



# **LA REGLA**

*the official newsletter of the New Mexico State Association of  
Parliamentarians*  
Editor: Barbara Posler, RP

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**July 2018**



## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

### **NMSAP President Message**

As this year is ticking away, I am reminded of the importance of everything we do. Whether your goals include the next step of your credentialing, or the personal goals of a healthier lifestyle, or nothing of the sort and just making it through each day. Make every day count. I want to thank all of the members and attendees who celebrated parliamentary law month and attended the NMSAP Smart Meetings. Sustainability of an organization does not occur without the active participation of its membership.

Thank you all for the contributions you have made! Another reminder, if you are interested in increasing your participation and paying it forward, please consider leadership in the NMSAP! Before we know it, we will be seeing each other at the 2019 Smart Meetings/Convention and electing the 2019-2021 leadership!

Valoree Althoff, PRP  
President New Mexico State  
Association of Parliamentarians

## ***Mark Your Calendar!***

### **September 7-8, 2018**

NAP National Training Conference  
The Hyatt Regency Buffalo  
Buffalo, New York

### **September 5-8, 2019**

NAP Biennial Convention  
The Westgate Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, NV

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2017-2019**

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**Welcome** to NMSAP's newest member James Kaminski of Albuquerque!

**Parliamentary Websites**

NMSAP: [www.nmsap.org](http://www.nmsap.org)  
SFPU: [www.sfparl.org](http://www.sfparl.org)  
APU: [www.abqparl.org](http://www.abqparl.org)  
NAP: [www.parliamentarians.org](http://www.parliamentarians.org)



**Call for Nominees**

It is never too early to consider taking a larger role in the NMSAP. If you have the time and talents to share with the NMSAP Board, please consider nomination for an office! We need leaders to sustain our organization. Contact Valoree Althoff, PRP or the Nominating Committee chair, Barbara Posler, 505-507-1279 to discuss options!

## **Member Rights: Protecting the Vote**

Adam Hathaway, PRP

New Mexico State Association of Parliamentarians

Parliamentarian

Immediate Past President

We may find, as Parliamentarians, that the organizations we serve have difficulty in balancing the rights of the assembly as a whole with the rights of individual members. *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR p. 227)*, with regard to *Questions of Privilege* states that if questions of privilege relating to the body come into competition with those of the individual, the privileges of the assembly take precedence over those of the individual. In other words, ‘No one of us is more important than all of us’. On the other side of the scale, while the needs of the many do indeed outweigh the needs of the few in many cases, *RONR* specifically codifies and protects certain rights of each member that cannot be infringed upon, without disciplinary process.

The most basic right of membership is the ability to attend meetings of the Society. Whatever the mode of meeting, whether in-person or electronic, every member must have full and equal access to attend and to participate. The second right is the ability to vote. *RONR p. 407* supports the *One Person, One Vote* axiom with: “It is a fundamental principle of parliamentary law that each person who is a member of a deliberative assembly is entitled to one –and only one – vote on a question”. It should be noted that *RONR* stipulates one vote per person - even if that person is elected to more than one position that each carries a vote and also that a vote may not be transferred to another person. Although several organizations’ bylaws allow for proxy voting, *Robert* believes that the transferring of votes violates the philosophies of basic parliamentary law.

The possession of a vote in any society is precious and should be protected vigorously. *RONR* provides a number of tools with which any member can use to modify and cast a well-informed vote. They include:

***Objection to the consideration of the Question:*** Upon a motion being moved and seconded but before debate begins, a member may Object to its consideration if the member feels that simply entertaining said motion would be harmful to the organization. The body then votes, by two-thirds, on whether or not to sustain the objection.

***Make a Proposal to Fill a Blank:*** When an assembly decides to amend a motion by *Creating a Blank*, it is allowing several options to be considered at one time. Any member

may offer an option and all members should be allowed to do so. The most common form of *Filling a Blank* is the nomination process.

***Parliamentary Inquiry:*** Every member has the right to ask questions and learn more about parliamentary procedure, even in the middle of debate.

***Request for Information:*** Formerly *Point of Information*, this *Incidental Motion* allows any member to ask questions during debate regarding details of a motion and its outcomes.

***Point of Order:*** Any member may *Rise to a Point of Order* if that member perceives a breach in procedure. The Chair must rule on whether or not the point is well taken. If it is not, a member may move to *Appeal the Decision of the Chair*, which requires a second and a majority to sustain the decision of the Chair.

***Call for the Orders of the Day:*** This is a request, made by any member to the Chair, to return to the Order of Business or to the immediately pending question if that member believes the body has deviated from the agenda and/or the issue at hand. The Chair may immediately return to the proper item of business or may ask the assembly if it wishes to stay on the current discussion.

***Raise a Question of Privilege:*** Any member may *Rise to a Question of Privilege* in order to bring an urgent concern to the floor in regard to the rights of the assembly or an individual. The Chair will then take appropriate action or entertain the proper motions to address the concern.

***Attempt to Bring it Back:*** The assembly has the right to change its mind on previously made decisions, within specific guidelines. Any member may move to *Take from the Table*, *Discharge a Committee*, *Rescind a Motion* and *Amend Something Previously Adopted*. Any member who voted on the prevailing side may move to *Reconsider* that motion.

The power of an individual vote lies at the very foundation of the deliberative assembly. As practitioners of democracy, it is our duty to instill within our societies the sanctity of each vote and the rights of each voter. We are charged with teaching and promoting the tools mentioned above in order to protect and preserve this basic parliamentary premise. History clearly illustrates that when the practices of democracy fall into disuse, the rights of the individual may crumble and disappear as well.

## History Repeats Itself at NAP

History has a serendipitous way of repeating itself.

On April 13, 2018, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Jim Jones, PRP, CPT-T, president of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP), presented the *Trailblazer Award* to Irene O'Connor Navarre, PRP-R, for her 49 years of dedicated service to and membership in NAP. In December 1974, Mrs. Norman, NAP president, traveled to Albuquerque for the express purpose of presenting Mrs. Navarre with registration certificate No. 1000. That makes two presidential presentations by NAP to Irene in Albuquerque, NM!

Mrs. Navarre, who turned 100 years old in August 2017, became a NAP member in 1969. She studied under Mrs. E. A. Holmes, the founding president of the National Association of Parliamentarians. It was in 1974, when Irene successfully passed the registration exam, that she coincidentally became certificate holder No. 1000.

Irene, a 1938 graduate of the University of Minnesota Dental Hygiene Program, has inspired and encouraged many to study and use parliamentary procedure within their organizations. Some of Irene's accomplishments include serving as president and speaker of the house for the American Dental Hygienists' Association, parliamentarian for her sorority, Chi Omega, and the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) During her term as president of the New Mexico State Association of Parliamentarians (NMSAP), New Mexico hosted the NAP convention in 1977 in Albuquerque.

NAP had planned to make a formal presentation to whomever received certificate No.1000.<sup>1</sup> It was a red-carpet event in Albuquerque with news media, photos and a dinner hosted by the Albuquerque Parliamentarian Unit for Mrs. Norman. Also in attendance were Mrs. Herweg, District 8 Trustee and many distinguished guests.

The more recent presentation on April 13 was equally as momentous, as parliamentary friends and President Jim Jones gathered at a reception hosted by NMSAP to honor Irene O'Connor Navarre, an inspiration to us all. She delighted everyone with stories and memorabilia of past events and people.

Congratulations and many thanks to Irene O'Connor Navarre for her pioneering contributions to the advancement of the National Association of Parliamentarians and her service as a role model and mentor to many.

*by Barbara Posler, RDH, RP and Valoree Althoff, RDH, MHA, PRP, NMSAP President  
Dental hygienists and parliamentarian protégés of Irene O'Connor Navarre*

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<sup>1</sup> National Parliamentarian, 1st Quarter, 1975 pp. 18-19



Irene Navarre  
Valoree Althoff  
Jim Jones

Kay Hannum  
Lou Allen  
Tan Johnson



### **Official Proclamations**

NMSAP was honored to receive two official proclamations recognizing Parliamentary Law month, April 2018. One was from the Governor of New Mexico, Susana Martinez and the other was from Tim Keller, Mayor of Albuquerque. Both proclamations were acknowledged and displayed at the NMSAP meeting April 14, 2018 at the MCM Elegante, Albuquerque, NM.



James Smart, Valoree Althoff,  
Adam Hathaway, Jim Jones

Jan Strand



Steve Balke



Pat Sutton, Lou Allen, Kay Hannum



Adam Hathaway



Kay Hannum



Carmen Pennington, Janice Baker, Joy Lecuyer

## **DONATION TO CHAPTERS OF DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**

The Albuquerque Parliamentarian Unit donated 14 books of, "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief" to chapters within the Theta State of DKG Society International of Key Women Educators at the Leadership Seminar held in Hobbs, New Mexico. Chairman of the Leadership Seminar was Kay Hannum, NAP member, and the presentation on Parliamentary Procedure was done by Carmen J. Pennington, APU and NAP member. The Seminar was held June 7 – 9, 2018 in Hobbs, New Mexico. Carmen Pennington presented the books with her presentation to each chapter of Theta State.

**The Albuquerque Parliamentarian Unit** (APU) met for its Annual Meeting at Quarter's Restaurant on May 9, 2018. Officers for 2018-2019 are President, Jan Strand; Vice-president, Marsha Thole; Secretary, Carmen Pennington; and Treasurer, Barbara Posler. APU welcomes a new provisional member, Elisheva Levin. The next meeting will be Monday, September 10 at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center. The program will be presented by Barbara Posler.

### **WOE IS AYE**

I am a parliamentarian  
I advise the best I can;  
For presidents who just eschew  
procedures they're suppose to do.  
Secretaries with hyper pen  
write more than who, what, where and when;  
Treasurers who fall behind  
then look for bills they cannot find  
and suffer when the audit comes,  
oh grief! those unrecorded sums!  
One wonders if it's worth the while,  
yes, just clench those teeth and keep that smile!

Irene Navarre