



April 2022
Volume 1, Issue 1

"A quarterly newsletter of the
[New York Association of Parliamentarians](#)" to keep you connected and informed.

The New York Parliamentary Report

[Look Inside for Updates](#)



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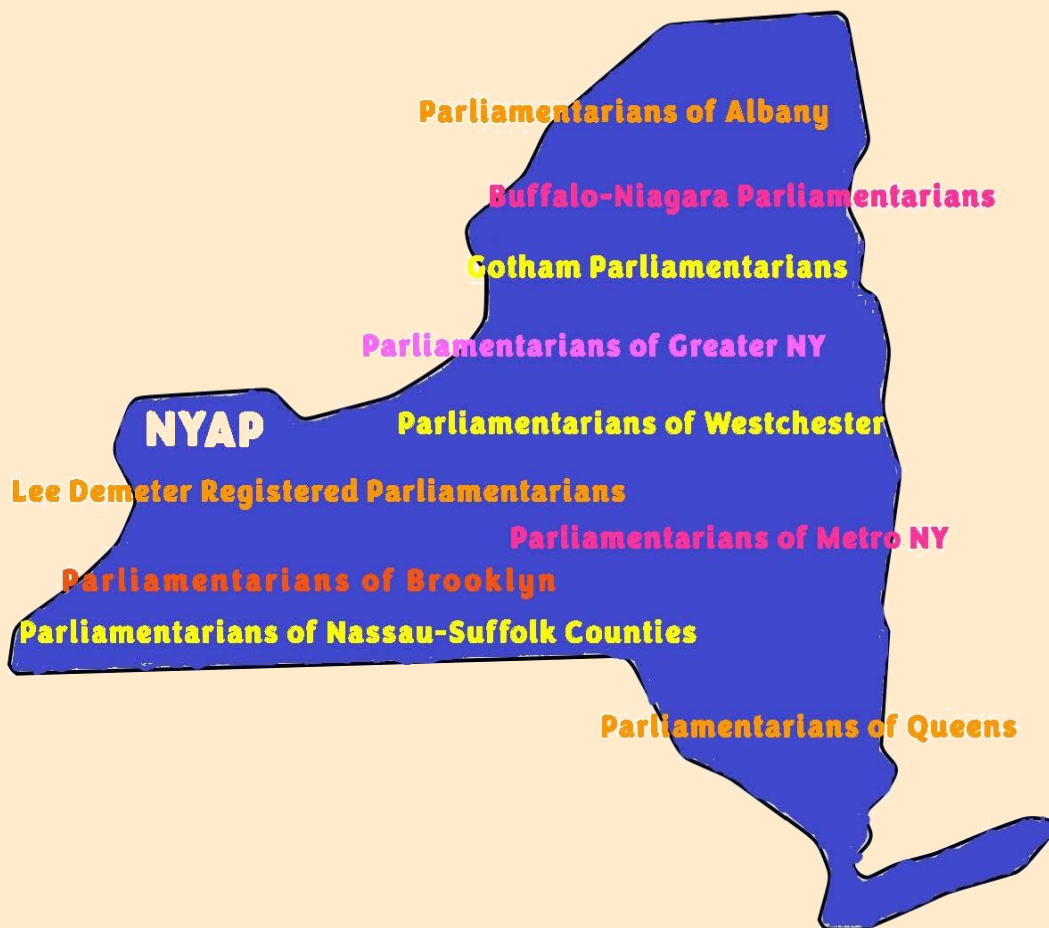
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CELEBRATE PARLIAMENTARY LAW MONTH

Structure of NYAP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Adrian Stratton, PRP
president@newyorkap.org

Vice President: Pleshette Shelton, RP
vicepresident@newyorkap.org

Secretary: Donna Delfyett-White, RP
secretary@newyorkap.org

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treasurer@newyorkap.org

Parliamentarian: Daniel Brown, PRP
parliamentarian@newyorkap.org

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Education Committee Chair:
Open

Audit Committee Chair:
— Meredith Henderson
mlhenderson2015@gmail.com

Nominating Committee Chair:
Daniel Brown, PRP

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Budget & Finance Chair:
— Jeannine Hunte, PRP
treasurer@newyorkap.org

Bylaws & Standing Rules Chair:
— Daniel Brown, PRP
— Glenda Elie, RP
— Anthony Thompson, rp
parliamentarian@newyorkap.org

Communications Chair:
— Donna Delfyett-White, RP
secretary@newyorkap.org

Historian:
— Cynthia Gresham, RP
cyngreshot@yahoo.com

Public Relations/Marketing Chair
— Adrian Stratton, PRP
president@newyorkap.org

Membership, Retention & Growth Chair:
— Pleshette Shelton, RP
vicepresident@newyorkap.org

Public Relations/Marketing Chair:
Open

Technology Chair:
Open

Would you like to help NYAP grow by working on or chairing a committee? If so, email your interest to: secretary@newyorkap.org

Message From the President

Greetings New York Association of Parliamentarians,

In conversations with unit presidents and various members throughout our great association it is clear that consistent communication and relevant support from the New York Association of Parliamentarians are top expectations. In response to your feedback I am happy to welcome you to the launch of *The New York Parliamentary Report*, our quarterly association newsletter.

Communication is a common characteristic of many high performing organizations. With a variety of ways to communicate, the NYAP Board of Directors and Committee on Communication agreed that email would be the most accessible way to distribute our newsletter. It was also decided that a quarterly publication (with the occasional special edition) would be an appropriate interval to share upcoming unit events, association history, member highlights, and opinions on contemporary parliamentary topics. For convenience and reference editions will be archived at <https://nyparliamentarians.org/newsletters>.

Supporting the association through the exchange of ideas helps us all develop. Our association is fortunate to have a talented membership and strong units. In this newsletter are contributions from members on tips, unit events, and member highlights *The New York Parliamentary Report* will be an important tool to share relevant information with each other and I personally invite you to share ideas, articles and feedback to secretary@newyorkap.org.

On behalf of the New York Association of Parliamentarians Board of Directors I thank each of you for all that you do to support your organizations and each other. I hope that you enjoy this edition and learn something new.

Sincerely,

Adrian Stratton, MBA, PRP
President

New York Association of Parliamentarians

president@newyorkap.org | nyparliamentarians.org

TIPS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN ZOOM MEETINGS

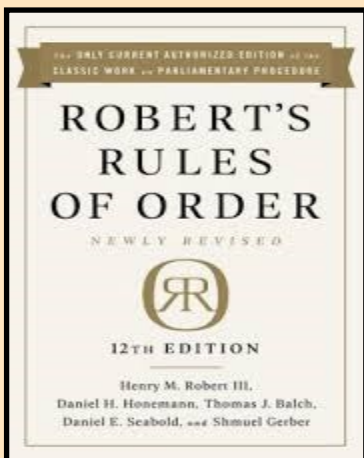
- Turn off notifications on your computer and remove distractions.
- Check your sound and video prior to joining or join early to check them online.
- In small meetings, keep your video on unless you are away from the computer or otherwise occupied. In large meetings, only turn on your video when speaking.
- Keep yourself muted, and only unmute when you are recognized by the chair to speak or are making an interrupting motion.
- Try to keep your comments brief.
- Focus on what's happening in the meeting while on camera.

The Bylaws Committee encourages all members to submit your parliamentary inquiries & considerations to:

rules@newyorkap.org

Emails will be addressed in a timely fashion.

Dan Brown, PRP
Parliamentarian



UNIT UPDATES

PARLIAMENTARIANS OF GREATER NEW YORK Present

PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

When: **Saturday, April 23, 2022**
10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Where: **Zoom Conference**

Bylaws

- ♦ Bylaws Basics – David Jackson, DHSc, PA-C, CP, PRP
- ♦ IRS Required Documents – Alison Wallis, Esq, PRP, CP-T
- ♦ Drafting Clear and Logical Bylaws – Kirk Overbey, PRP
- ♦ Is it a Bylaw or Something Else? – Lorenzo Cuesta, PRP
- ♦ Stump the Experts: Bring Your Questions



Registration **\$25 per person**

Registration includes Zoom Access Code & Documents as available.

Questions Contact:

Registration Chair: **Helene Goldsmith, 516-921-5662**
email: parlihelene@gmail.com

Conference Chair: **David Jackson, 631-470-1516**
email: jacksondi@aol.com

Deadline for Registration: **April 21, 2022 at 5pm**

The Zoom Link will be sent to registrants approximately 24 hours before the meeting.

To register click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-seminar-bylaws-registration-259246562447>

Did You Know?

ACRONYMS TO BE FAMILIAR WITH

CEU	Continuing Educational Unit
LO	Learning Opportunity
MAL	Member At Large
NAP	National Association of Parliamentarian
NYAP	New York Association of Parliamentarians
PDO	Professional Development Opportunity
PRP	Professional Registered Parliamentarian
PRP-R	Professional Registered Parliamentarian –Retired
RONR	Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised
RP	Registered Parliamentarian
RP-R	Registered Parliamentarian—Retired
SRP	Registered Parliamentarian Student
SPRP	Professional Registered Parliamentarian Student




THE PARLIAMENTARIANS OF WESTCHESTER NY

PWNY Partners to serve the Community


A massive fire broke out in an apartment building on East 181st Street in the Bronx, New York on January 9, 2022 killing seventeen people including eight children. Within days, The Parliamentarians of Westchester NY, which serves Westchester County and the Bronx, partnered with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

chapters, Zeta Nu Omega, Eta Omega Omega, and Omicron Eta, along with The National Council of Negro Women of Westchester to assist the families who survived but were displaced from their homes. More than 60 bags of new and unworn clothes, bottled water, diapers and hygiene products were donated to assist families in the short term. As a Unit, we look forward to partnering with other service organizations including AKA, Tau Nu Omega chapter to assist the impacted families and the South Bronx community over the long term.

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NYAP & PNSC Parliamentarian Educational Conference




Sunday, April 3rd, 5:00 PM

Why Attend?
Familiarity with parliamentary procedure is important for anyone wanting to hold a leadership position in an organization, church, community board, etc. This is an opportunity to learn free parliamentary information from great registered parliamentarians in the community!

Special Virtual Workshop Presentation:
"Parliamentary Debate"




Presented by:
Adrian Stratton RP
President, NYAP




Q&A Facilitated by
Sharon Wells RP
President, PQNY

Educational Workshops:



Pleshette N. Shelton, RP
VP, NYAP/President, PNSC
Workshop:
"Effective Meetings: Are you in or out of order?"



Anthony Thompson, RP
Vice President, PNSC
Workshop:
"Disciplinary Process in Deliberative Assemblies"

Pre-Register for this FREE conference at:
<https://tinyurl.com/PNSCAPRIL2022>
For more information please contact: membershipnpsc@gmail.com

Introducing the NYAP "PERSUASIVE BOOK CLUB"

The goal of the NYAP "Persuasive Book Club" will be to read authoritative parliamentary books in comparison to the latest published edition of RONR (how are the books similar, how are they different). "Our first book will be Cannon's Concise Guide to Rules of Order. PMNY President Nilda Rivera will serve as the facilitator for our discussion". Participants who attend all sessions in a set will receive CEU's and a certificate of completion from the association.

Participants will need to pre register and will be encouraged to pre-read and submit questions prior or during the workshop lectures.

Dates and times

Thursday - April 28 (7 - 8pm EDT) - Part I & II

Thursday - May 26 (7 - 8pm EDT) - Part III

Thursday - June 30 (7 - 8 pm EDT) - Comparison to RONR

The format will be lecture style (for 35 - 40 minutes) with Q&A/discussion for the balance of the hour. "We hope you will join our book club discussion" .

To register: <https://tinyurl.com/NYAP-Persuasive-Book-Club>



INTERVIEW WITH A PROFESSIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN

SHMUEL GERBER. PRP



Biographical Questions

Q. As a kid, what were you like?

A. Did you mean to say "are" instead of "were"?

Q. When your friends/family find out that you are a professional parliamentarian what do they say or ask?

A. They generally assume this area of expertise is useful for corporate meetings, but I try to explain that it is primarily for meetings where the members make the decisions collectively (debate and vote).

Q. How would (someone) describe you?

A. A nice Jewish boy from Brooklyn.

Q. What might (someone) be surprised to know about you?

A. It's difficult for me to follow step-by-step instructions that I don't quite understand the mechanics of, such as for knotting a necktie or performing the square-root algorithm. On the positive side, I have learned to operate vehicles with a manual transmission. So, if you ever see me driving a truck while not wearing a necktie (and not mentally calculating square roots), you'll understand the situation.

Q. What do you do when you aren't involved with parliamentary procedure?

A. Long walks on the beach: sometimes I think about what they might be like, and the uncomfortable sensation of having sand in one's shoes.

I also like to listen to the audio of oral arguments at the Supreme Court of the U.S.

Parliamentary life

Q. Please share how you first got involved with parliamentary procedure?

A. As a college student, I was elected to fill a vacant position on the campus activities board at the College of Staten Island. After a while, I anticipated being elected chair (which I eventually was) and I prepared by learning more about Robert's Rules of Order. I borrowed the Ninth Edition from a local library and started reading it. I also posted my questions to the Q & A Forum at the robertsrules.com website, where Dan Honemann would participate all the time (and he still does!). I began attending meetings of the Parliamentarians of Greater New York unit of NAP at Hofstra University. I found a very warm welcome and encouragement from a core group of members there at the time, including Doris Abbate, Carol Henselder, Helene Goldsmith, Fran Kulik, Gary Tesser, and Dan Seabold. There are other friends that I met over the years at the same unit, but those are the ones I recall consistently being at the meetings when I first started attending. There may have been some others as well, and they all made attending those meetings something to look forward to. Unfortunately, because at some point I got very busy with other work, I stopped attending the meetings and lost touch with most of the Long Island cadre (some of whom are now deceased).

INTERVIEW WITH A PROFESSIONAL

Parliamentary life (cont.)

Q. What has surprised you most about working with other Parliamentarians?

A. Their wide diversity of opinions and experience.

Q. What would you tell someone who is thinking about becoming an RP / PRP?

A. It will probably help you become a better parliamentarian and open up professional opportunities, so you should speak to other NAP members who have recently completed these credentialing processes to learn more about them. Also, don't rush things too much, especially if you've only recently become acquainted (or reacquainted) with RONR. It's fine to set goals and deadlines for yourself, but in general I think it's better to become familiar with the rules at a relatively modest pace, and to understand them as best you can, rather than trying to memorize reams of material within a very short time.

Q. What (if any) specific advice or recommendations do you have for youth parliamentarians?

A. I don't have much experience interacting with young parliamentarians. I did once serve as a judge at a youth competition, and I was impressed by the poise and skill of the participants. The advantage of studying the subject properly when young is that you won't have to "unlearn" bad information later.

Q. The interest in RONR seems to be growing. Why do you think that is?

A. I don't know if that is true—I certainly hope it is—but it may have to do with the ease of finding information about "the right book" (the official RONR) on the internet, as well as the efforts of NAP members to recruit new members, start new units, organize public and private workshops, and partner with other organizations to promote RONR.

Q. What do you wish other people knew about parliamentary procedure?

A. That proper knowledge and usage of the basic procedures should help meetings go more smoothly, not less.

Q. What would you say are some of your strongest beliefs about parliamentary procedure?

A. That the current edition of RONR is the best parliamentary authority, and members of organizations should not be discouraged by its complexity regarding some topics—especially since RONR In Brief is available for beginners.

Q. If you could change one thing about parliamentary procedure, what would it be?

A. There would be fewer legal requirements for conducting business at meetings of non-profit corporations and public bodies, so that more assemblies that have adopted RONR could rely on their members' and officers' knowledge of the common rules of parliamentary procedure instead of their having to learn the specific laws and court rulings in different states and regarding different type of entities within a state, in addition to having to learn their own organization's bylaws and rules.

Q. What do you think will change about parliamentary procedure over the next five years?

A. I think that even when it is safer to meet in person than it has been during the Covid pandemic, organizations will probably increase the number of meetings held online as a substitute for in-person meetings, although there are definitely disadvantages to doing that (as well as advantages).

INTERVIEW WITH A PROFESSIONAL

Parliamentary life (cont.)

Q. As a parliamentarian what is the most challenging responsibility/job you have ever taken?

A. Aside from responsibilities as an author of RONR, the most challenging job is always the first time taking on a specific task — first time teaching a workshop, first time being involved in a convention, first time as parliamentarian at an electronic meeting, etc.

Specific to RONR

Q. How did you get involved with editing RONR?

A. First, I'd like to point out that during my time on the RONR authorship team (and even before), the persons named on the cover have been credited as authors, not just editors. (Although it is certainly true that those who joined after the 7th Edition was published have not contributed nearly as much content to RONR as the original authors.) I was asked to an interview with the 10th Edition team members and had also had other opportunities for interaction with them—except for William Evans, who was already quite ill at the time. Evidently, they were satisfied with my knowledge of and affinity for the subject of parliamentary procedure and facility with writing and editing. Along with Dan Seabold, I was approved by them and the Authorship Council of the Robert's Rules Association to assist with the 11th Edition. After the 11th Edition was published, Dr. Seabold and I were signed on for the long term.

Q. What are your favorite - and least favorite - motions and why?

A. My least favorite is a motion to approve the minutes because it is not necessary and, according to RONR, is not supposed to be voted on. Motions to adjourn—which are sometimes necessary and sometimes aren't—are also frequently mishandled. I'm not sure I have a favorite motion, but it always pays to keep in mind that *Suspend the Rules* is available in most situations.

Q. What did you find most challenging about UPDATING RONR 12th edition?

A. Finding an approach and specific language that the authors can agree on that will solve existing problems without creating new ones.

Q. Does the responsibility come with a lot of pressure due to the notoriety of RONR?

A. I would not describe it as pressure, and I hope it's the good kind of notoriety.

Q. Tell me about someone who has influenced your decision to work on updating RONR?

A. At the time I was first contacted by Thomas J. "Burke" Balch by telephone to see if I would be interested in interviewing for the position, I explained to him that as a Sabbath observer I don't attend many conventions, which are often on the weekend, and I wasn't particularly keen on traveling a lot, as many parliamentarians are expected to do. He didn't immediately hang up on me, and that greatly influenced my decision to further pursue the matter.

Q. What's the best/worst thing to happen since you started working with RONR?

A. I got to be about 15 years older than I was then.

*Mr. Gerber is a professional parliamentarian and copyeditor, received his bachelor's degree in computer science from the College of Staten Island (City University of New York) He is a proud member of
The Parliamentarians of Metro NY.*



OUR UNITS

Members at Large (MAL's) would you like to belong to a unit in your area? Then reach out to one of the units below to inquire how you can join them. Some of the benefits for joining a unit are:

- Meet other parliamentarians in your area.
- Regular professional development opportunities to further your parliamentary knowledge.
- Opportunity to teach others about parliamentary procedure.
- Practice in applying parliamentary procedure.

To reach out to a local unit click on the hyperlink next to the units name.

For more information reach out to vicepresident@newyorkap.org.

UNIT NAMES	NYAP	Website
Buffalo-Niagara Parliamentarians of Western NY	BNNY	https://www.facebook.com/Buffalo-Niagara-Parliamentarians-of-Western-New-York-230765170962460/
Gotham Parliamentarians of NY	GPNY	https://www.facebook.com/GothamParliamentarians/
Lee Demeter Registered Parliamentarians Unit	LDRP	Contact Secretary@newyorkap.org
Parliamentarians of Albany, NY	PANY	Contact Secretary@newyorkap.org
Parliamentarians of Brooklyn NY	PBNY	http://www.parliamentariansofbrooklyn.org/
Parliamentarians of Greater NY	PGNY	https://allevents.in/org/parliamentarians-of-greater-new-york/19108318
Parliamentarians of Metro NY	PMNY	https://www.parliprosmny.org/
Parliamentarians of Nassau-Suffolk Counties NY	PNSC	https://nypnsc.org/
Parliamentarians of Queens, NY	PQNY	https://pqnyc.org/
Parliamentarians of Westchester NY	PWNY	https://www.facebook.com/Parliamentarians-of-Westchester-New-York-100124795085643

CALENDAR

**2nd Quarter
2022**

CALENDAR

DATE	MONTH	EVENT
3	APRIL	<p>Parliamentary Educational Conference hosted by PNSC & NYAP 5:00 PM Workshop Topics: Effective Meetings – Pleshette N. Shelton, RP Parliamentary Debate – Adrian Stratton, PRP Disciplinary Process in Deliberative Assemblies - Anthony Thompson, RP To registration link: https://tinyurl.com/PNSCAPRIL2022 mailto:membersshippnsc@gmail.com mailto:secretary@newyorkap.org </p>
9	APRIL	<p>Virtual Parliamentary Law Day 9:00AM - 12:00PM Join the Howard County Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians as they host their Virtual Parliamentary Law Day on Saturday, April 9, 2022. In Track 1, enhance your knowledge of nominations and elections with Carl Nohr, PRP, and explore voting and balloting with Henry Lawton, PRP. Or in Track 2, explore the dimensions of committees -- from standing and ad hoc committees with Dave Whitaker, PRP, to committees of the whole, quasi committees of the whole, and informal consideration with Lucy Anderson, PRP, CP-T. Apply your newfound knowledge with Margaret Anne Howie, PRP, as she conducts a mock meeting that will walk through the process of chairing a committee meeting. Register at: https://2022hcu_pld.eventbrite.com </p>
23	APRIL	<p>PGNY: Parliamentarians of Greater NY present their annual Parliamentary Educational Conference. 10:00AM - 12:30pm Registration is \$25.00 To register click the link below https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-seminar-bylaws-registration-259246562447 </p>
25	APRIL	<p>PWNY: The regular unit meeting of the Parliamentarians of Westchester NY, a unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians, will be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, ET (6:00 PM CT) via Zoom. There will be an educational program at the start of the meeting - Guests are welcome. Fourth Monday of each month, 7:00- 8:30 PM. mailto:spachecopwny@gmail.com </p>

CALENDAR

**2nd Quarter
2022**

CALENDAR

DATE	MONTH	EVENT
18	MAY	PQNY: Bi-Monthly Professional Development Opportunity 7:30-8:30PM mailto:pqnynap@gmail.com
23	MAY	PWNY: The regular unit meeting of the Parliamentarians of Westchester NY, a unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians, will be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, ET (6:00 PM CT) via Zoom. There will be an educational program at the start of the meeting - Guests are welcome. mailto:spachecopwny@gmail.com
26	MAY	"Persuasive Book Club" To read authoritative parliamentary books in comparison to the latest https://tinyurl.com/NYAP-Persuasive-Book-Club
27	JUNE	PWNY: The regular unit meeting of the Parliamentarians of Westchester NY, a unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians, will be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, ET (6:00 PM CT) via Zoom. There will be an educational program at the start of the meeting - Guests are welcome. mailto:spachecopwny@gmail.com
30	JUNE	"Persuasive Book Club" To read authoritative parliamentary books in comparison to the latest https://tinyurl.com/NYAP-Persuasive-Book-Club

For more opportunities to increase your knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order please check the NAP website. Click the link below to see the latest events

NAP CALENDAR

NYAP UNIT MEETINGS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR