

The Florida Parliamentarian

MARCH 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 stop: **March NAP Parliamentary Youth Month**

Youth groups across Florida, whether advocacy based, mentoring focused, recreational, or educational, can benefit greatly from using **Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR)**. Let's explore how these time tested principles can strengthen youth groups, examine the many types of youth organizations in Florida, identify the most useful basic procedures, and outline a practical course FSAP members can use to support young people, their parents, and their advisors.



Strengthen effectiveness by teaching youth structured civic engagement:

- How to make a motion clearly
- How to debate respectfully
- How to preside impartially
- How to vote and accept outcomes

Ensures inclusion and fairness which is essential to trust:

- Everyone that is a member has the right to make motions and speak in debate
- Debate may be limited but fair because the rules apply to everyone
- Rights of the individual, the minority, and the assembly are protected
- Every member has the same vote, one person one vote, as the majority decides

Inefficient informal decision making becomes efficient to ensure consistency as networks grow across local chapters

- Standard agenda structure
- Clear officer duties
- Defined committee process
- Consistent election procedures



Youth organizations, including youth advisory councils and leadership boards prepare participants for civic life as members of school boards, city councils, nonprofit boards, and professional associations.

Parliamentary education based on Robert's Rules equips young people with practical leadership skills that build confidence and encourage meaningful participation in group decision-making. Youth learn how to respond thoughtfully, speak effectively even when opinions differ, and remain composed while advocating for their ideas. These skills help them develop resilience and the ability to handle conflict constructively—an essential leadership skill they will carry into their education, careers, and community involvement.

They experience important democratic principles firsthand: every voice matters, each member has an equal voice, the majority decides, after the minority has the opportunity to be heard to help ensure the most informed decisions are made. For youth organizations, the result is stronger governance with clear procedures, transparent voting and accurate meeting minutes to foster credibility in promoting funding and partnerships.



When youth are given this framework, they often demonstrate remarkable thoughtfulness, leadership, and depth of understanding. These qualities strengthen both the individuals involved and the organizations they lead.

Essentially, Robert's Rules provides: order, fairness, leadership development, conflict management, civic education and credibility for youth groups.

Youth Organizations & Clubs in Florida include:

- Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs – youth empowerment and education
- Florida Youth Council – advocacy and leadership for youth with disabilities
- Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network – outdoor based programs
- Team Future – American Children's Campaign – youth advocacy and support
- Florida Youth Club – youth activities and programs
- Zebra Youth – after-school support, drop-in services, and counseling
- Florida Youth at Risk – music and arts empowerment
- Florida Youth Challenge Academy – education and leadership programs)

Encouraging Parliamentarians to Serve Youth Organizations

Parliamentarians: The Next Generation Needs You

Across Florida, youth organizations are shaping future civic leaders, nonprofit board members, and community advocates. Yet many of these groups struggle with orderly meetings, fair decision making, and leadership development.

This is where trained parliamentarians can make a lasting impact.

Using **Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised**, youth leaders learn more than motions and votes. They learn:

- Respectful debate
- Majority rule with protection of minority rights
- Officer responsibility
- Structured decision making
- Confidence in public speaking

As members of the **National Association of Parliamentarians**, we are uniquely positioned to mentor, teach, and model these skills.

Youth organizations do not need perfection. They need guidance. They need someone who can:

- Conduct a short workshop
- Help draft simple bylaws
- Explain elections clearly
- Coach a youth president
- Serve as a resource when conflict arises



When we serve youth groups, we are not simply teaching procedure. We are strengthening civic culture.

Parliamentary procedure is not just about business meetings. It is about building leaders who understand fairness, structure, and accountability.

If each parliamentarian reached just one youth organization this year, imagine the statewide impact.

The next generation of leaders is already meeting. Let us help them meet well.

Short Presentation Outline for Youth Leaders

Title: Leading with Confidence Using Parliamentary Procedure

I. Why Structure Matters

- Meetings without structure lead to confusion
- Clear process builds fairness and trust
- Everyone deserves a voice

II. The Basics You Need

- What is a motion
- How debate works
- How voting works
- Role of the chair
- Role of members



III. Why It Benefits You Personally

- Builds public speaking skills
- Develops leadership presence
- Prepares you for college and civic boards
- Teaches respectful disagreement

IV. Simple Tools to Start Using Today

- Agenda with clear order of business
- Recognition before speaking
- One motion at a time
- Accurate minutes

Support Available

The **Florida State Association of Parliamentarians** is available to assist youth leaders with workshops, coaching, and resources. The **National Association of Parliamentarians Educational Foundation** grant will support outreach and training for youth organizations across Florida in the practical use of parliamentary procedure. By providing age appropriate workshops, simplified instructional materials, and mentorship from trained parliamentarians, this initiative will equip young leaders with skills in structured decision making, fair debate, officer responsibility, and civic engagement. The project advances parliamentary education by expanding access to Robert's Rules principles among emerging leaders and strengthening governance practices within youth led organizations.

Training Module for Youth Boards

Foundations of Fair and Effective Meetings (60-90 minutes)

Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand the purpose of parliamentary procedure
- Learn how to make and process a motion
- Practice debate with time limits
- Conduct a proper vote
- Understand officer roles

Why Meetings Need Structure

Interactive discussion on common meeting problems.

Anatomy of a Motion

Demonstration:

“I move that...”

Second

Chair states the motion

Debate

Vote

Announcement of result

Officer Responsibilities

- President remains impartial
- Secretary records actions not discussion
- Members debate respectfully

Practice Simulation

Youth conduct a mock meeting using a simple scenario.

Reflection

What felt different

How structure improved clarity

How this applies to real meetings



Follow up support available through FSAP mentoring.

Youth Training Curriculum

Foundations of Fair and Effective Meetings (2 sessions: 60-90 minutes)

Session One: Meeting Basics

Learning Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand structure improves fairness
- Learn the basic motion process
- Recognize the role of the chair
- Practice respectful debate

Part 1: Why Meetings Fail

Discussion of common problems:

- Side conversations
- Repeating the same points
- Dominating speakers
- Confusion about voting

Part 2: The Basic Motion Process

Step by step demonstration:

- a. Member seeks recognition
- b. Chair recognizes member
 1. Member makes motion
 2. Another member seconds the motion
 3. Chair states the motion
 4. Debate
 5. Vote
 6. Chair announces the result of the vote

Practice with simple scenarios relevant to youth organizations.

Session Two: Leadership and Governance

Learning Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand officer duties
- Learn how elections work
- Practice handling disagreement
- Gain confidence presiding

Part 1: Officer Roles

President:

- Impartial presiding
- States motions clearly
- Protects fairness

Secretary:

- Records actions taken
- Maintains official record

Members:

- Speak after recognition
- Debate issues not people

Part 2: Election Demonstration

Mock nominations and election process.

Part 3: Conflict Management

How structured debate reduces tension.

Optional Follow Up

- FSAP mentorship support
- Bylaw review assistance
- Advanced training workshops



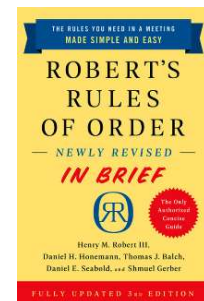
My Parliamentary Journey

Kalilah Taite
1-08-26

I am Kalilah Taite, a Tallahassee native, in my third year of study at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU), striving to obtain a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance. As the eldest daughter and a natural-born leader, I have always preferred order and structure, while also favoring fairness and being just. Growing up, I often took the lead in projects, productions, and even in partnerships. As much as I longed for a system of order with a sense of efficiency, I always seemed to fall short whenever I attempted to create them myself. During the summer of 2025, my grandmother offered my sisters and me the opportunity to attend the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) "We Want You!" workshop, and my curiosity accepted her offer. She gifted us each our own copy of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief (RONRIB), 3rd edition, complete with her own handwritten note.



I was introduced to parliamentary procedure earlier, but little did I know how much was truly involved beyond "aye" and "no." As I began to study before attending the first workshop session, I immediately fell in love with RONRIB. The moment I saw the approximated reading times with chapter suggestions, I knew this would be the book for me. Through RONRIB and the "We Want You" program, I learned things I previously would have never thought to take into consideration. Recently, I was tasked with administering the elections for my on-campus organization, the FAMU Concert Choir, which I now currently serve as the Vice-President. Without the tools and experience that comes with being a member of NAP, I know I would not have been able to conduct that election with the same manner of organization, confidentiality, and fairness as I was able to achieve with my newly acquired knowledge.



As a fellow student, I implore any young person with even a shred of curiosity to take that leap and strive to become an NAP member. Regardless of if you are a leader of an organization or club or if you view yourself as "merely a member," being of a parliamentary mindset is an irreplaceable asset that can be applied anywhere. Extracurriculars, occupations, and relationships can all benefit from the boundless possibilities of a parliamentary mindset. Allowing yourself to take advantage of these opportunities now will undoubtedly provide you with an advantage in all of your endeavors. Thank you, NAP for providing me with the opportunity to share my parliamentary journey, and I thank all of you for riding along, for I hope others follow behind me.

Submit your story and join us in celebrating March as Parliamentary Youth Month



WANTED: Parliamentary judges

for the following youth groups parliamentary Competitions in March and April

- **FBLA** needs 3 judges on **Friday, March 13, 2026** at the Hilton Orlando, 5001 Destination Parkway. [12:00 – 5:00 p.m.]
- **TSA** needs 6 judges on **Friday, March 27, 2026** at the Doubletree Universal [7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.]
- **FCCLA** needs 3 judges on **Saturday, March 28, 2026** at the Doubletree Seaworld [7:30 a.m. orientation]
- **HOSA** needs 3 judges on **Friday, April 17, 2026** at the Marriott World Orlando Center [11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.]

If you can help out please let me know. If you have judged in the past the youth group may have already contacted you to sign up, if so and you have signed up please let me know. If you know of someone else that might be willing to judge please share this information.

Thank you,

Julie Palm, PRP
FSAP Youth Committee Chair
hpalm@bellsouth.net
305-947-2099 (cell)
305-945-8922 (landline)





SCHEDULE

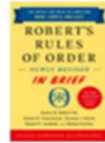
Track A: Preparing for the NAP Membership Exam — Building a Strong Foundation

Track A is the entry point to understanding and mastering key terms and procedures to confidently prepare for the NAP membership exam. If attendees take and pass the NAP membership exam after the Conference and before April 30, 2026, NAP will pay their first-year dues of \$99 from the registration fee. Attendees are encouraged to purchase the spiral-bound copy of *Robert's Rules of Order In Brief* (from the NAP Bookstore).

“We Want You” Parliamentary Training



TIME (CT)	SESSION AND TOPIC	SPEAKERS
10:00 – 11:00	1 Chapters 1-3	Jacquita L. Wright-Henderson, PRP
11:00 – 12:00	2 Chapters 4-5	Twylah L. Jenkins, PRP
12:15 – 1:30	3 Chapters 6-7	Kelly L. Lucas, PRP
2:00 – 3:00	4 Chapters 8-9	
3:00 – 4:00	5 Chapters 10-11	
4:00 - 4:30	Summary and Wrap-up - Group Review and Discussion	



Track B: NAP Officer's Roundtable — Skills for Every Office; Building Leadership Roles from Routine to Remarkable

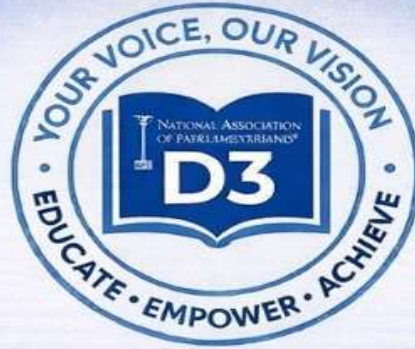
Track B combines historical wisdom with current best practices, guided by past and present NAP officers, who will share their experience, insights, and practical strategies for individual officer roles. Attendees are encouraged to purchase the Focus Materials — President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Directors, and Committees (from the NAP Bookstore). Each session is approved for one CEU.

TIME (CT)	SESSION	TOPIC AND SPEAKER
10:00 – 11:05	1	NAP President's Panel: Mona Y. Calhoun, PRP – Alison Wallis, PRP – Wanda M. Sims, PRP – Ann Guiberson, PRP
11:15 – 12:20	2	NAP Secretary: Donna M. Mitchell, PRP
12:30 – 1:35	3	NAP Treasurer: Mark D. Apodaca, PRP
2:00 – 3:05	4	Parliamentarian – Elections and Nominations: C.J. Cavin, PRP, NAP Vice President
3:15 – 4:20	5	Boards and Committees: Corliss Baker, RP
4:20 – 4:30		Closing

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


Track C is designed for parliamentarians seeking to sharpen their skills and confidently manage advanced, real-world situations. Attendees are encouraged to purchase the updated *Professional Practice in Parliamentary Procedure* (from the NAP Book Store). Each session is approved for one CEU.

TIME (CT)	SESSION	TOPIC AND SPEAKER
10:00 – 11:05	1	Where Robert's Stops and the Law Begins Presented by Carole R. Albright, PRP
11:15 – 12:20	2	Enduring Principles Presented by Boyd Ready, RP
12:30 – 1:35	3	Filling Blanks: From Inception to the 12th Edition Presented by Carol Prahinski, PRP
2:00 – 3:05	4	Terminology in RONR: Changes Since the Nineteenth Century Presented by David C. Mezzera, PRP
3:15 – 4:20	5	Point of Order: The Rules Then and Now Presented by Joyce A. Brown-Watkins, PRP
4:20 – 4:30		Closing



SAVE THE DATE

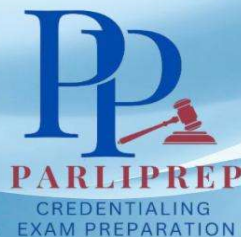
2026 District Three **Innovation in Motion:** *Parliamentary Spotlight Forum*

 **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



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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS® Professional Development Committee
MENTORING PROGRAM

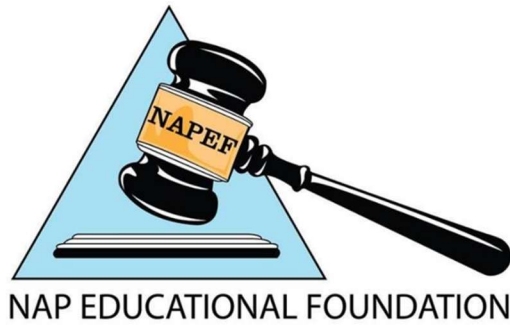
Have you considered becoming an **NAP MENTOR?**

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®
2026 NAP Training Conference
 August 26-30, 2026 • Birmingham, AL




Call for Workshop Proposals
 Share your parliamentary and meeting expertise with your fellow members by leading a workshop at the 2026 NAP Training Conference, August 26-30 in Birmingham, AL.

Deadline to submit proposals:
March 10th

1. Review Guidelines
2. Submit up to 2 topics
3. Click [HERE](#) or go to the NAP website to submit your proposal(s) online

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS®
NAP VIRTUAL SPRING CONFERENCE
 MARCH 28, 2026



Celebrating
150 Years
 1876-2026

WHAT CHANGED? WHAT REMAINS THE SAME?



Timing Matters

Scripture:

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

—Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)

Reflection:

There is a right time for every word, every action, every pause. In assemblies, knowing when to speak - and when to wait - is just as important as knowing what to say. Procedural timing protects order and ensures decisions are made at the appropriate moment.

Parliamentary Principle:

Motions must be made in order and at the proper time; precedence, ecognition, and decorum safeguard the flow of business.

Call to Action: Honor the moment—act, speak, or yield in ways that align with the purpose and pace of the meeting.



*“The moment is now.
The time for action is now.
You are not guaranteed
another moment.”*

– Buddhist principle



*A well-timed word
can change the course
of a meeting.*



Board Meeting

Administrative, managerial, or quasi-judicial body
Frequently smaller than most other assemblies
May or may not operate autonomously
Operation, responsibilities and powers delegated to it or conferred on it by authority outside itself; may not delegate this authority
Large boards generally follow parliamentary procedure
Small boards generally follow informal procedures ^(49:21)

No Timekeeper Appointed

<p>Scenario:</p> <p>Meetings are lengthy with never-ending and repetitive debate leading to frustration among members.</p>	<p>Problem:</p> <p>The meeting becomes disorganized and unnecessarily prolonged.</p>	<p>Tip:</p> <p>Assign a timekeeper to keep track of each discussion item and ensure the meeting doesn't run over time.</p>
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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).