Consider keeping a **Parliamentary Journal**. Over time, these brief notes become your own personalized reference library, filled with real life examples that no textbook can fully capture. After each meeting or convention, record your observations. What parliamentary situations occurred? What motion or procedure was involved? How was it handled?

You can keep your RONR knowledge fresh by attending the FSAP weekly 7 p.m. Monday Foundational Training or Wednesday Presiding Blitz or schedule 15 minutes a day to read RONR or RONR In Brief. A few pages at a time may be all you need to reinforce familiar concepts or discover something new. Learning in small, consistent steps is often more effective than trying to study for hours at a time.

Where did the time go? As July draws to a close, look ahead to August. A new season of meetings, educational programs, and leadership opportunities is just around the corner. Now is the perfect time to organize your calendar, set a few learning goals, and prepare to return with renewed energy and confidence.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer. Relax. Reflect. Renew. Then, when August arrives in two short weeks, you'll be ready to bring fresh insight, renewed enthusiasm, and sound parliamentary leadership to every meeting you attend.



Tuesday, July 21st

Join Hattie Mary Young, RP, for an information-packed TechTips session designed to make your parliamentary documents more professional, accurate, and easier to manage.

Discover how to:

- Create line numbers for bylaws and parliamentary scripts.
- Learn the advantages of using line numbers—and the common pitfalls to avoid.
- Implement a consistent bylaw numbering system that prevents duplicate numbering and eliminates confusion.
- Easily turn paragraph numbering on and off in Microsoft Word.
- Watch a live demonstration of Track Changes (editorial tracking) to simplify reviewing and editing documents.

Whether you prepare bylaws, write scripts, or review governing documents, these practical techniques will save time, improve accuracy, and enhance collaboration.



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.

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

- 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 can open a world of possibilities. Come see how easy it is!

FSAP MEMBERS...

You're Invited to

NAP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

IGNITE THE Magic

*honoring our legacy,
inspiring our future.*

NAP NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

BIRMINGHAM,
♡ *Alabama*

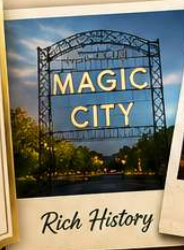
AUGUST 26–30, 2026

LEARN.
CONNECT.
LEAD.
*Leave
Inspired!*

Sharpen Your Skills

- 📖 Expert-Led Education
- ⚙️ Practical Tools
- 👥 Leadership Development
- 💚 Lifelong Connections

All in a welcoming, vibrant
Southern setting! ♡



Rich History



Warm Hospitality



Bright Future



FSAP Strong. NAP Stronger. Together, We Shine!

INVEST IN YOURSELF. IMPACT YOUR ORGANIZATION. IGNITE THE MAGIC! ♡



MARK YOUR CALENDAR & JOIN US IN BIRMINGHAM!

Let's make magic—together! · ✨

FSAP

Florida State Association of PARLIAMENTARIANS



Click <https://forms.gle/yNDVKSJBaHGmkNWXa> to Submit Online for a Chance to Win!

Reimbursement of \$50 Registration Fee for

NAP ANNUAL 2026 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Built on Legacy:

LEADING WITH PURPOSE, PASSION, AND VISION





AUGUST 7-8, 2026
FRIDAY & SATURDAY



10:00 AM – 3:00 PM (CST)
EACH DAY



**VIRTUAL
EXPERIENCE**

After submitting an article up to one page suitable for publication in *The Florida Parliamentarian*
Drawing on August 1st for 7 FSAP Members

NAP University

Friday, August 7, 2026

Time (CDT)	Session
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Welcome & Conference Kickoff
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	Workshop #1: Follow the Money: Treasurer's Budget — Mark Apodaca, PRP, NAP Treasurer
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Workshop #2: Ready to Serve: Being Board Ready — Alison Wallis, PRP
12:15 – 12:45 p.m.	Meal Break — NAP HQ Starting a Newsletter
12:45 – 1:45 p.m.	Workshop #3: Event/Conference Planning 101 Workshop — Richard Miseyko, Site Solutions
1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	Workshop #4: Growth of Unit & Associations — Miriam Simmons, PRP, District Five Director
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Day One Reflection & Pause

Saturday, August 8, 2026

Time (CDT)	Session
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Day Two Welcome & Energizer
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	Workshop #5: NAP Foundation — Sandy Olson
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Spotlight Speaker: Laura Meade, PRP Who's Going to Keep the Profession Alive in a World with AI?
12:15 – 1:00 p.m.	Meal Break — NAP HQ How to Update NAP
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	Workshop #6: AI Workshop — CJ Cavin, PRP, NAP VP
2:15 – 2:45 p.m.	Workshop #7: Communicating Like a Leader — Mona Calhoun, PRP, NAP President
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Conference Closing, Commitments to Action & Evaluation

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS®

Educating the world on parliamentary procedure

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2026.08.07-08 NAP Virtual Leadership Conference

Register

"Built on Legacy: Leading with Purpose, Passion, and Vision"

WHAT TO EXPECT • Transformational Leadership Sessions • Purpose-Driven Conversations
 • Visionary Strategy & Growth Development • Networking with Dynamic Leaders Nationwide

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Join us as we honor the strength of our legacy while empowering leaders to rise with intention, passion, and vision for the future.

CALL TO ACTION *Secure Your Spot Today!– Cost \$50 – CEU's provided*

Recordings of these sessions will be made available for registrants up to 90 days after they are posted.

 **DATE**
August 7-8, 2026

 **LOCATION**

Event Tasks

[View Discussion Board](#)

[Download iCalendar File](#)

Links

[NAP University Link](#)

The Florida Parliamentarian – July 2026

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS®
2026 National Training Conference
 August 26-30, 2026 • Birmingham, AL



**Ignite the Magic:
 Honoring Our Legacy,
 Inspiring Our Future**

Join us for a conference experience that blends professional growth and Southern charm, with excellent educational sessions and practice labs in a historic setting. Forge new friendships and renew old ones.



Hyatt Regency Birmingham –
 The Wynfrey Hotel
 1000 Riverchase Galleria
 Birmingham, AL 35244

NAPEF
 2026 FUNDRAISER
 Saturday, August 29, 2026



The NAP Educational Foundation (NAPEF) is a charitable organization that raises funds to support NAP's efforts to develop, promote, and provide educational content and programs that will enhance the parliamentary profession. NAPEF also provides scholarships to students and young professionals that fund annual membership dues and other fees.

The theme for the gala dinner is **A Day in the Life of Henry M. Robert III**. Tickets are \$140/person.

Join the NAP Educational Foundation for an evening of fun and fellowship while supporting the Foundation.



*Sign up for the NAPEF Fundraiser
 when you register for the Conference.*

See you there!

FSAP Fall Membership Meeting **NOTICE**

Save the Date!
NOVEMBER 7, 2026



**FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION
 OF
 PARLIAMENTARIANS**

**HENRY M. ROBERT DAY
 FALL CONFERENCE**

at the
**SPRINGHILL SUITES
 IN LAKELAND, FL**

- Plan for a great state meeting
- Inspirational presentations
- Hands-on training
- Networking & fellowship



Plan on attending!



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS®
2026 NAP Training Conference
 August 26-30, 2026 • Birmingham, AL






Robert's Rules Create the Process that Allows Democracy to Work by ensuring that every voice has an opportunity to be heard, every vote counts, and decisions are made fairly

Democracy is fragile from its very beginning because it depends on people disagreeing respectfully, listening fairly, and deciding together without force. Robert's Rules of Order (RONR) protect that fragile balance by giving every member a voice, setting clear limits on power, and replacing chaos with orderly, fair decision making so the will of the majority is expressed while the rights of the minority are preserved.

From the First Continental Congress to frontier towns, deeply different voices collided. It took days just to agree on how to meet. When Henry M. Robert published his first book, people embraced it because it provided standard meeting procedures for everyone could use. Confusion gave way to order, and every voice had a fair chance to be heard.

Women's clubs, professional societies, veterans' organizations, charitable groups, fraternal orders, churches, and business associations were proliferating. The timing of Robert's work was not accidental, it met a growing need for a common procedural language among organizations that were becoming increasingly important to American civic life.

Grassroot movements, organized largely from the bottom up, reshaped our laws, culture, and democratic participation.

- The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution adopted in 1920 gave women the right to vote influenced by the **Women's Suffrage Movement**.
- The **Populist Movement** in the 1890s included farmers and rural communities that resulted in the 17th Amendment allowing for the direct election of Senators, the regulation of railroads and banks, and income tax groundwork.

- The **Labor Movement** involved industrial workers, unions, and immigrants which resulted in our 8-hour workday, child labor laws, workplace safety and collective bargaining rights.
- The **Civil Rights Movement** transformed constitutional law and the American democracy through the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 to initiate desegregation.
- The **New Deal Coalition** created our social safety net with social security, minimum wage, and unemployment insurance.
- The **Environmental Movement** resulted in the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and creation of the Environmental Protection Agency making environmental protection a public responsibility.

Let's not forget the **Anti-War Peace Movement** that redefined citizen influence on foreign policy, the **Feminist Movement** that reshaped gender roles and legal equality in the workplace, the **Disability Rights Movement**, the **LGBTQ Rights Movement** that expanded civil rights and social recognition by decriminalization of homosexuality and marriage equality, the **Immigration Rights Movement**, **Black Lives Matter**, **MeToo Movement**, **Climate Justice Movement**, etc.

All of **these movements were successful because they relied on organized meetings** of ordinary people following an agenda, making motions, inviting debate, using committees and bylaws, to built legitimacy through orderly deliberation. Although these groups may not have formally adopted RONR, they aligned with the core principles embodied in RONR because their success depended on training ordinary people to meet, deliberate, lead, and decide together.

The Labor Movement required orderly procedures for fair elections, majority rule with minority rights, and discipline in mass meetings for strike votes, contract ratifications, and officer accountability. Motions, debate limits, recorded votes, clear authority of the chair, and appeal processes were used to prevent abuse of power. These procedures resulted in legitimacy in negotiations and internal unity despite ideological differences.

The Women's Suffrage Movement was highly structured with conventions, committees, and bylaws, because women had to prove their capacity for leadership, governance, and civil debate demonstrating women were ready for political participation.

The Civil Rights Movement required nonviolent discipline, message control, and unity made possible through structured meeting formats already used by churches and civic groups. These agenda driven meetings created an orderly process for respectful debate despite high emotions, for clear decisions in coordinating national action from local chapters.

Every movement needed inclusive participation, equal recognition to speak and to vote, to create a strong advocacy which resulted in expanding and enforcing our democratic principles. Formal debate allows for safe disagreement, builds unity to help avoid fragmentation to create sustained momentum. Although virtual meetings have modified some meeting procedures, success remains dependent on following the governing documents and protecting the rights of members to attend meetings, make motions, debate and vote – membership participation is essential to democracy success. Every organization must train its leaders to survive internal conflict to enable them to speak with legitimacy to those in power.

Grassroot movements are an integral part of our democracy and our society. They thrive, not because people are passionate, but because their members learned how to decide together. RONR changes the meeting environment by making leadership procedural, not personal. RONR replaces power struggles with fair process allowing people who disagree to decide together. Order makes cooperation possible among people who would never agree voluntarily.

How? The following case studies demonstrate how the meeting procedures found in RONR allow strong voices without domination, disagreement without disorder, and authority without abuse.



A member repeatedly dominates debate, challenges the chair's rulings, and revisits issues already decided.

RONR channels repeated objections into **proper motions**, preventing endless debate while preserving rights.

Appropriate RONR Procedures:

- **Enforce debate procedures and limits** (speak only after recognition)
- **Call the member to order** for improper challenges or out-of-turn remarks
- **Previous Question** to close debate when the body is ready
- **Point of Order** and **Ruling of the Chair**
- **Motion to Reconsider** (only if timely and properly made) to prevent improper reopening of settled questions



During a meeting, one member frequently interrupts, speaks out of turn, and questions the legitimacy of decisions.

RONR allows an appeal to strengthen the chair's legitimacy by showing the rules, not the chair, are in control.

Appropriate RONR Procedures:

- **Firm recognition rules** (members speak only when recognized)
- **Point of Order** raised by the chair or members
- **Appeal from the Decision of the Chair** (*defuses* claims of bias)
- **Reminder of rules and decorum** before escalation
- **Naming the behavior, not the person**



A meeting becomes tense when a member refuses to follow debate limits and attempts to derail the agenda.

RONR procedure restores focus **without engaging emotionally** with disruptive behavior.

Appropriate RONR Procedure:

- Adhere to the agenda/order of business
- Limit debate (time or number of speeches)
- Call to Order for off-topic remarks
- Lay on the Table (when urgent business interrupts—not to suppress debate)
- Previous Question when discussion becomes repetitive



A member's conduct begins to disrupt the orderly transaction of business.

RONR emphasizes **graduated response**, escalating as needed to preserve fairness and dignity.

Appropriate RONR Procedures:

- **Call to Order** as the first corrective step
- **Warning** by the chair if behavior continues
- **Naming the rule being violated**
- **Motion to Require the Member to Refrain** from certain behavior (if persistent)
- **Disciplinary procedures** only as a last resort



In a deliberative assembly, a member persistently challenges procedure and dominates discussion.

RONR provides a **ladder of response** allowing the assembly to correct behavior while maintaining legitimacy.

Recommended Sequence:

- Strict enforcement of recognition and debate rules
- Points of Order, Rulings and Appeals, if raised (decided by the assembly)
- Limits on debate
- Formal warning
- Motion to censure or disciplinary action, if behavior continues
- Referral to a disciplinary committee, if warranted

The world has changed, but the danger has not. Without fair process, democracy fractures. That is why Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised endures, quietly protecting decision making in meetings Henry Robert could never have imagined.



Report on NAP Virtual Spring Conference

March 28, 2026

Track C: Enduring Principles - Evolving Practices; Building Your Parliamentary Voice

Edward Nelson, PRP

“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 *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*. Here are several retrospective examples:

- Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies (1876)
- On the creation of the blank, the process isn’t laid out in sequence.
- On the process of making suggestions (which are not considered to be amendments), the methods are not presented.
- On the sequencing of suggestions, form is severely limited.
- As to form and example, there is but one example; and, it is in this example (on nominations) that a second suggestion, “instead of being an amendment to the first [suggestion], is an independent motion.” (italics added)
- Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies (1915, 1943)
- On the processing of suggestions, “they are treated not as amendments, one of another, but as independent propositions to be voted on successively.” (italics added)
- In later editions—1970, 1981, 1990, 2000, 2010: “Each proposal . . . is treated as an independent original to be voted on separately until one is approved by a majority.” (italics added)
- There was much lively discussion about the meaning of the phrases independent motion, independent propositions, and independent original and their correspondence to whether suggestions should or should not be recorded in the minutes. “Should not” seemed to be the prevailing sentiment.
- Thomas Jefferson’s founding manual uses custom and precedent.
- Privilege of the assembly is deliberately left undefined.

Florida State Association of
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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

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

**UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL
BECOME NAP CREDENTIALLED**

Florida State Association of
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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.

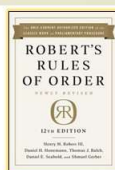
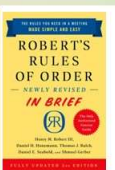


Click [HERE](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8446666666) to Register:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8446666666>

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

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>



Respecting Every Voice

Scripture:

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.”

— Romans 12:10 (KJV)

Reflection:

Healthy assemblies thrive when members honor one another’s contributions. Respect is not agreement with every viewpoint, but recognition of each person’s dignity and right to participate.

Parliamentary Principle:

Parliamentary procedure protects minority rights while allowing the majority to decide, ensuring all voices are treated fairly.

Call to Action:

Listen with respect, speak with kindness, and help create meetings where participation is valued.



“When the wise do not advise, the ignorant are misled.”



Seek wise counsel; it lights the path of the assembly”



Large Board

- Formal procedures
- Usually only board members may attend unless governing documents specify non-board members or the public may attend

Tech Tip: AI does not replace the parliamentarian's knowledge and experience; it provides a tool for practicing analysis, interpretation, and application of parliamentary rules.

Late Arrivals

Scenario: A member arrives 30 minutes late and starts participating without any context, disrupting the flow of the meeting.	Problem: Late arrivals cause confusion and disrupt the meeting.	Tip: Encourage punctuality, if someone arrives late, restate the pending motion or item of business before they speak.
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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



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).