

DISTRICT ONE NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
PARLIAMENTARIANS



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Institute

District One Assistant

Upcoming District Events

A Summer Message from the District One Director

Dear District One Members,

I hope this message finds you well and that you're looking forward to a joyful, restful summer.

As we begin this new season, I want to extend heartfelt appreciation to each of you for the dedication, service, and care you bring to your units, associations, and to the broader mission of the National Association of Parliamentarians. Your commitment continues to inspire and strengthen District One.

What's Ahead This Biennium

We are heading into an exciting and purposeful season. Our priorities remain clear:

- Supporting member education and credentialing
- Creating meaningful opportunities for leadership development
- Growing and engaging our membership base
- Upholding the integrity of governance at every level

Our next District One educational training will take place this fall, and we encourage all members and units to participate.

As always, thank you for being part of what makes District One such a strong, vibrant, and values-driven community. Whether you are stepping into leadership, preparing for an exam, or learning how to make your first motion, we are here to support your journey.

In parliamentary purpose and partnership,

Pleshette N. Shelton, RP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pleshette N. Shelton".

District One Director

National Association of Parliamentarians

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kerri-Ann Smith, Uniondale, NY
Sylvie Di Saverio, Glen Cove, NY
Topher Logan,
Tochi Iroku-Malize, Islip, NY
Danielle Stokes, Marietta, GA
Matteo Cereola, Troy, NY
Patricia Swanson, Huntington Station, NY

Brett Pickerign, Wallingford, CT
Talib Hudson, New York, NY
Lisa Owens, Watertown, MA
Darlene DeFour, New York, NY
Jan Johnpier, Ransomville, NY
Latoya Jeffers, Stony Point, NY

**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.**

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

Unit	Association	Contact
Buffalo-Niagara Parliamentarians of Western NY	NYAP	Contact: tomasinacook@aol.com
Gotham Parliamentarians of NY	NYAP	https://www.facebook.com/GothamParliamentarians/
Lee Demeter Registered Parliamentarians Unit	NYAP	Contact: jacksondi@aol.com
Parliamentarians of Albany, NY	NYAP	Contact: cellispany@gmail.com
Parliamentarians of Greater, NY	NYAP	Contact: jacksondi@aol.com
Parliamentarians of Metro NY	NYAP	https://www.parliprosnmny.org/
Parliamentarians of Nassau-Suffolk Counties, NY	NYAP	https://nypnsc.org/
Parliamentarians of Queens, NY	NYAP	https://pqnyc.org/
Parliamentarians of Westchester NY	NYAP	https://www.facebook.com/ParliamentariansWestchester
Greater Parliamentarians of Brooklyn NY	NYAP	Contact: infogpbkeunit@gmail.com
George Demeter Unit	NEAP	https://www.linkedin.com/company/nap-george-demeter/ or https://www.facebook.com/GeorgeDemeterUnit/
Parliamentarians of Boston, MA	NEAP	https://membershipbma.wixsite.com/my-site



MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT New RP

ANDREW BRANCH, RP
PNSC UNIT - NEW YORK

1.What motivated you to pursue the RP Credential?

I was a delegate from the New York Conference to my denomination's (A.M.E. Zion Church) General Conference in 2024 in Greensboro, NC. Our General Conference (my denomination's highest law-making deliberative assembly) meets every four years, and this was my third time serving as delegate. Having always been interested in Parliamentary Procedure, I paid close attention to our denomination's Parliamentarian, Dr. Frances Jackson, a former NAP Commissioner. Watching how she helped advise over 600 delegates from around the world and our Bishops (the presiding officers of our General Conference) through a week-long Convention was my immediate inspiration to pursue my RP credential. I know the PRP is necessary to work conventions, but the RP credential is the first step of the journey. I had been putting off taking the credentialing exam because of the expected change in the format of the RP Credentialing Exam.

I bought my first edition of Robert's Rules of Order in my late teens or early 20s. I believe it was the 9th edition. I remember it was blue. I started reading it on the road trip back from the church convention at which I purchased it. Once word got out that I had read Roberts from cover to cover, I started getting asked to do workshops on Parliamentary Procedure for AME Zion Churches in the area.

I faintly remember learning about the existence of NAP and AICP doing a web search some years ago. I learned more about NAP and particularly PNSC through overhearing an online workshop during the Pandemic sponsored by my wife's sorority as part of a program they spearheaded working with young men. My son was "strongly encouraged" by my wife to be a part of that program. I believe a someone from NYAP or PNSC conducted the workshop on Parliamentary Procedure and encouraged the young men to take the test and join their local unit as Youth Members. I was intrigued by the prospect of earning a credential for being familiar with parliamentary procedure, inquired as to what I needed to do to join PNSC, ordered a copy of RONRIB, utilized the study guide, took the NAP Membership test, scored 100%, and became a member of PNSC. Recently, I was elected to the Executive Board of PNSC. I was the only one who was not an RP. So that was also a little bit of motivation for seeking the credential.

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT – New RP (Cont.)

ANDREW BRANCH, RP
PNSC UNIT – NEW YORK

2. What part of the process was most challenging—and how did you overcome it?

The most challenging part was systematically studying for the exam. I watched all the videos on NAP University for the previous version of the RP Exam and read every corresponding section listed in the Criteria for Credentialing. I was scheduled to take the exam at the end of October/beginning of November. I did my self-designed intensive study over the course of month. I watched my first video at the end of September. Watching over thirty videos, some 1 to 2 hours in length was very challenging. I studied every day except Saturdays and Sundays, because as a Pastor, I had to get ready for and recover from Sunday. I sped up the videos to play at 2x speed unless the presenter was a fast talker, then I would slow the video down to 1.25x speed. I marked on my wall calendar the video numbers I was scheduled to watch and checked them off as I completed them. Sometimes I would stay up to 1am to make sure I stayed on schedule watching the videos and reading the corresponding sections of RONR. As a stickler for grades and my high school class salutatorian, I called on the study habits and mindset that got me through high school, college, graduate school, and seminary.

3. How has becoming an RP changed how you participate or lead in meetings?

I am an introvert by nature, so I don't usually talk more than I must (I know surprising for a preacher). Since becoming an RP, I do notice that I speak more in meetings over which I'm not presiding. When it comes to presiding over meetings, primarily in church, I demonstrate the efficiency that comes with using Parliamentary Procedure. I take advantage of the teachable moments with my officers and meeting attendees. They appreciate that there is little time wasted in board or committee meetings.

4. What advice would you give to a member who is thanking about starting their RP journey?

Give yourself more than a month to study!! Develop a system and schedule for studying for the Exam. Make sure you are a part of a Unit you can learn from and learn with. Utilize the resources that are available on the NAP Website. NAP University and the Bookstore are the links you want to familiarize yourself with on the Members Portal.

5. What's next for you in your parliamentary journey?

I would like to offer my services to groups needing parliamentary advice. I must learn to navigate between my introversion and the necessity of self-promotion. I would like to eventually earn the PRP credential, so that one day I may be able to work as a Parliamentarian at my church's as well as other conventions. I did reach out to my denomination's parliamentarian about the possibility of working with her or shadowing her in the future. She was open to the idea and encouraged me to not let too much time pass before I began preparing for the PRP Exam.





NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Tochi Iroku-Malize MD MPH MBA

1. What drew you to join NAP and get involved in your local unit?

I had recently become the parliamentarian for my local chapter of the Links Incorporated and wanted to get more formal training to ensure I was doing the right thing by the organization and its members. Even though I had over 20 years of practical experience as a member and delegate of various assemblies for other organizations using different resources, RONR and AIPSC, I felt it was important to get more information and benefit from the wisdom of other NAP members.

2. How has being a member helped you in your meetings, leadership, or personal growth?

Being a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians has greatly improved my skillset and effectiveness in meetings through a better understanding of parliamentary procedure. It has sharpened my leadership skills by providing opportunities to engage with fellow members, expand my network and offered valuable mentorship.

3. What's something you've learned or practiced recently that made you feel more confident?

I learned that understanding when to engage in debate and when to hold back was equally important; constructive debate could enhance ideas, but not every situation called for confrontation. This was important as I was used to being in the role of the chair of the board or member of the board for different organizations. I practiced active listening and assessed group dynamics to determine the right moments for my participation. Mastering these aspects ultimately enhanced both my individual effectiveness and that of the group in meetings.

4. What would you say to someone who's thinking about joining NAP — or who's unsure about getting involved?

If you're thinking about joining the National Association of Parliamentarians, I wholeheartedly encourage you to take that step! Getting involved has been a transformative experience for me, and I believe it can be for you too. You'll find a welcoming community that shares your passion for learning about parliamentary procedure, which can truly elevate your skills in both your personal and professional life. Plus, the friendships and mentorship opportunities you'll discover are invaluable—it's amazing to connect with people who inspire you to grow and challenge yourself. Even if you're feeling unsure, attending a meeting or event can spark your enthusiasm and show you just how rewarding this journey can be. Embrace the opportunity; it could be the start of something incredible!

5. What's next for you in your parliamentary journey?

Next in my parliamentary journey, I plan to deepen my understanding of advanced parliamentary procedures. Additionally, I plan to pursue certification to enhance my credentials and demonstrate my commitment to excellence in this field. Engaging in more networking opportunities will also be a priority, as I want to learn from experienced members and share insights with newcomers. Ultimately, I hope to inspire others in their parliamentary pursuits and contribute positively to the organization.

Introducing the District One Leadership Institute (D1LI)

*Empowering Members Through Learning, Leading, and Practicing
Parliamentary Skills*

District One is proud to launch the District One Leadership Institute (D1LI), a new two-year educational series designed to support growth, confidence, and parliamentary leadership at every level.

The institute features two exciting learning tracks:

1. **The Leadership Table** – Aimed at current and aspiring unit/association officers. Sessions include presiding, leading teams, committee management, and ethics.

2. **The Presiding Room** – Open to all members and guests. These workshops build foundational confidence in motions, debate, voting, amendments, and real-time meeting skills

Fall 2025 Kickoff Sessions:

- Presiding with Confidence (Leadership Table)
- Motions 101 (Presiding Room)

**All members are encouraged to attend. Invite a guest or
bring a friend!**

Stay tuned for registration details this summer.

For more information: d1d.shelton@nap2.org

Join the District One Leadership Team!

Now Seeking: District Assistant (Volunteer Role)

District One is looking for a dependable, organized, and service-minded member to join the District leadership team as our new District Assistant for the 2025–2027 biennium.

This opportunity is open to any member in good standing from a unit located in New York, New England, or the Electronic Units residing within District One.

Role Highlights:

- Assist with planning and logistics for District meetings and D1LI workshops.
- Track attendance, follow-up items, and workshop participation.
- Collaborate with members across units and regions in a leadership support role.
- Assist with membership outreach efforts and coordination of community partnerships

This role offers meaningful insight into District operations and leadership — serving as a gateway to deeper involvement and future leadership within NAP.

If you're interested — or would like to nominate someone — please reach out to the District One Director at: d1d.shelton@nap2.org or scan QR code below:



SCAN HERE

Scan QR code to sign up

- or -

<https://tinyurl.com/2025D1A>

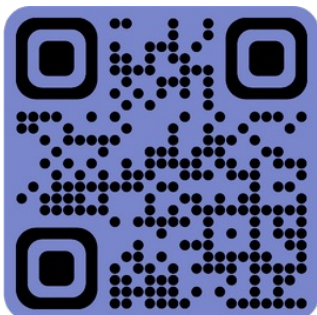
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2025 DISTRICT ONE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Month	District Activity	Dates
August 2025	Social Engagement/District One Meet Up @ NAP Conference Phoenix, AZ	August 23 rd , 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
September 2025	Fall Kickoff District One Leadership Institute (D1LI) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presiding with Confidence (Leadership Table)• Motions 101 (Presiding Room) Education Workshop: Let's Put This to an End: Previous Question (Presenter: Tamika Davis-Cannon, RP, DE Association President)	September 14 th , 6:00 PM
December 2025	District One Town Hall	December 7 th 7:00 PM



<https://districtonenap.org>



SCAN HERE



Email: Psheltonpnsc@gmail.com or d1d.shelton@nap2.org



Meeting request: <https://calendly.com/psheltonpnsc/30min>