As we approach the third trimester, it is crucial for parliamentarians to remember that our primary responsibility is ensuring effective communication equity among our chapter members. Communication is foundational to everything we do—it underpins friendships, work relationships, and interactions with family, spouses, and children. Quality communication is inherently a two-way process, where all voices are heard and respected.

Serving as a parliamentarian, whether in a Women of Today chapter, an Employee Resource Group, or a church committee, carries significant responsibility. It is essential that we ensure every member has a platform to speak and be heard.

Parliamentarians play a key role in facilitating communication by maintaining order during discussions, ensuring that the focus remains on the matter at hand. They help to ensure that differing viewpoints are presented in an organized and respectful manner and that motions are clear, precise, and free of ambiguity.

One of the initial steps parliamentarians take to foster quality communication is by establishing the rules for the meeting. These guidelines set clear expectations for everyone involved and help to maintain structure. Examples of these rules may include ensuring that cell phones are silenced, outlining the process for making motions, and setting parameters for addressing the President or Chairperson. In my upcoming articles in the Nebraska Women of Today newsletter, I will provide further insights into these meeting rules.

I encourage all parliamentarians to focus on promoting quality communication, ensuring that meetings proceed positively, and supporting members in achieving equality during chapter discussions. If any questions arise, please feel free to reach out to me. I would be delighted to assist in fostering improved communication practices within our organization.