



May 2023  
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"A quarterly newsletter of the  
[New York Association of Parliamentarians](#)" to keep you connected and informed.

# The New York Parliamentary Report

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New York Association of Parliamentarians

A state association of the

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

## 2023 Virtual Biennial Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

***\*Participants must register by, Saturday, May 6, 2023, 6:00 PM\****

NYAP Board of Directors:

Adrian Stratton, PRP

Pleshette Shelton, RP

Donna Delfyett-White, RP

Jeannine Hunte, PRP

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER (YOU MUST USE YOUR NAP MEMBER ID TO REGISTER):** <https://tinyurl.com/NYAP-2023-Biennial-Conference>

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [secretary@newyorkap.org](mailto:secretary@newyorkap.org)



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## 2023 Virtual Biennial Meeting Agenda

2023 Biennial Business Meeting & SCHEDULE  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 via Zoom Conferencing

6:30 PM	Opens for Registered attendees
7:00 PM	Meeting called to Order/Opening Welcome
7:05 PM	Greetings - District One Director, Rob Robinson, PRP
7:10 PM	Adoption of Agenda
7:13 PM	Credential Committee Report
7:15 PM	Reports of Officers and Standing Committees
7:30 PM	Reports of Units
8:00 PM	Report of Nominating Committee
8:15 PM	Election of NAP officers for the term 2023-2025
8:40 PM	Election of delegates to the NAP Convention
8:55 PM	New Business
9:00 PM	Adjournment



## Structure of NYAP

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Adrian Stratton, PRP  
[president@newyorkap.org](mailto:president@newyorkap.org)

Vice President: Pleshette Shelton, RP  
[vicepresident@newyorkap.org](mailto:vicepresident@newyorkap.org)

Secretary: Donna Delfyett-White, RP  
[secretary@newyorkap.org](mailto:secretary@newyorkap.org)

Treasurer: Jeannine Hunte, PRP  
[treasurer@newyorkap.org](mailto:treasurer@newyorkap.org)

Parliamentarian: Daniel Brown, PRP  
[parliamentarian@newyorkap.org](mailto:parliamentarian@newyorkap.org)

### STANDING COMMITTEES:

Education Committee Chair:  
*Open*

Audit Committee Chair:  
— Meredith Henderson  
[mlhenderson2015@gmail.com](mailto:mlhenderson2015@gmail.com)

Nominating Committee Chair:  
Daniel Brown, PRP

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Budget & Finance Chair:  
— Jeannine Hunte, PRP  
[treasurer@newyorkap.org](mailto:treasurer@newyorkap.org)

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

Communications Chair:  
— Donna Delfyett-White, RP  
[secretary@newyorkap.org](mailto:secretary@newyorkap.org)

Historian:  
— Cynthia Gresham, RP  
[cyngreshot@yahoo.com](mailto:cyngreshot@yahoo.com)

Public Relations/Marketing Chair  
— Adrian Stratton, PRP  
[president@newyorkap.org](mailto:president@newyorkap.org)

Membership, Retention &  
Growth Chair:  
— Pleshette Shelton, RP  
[vicepresident@newyorkap.org](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@newyorkap.org)

## Message From the President

Greetings New York Association of Parliamentarians,

It seems like such a short time ago that the 2021 - 2023 association administration took office. And while our term together will conclude in May 2023 after adjournment of the NYAP Biennial Meeting, I am pleased with the work we accomplished.

Most rewarding has been establishment of the Persuasive Book Club (focused on deeply comparing other parliamentary authorities to RONR), the development of our newsletter ("The New York Parliamentary Report"), creation of dedicated unit president folders (updated monthly in our shared drive), and the relaunch of our branding (including a new logo, branded officer emails, and a refreshed website — <https://nyparliamentarians.org/>). In an effort to keep members informed and engaged I do hope these tools and resources are utilized for their intended purposes and further improved upon.

As the association looks toward the future, I hope each of you will consider continuing to volunteer your unique talents and valuable time to the association. While the overwhelming majority of efforts in the association are driven at the unit level, supporting work of the association is worthwhile and rewarding. There is always more to do in support of NYAP members and I certainly look forward to future contributions from the association.

In conclusion, I thank each of you for all of your support to our profession, your clients, this administration, and each other. I would like to also express appreciation to the NYAP Board and all who volunteered during the administration. Your efforts were welcomed and each of your contributions made us better.



Sincerely,

Adrian Stratton, MBA, PRP

President

New York Association of Parliamentarians

[president@newyorkap.org](mailto:president@newyorkap.org) | [nyparliamentarians.org](https://nyparliamentarians.org)

### TIPS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN ZOOM MEETINGS

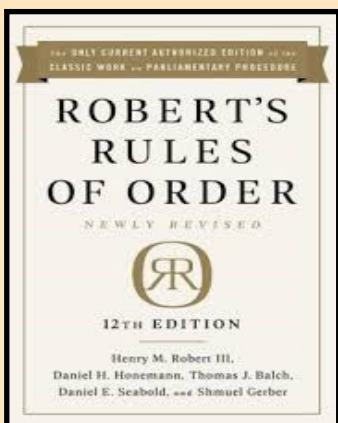
- Turn off notifications on your computer and remove distractions.
- Check your sound and video prior to joining or join early to check them online.
- In small meetings, keep your video on unless you are away from the computer or otherwise occupied. In large meetings, only turn on your video when speaking.
- 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](mailto:rules@newyorkap.org)

Emails will be addressed in a timely fashion.

Dan Brown, PRP  
Parliamentarian



## HISTORY CORNER

### DISTRICT ONE!!! CALLING ALL UNITS!!

By Historian:  
— Cynthia Gresham, PRP

Parliamentarians of Albany, Brooklyn, Gotham, Greater New York, Lee Demeter, Metro New York, Nassau-Suffolk, Queens, Westchester, Western New York.



I am excited to be a part of District One! We have a rich history and legacy.



Ms. Doris Abbate served as the first New York State Chairman in 1996. I am proud to have known her. I joined NAP, PGNy in 2012 and it was a bit intimidating being new to the world of parliamentary procedures and Roberts Rules of Order. I recognized the importance of parliamentary procedure but I was so green. I sat, listened, and watched. Ms. Abbate,

and others, encouraged me to study more and become engaged. It was in these early years I learned the great lesson of temperance and patience with myself and others as I grew stronger and more self-confident. Thank you Ms. Abbate for your legacy, contributions, and kindness that has kept me on track all of these years. I will always remember you.

Our collective stories are rich and now.....

#### WE NEED YOU!!

We would like to capture your history to include in our historical archives including your charter date, charter and current officers, programming and/or workshops held, and any other points of interest you wish to include. Photos welcomed too!

Please kindly send your questions and/or content to me at [cynfreshot@yahoo.com](mailto:cynfreshot@yahoo.com). I look forward to receiving and capturing same.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!**

**Henry M. Robert, III**

**May 2, 1837**

## INTERVIEW WITH A REGISTERED PARLIAMENTARIAN

### David M. White, MBA RP

- ♦ National Parliamentarian of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.®



### Biographical Questions

Q As a kid, what were you like?

A *Loved competition! Growing up in a big family made for a ton of fun filled days. We had plenty of playtime. We had very loving and protective parents. Our parents introduced us to a love for learning, because they believed education gave us better opportunities in life.*

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

A *First, they'll congratulate me and then they'll say what do you do?*

Q How would (someone) describe you?

A *I hope they would describe me as a person who cares about family and friends. I hope they would add that I'm fun loving and a great host.*

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

A *I'm not sure, I think people consider me open minded.*

Q What do you do when you aren't involved with Parliamentary Procedures?

A *My all-time favorite is spending time with my wife Donna, seeing my kids and their families, then traveling, discovering new places, hanging out with friends and family, gaming, music, art, photography and volunteering.*

### Parliamentary life

Q Tell me how you first got involved in with Parliamentary procedures?

A *I served in many roles for my fraternity. Sharon Wells, past president of PQNY, was instrumental in providing an opportunity for me to further my parliamentary procedure studies by becoming a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians.*

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

A *What surprised me the most was the level of interest that so many other people had in learning more about parliamentary procedure.*

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

A *I would tell them not to take the journey alone, attaining the RP/ PRP certification is much more satisfying when you work in groups. This approach gives you an opportunity to give and get feedback to overcome your weak areas and strengthen the areas where your knowledge is strong.*



# INTERVIEW WITH A PROFESSIONAL

## Parliamentary life (cont.)

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

A. *I would tell them to have fun while learning, practice as much as possible by serving as a parliamentarian and then teach others when the opportunity presents itself.*

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

A. *I believe it's growing because in the New York City area, District Director Rob Robinson was instrumental in building awareness of NAP and their resources.*

Q. What do you wish other people knew about Parliamentary Procedures?

A. *I wish more people were self-motivated to pursue learning about parliamentary procedures and how to apply them to their organizations. I believe that once they expose themselves to how to best use parliamentary procedures, they would see the immense time saving benefits parliamentary procedures could bring when used effectively.*

Q. What would you say are some of your strongest beliefs about Parliamentary Procedures?

A. *My strongest belief about parliamentary procedures is that practice is the most important part of learning and applying parliamentary procedures. I also believe that when an organization embraces parliamentary procedures, better decisions would be made and improve member engagement.*

Q. If you could change one thing about Parliamentary Procedures, what would it be?

A. *I can't think of anything I would change about parliamentary procedures now because of my limited experience. Who knows, maybe down the road I'll have an idea or two.*

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

A. *Perhaps artificial intelligence created to monitor meetings and provide instant feedback to presiding officers could be something that would bring about change.*

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

A. *My current role as national parliamentarian for Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.®. My current focus is building awareness of the advantages of using parliamentary procedure and creating more parliamentarians within the organization.*

## Specific to RONR

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

A. *My favorite motion is the motion to amend. The motion to amend supports the idea that we are always pursuing perfection and allowing ourselves open to other options when deciding on a course of action. My least favorite motion is the motion to postpone indefinitely, it's the most dilatory and misused motion in my opinion.*

# GAME



## PARLIAMENTARY Fun & Games

### QUIZ/TEST/EXAM BUNDLE

## How's Your Latin?

Can you remember these Latin terms found in *RONR* 12th edition? Latin was a favorite subject of Henry M. Robert when he was in high school, and it showed when he drafted his *Rules of Order*. Fill in the blanks below with the Latin terms identified:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- I. By reason of an office \_\_\_\_\_
  - II. A type of committee \_\_\_\_\_
  - III. Almost or “as if” \_\_\_\_\_
  - IV. In a series \_\_\_\_\_
  - V. Without another day \_\_\_\_\_
  - VI. Very vocal \_\_\_\_\_
  - VII. Only if conditional \_\_\_\_\_
  - VII. Only temporary \_\_\_\_\_

Excerpt from NAP Quiz/Test/Exam Bundle: Parliamentary Fun & Game. FREE from NAP Bookstore.

# 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](mailto:vicepresident@newyorkap.org).

UNIT NAMES	NYAP	Website
Buffalo-Niagara Parliamentarians of Western NY	BNPWN	Contact: tomasinacook@aol.com
Gotham Parliamentarians of NY	GPNY	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/GothamParliamentarians/">https://www.facebook.com/ GothamParliamentarians/</a>
Lee Demeter Registered Parliamentarians Unit	LDRP	Contact: jacksondi@aol.com
Parliamentarians of Albany, NY	PANY	Contact: cellispany@gmail.com
Parliamentarians of Brooklyn NY	PBNY	<a href="http://www.parliamentariansofbrooklyn.org/">http://www.parliamentariansofbrooklyn.org/</a>
Parliamentarians of Greater NY	PGNY	<a href="https://allevents.in/org/parliamentarians-of-greater-new-york/19108318">https://allevents.in/org/parliamentarians-of- greater-new-york/19108318</a>
Parliamentarians of Metro NY	PMNY	<a href="https://www.parliprosunny.org/">https://www.parliprosunny.org/</a>
Parliamentarians of Nassau-Suffolk Counties NY	PNSC	<a href="https://nypnsc.org/">https://nypnsc.org/</a>
Parliamentarians of Queens, NY	PQNY	<a href="https://pqnyc.org/">https://pqnyc.org/</a>
Parliamentarians of Westchester NY	PWNY	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Parliamentarians-of-Westchester-New-York-100124795085643">https://www.facebook.com/Parliamentarians-of- Westchester-New-York-100124795085643</a>

## How's Your Latin?

I. ex officio  
II. ad hoc  
III. quasi  
IV. seriatim

V. sine die  
VI. viva voce  
VII. proviso  
VII. pro tem