

June/July 2021

Miriam's Musings

Being a “Keeper of the Democratic Process” strikes a person as a serious responsibility. This theme from NAP was the introduction to the presentation by Larry Martin, PRP, the NAP District V Director, at the MSAP Convention on April 24. Enabling democracy was also a recurring theme in the workshops at the NAP Training Conference last August. Parliamentarians can help provide people with the tools to hold civil, respectful, and equitable meetings to make the difficult decisions in their organizations and in governmental agencies.

The health of an organization depends upon its members stepping up, and step up is what MSAP members did, by attending in person on one day and via Zoom on another at our recent Convention. Folks did this with the full knowledge that we would start by amending bylaws; an activity that often fills people with dread. But not parliamentarians! I was grateful to Sandee Williams, a long-time member but infrequent attendee; she was willing to disarray her schedule to make certain we would have a quorum. (I was (mostly) joking when I said she only needed to show up and vote. Never take away the right to abstain!) Thank you all very much for assuring the continuation and health of our Association.

Difficult situations can lead to new opportunities. Having to avoid meeting in person for a year has shown all of us that. We can continue using the Zoom to get together – making it easier to meet regardless of where we reside. We can also expand our educational outreach -- to help educate new members, to appeal to potential new members, and to introduce parliamentary practice to the public. People seem hungry for order in their organizations and for ways to conduct meetings efficiently.

Thank you for your confidence in me – as your new President I am lifted up by those before me, and I am grateful to all of you for guidance and advice. My one request to you all is that we look for ways for us to reach the public with our message: that good meetings are possible for everyone and that anyone can be a Keeper of the Democratic Process. Send all ideas, opportunities, and contacts to me at SimmonsToThePoint@gmail.com.

Miriam G. Simmons, PRP
President



The Minnesota Parliamentarian

54rd Annual Convention



Call to Order

The 54th Annual Convention of the Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians was called to order by President Robert Vokes on Saturday April 11th at the VFW Post 8752 in Cottage Grove, MN. After adoption of Convention Standing Rules and Program, business moved immediately to the adoption of eight amendments of the MSAP bylaws in order to permit electronic meetings of the Board, committees, and the Convention. The motion *Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn* was adopted and delegates (17 in attendance at this meeting) could continue the meeting on Saturday April 24 via Zoom.

On April 24, President Vokes convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom, and the meeting continued with the singing of the national anthem, led by Ginny Altman, followed by an inspiration read by Richard Skimland. A moment of silence was held in honor of long time member Phyllis Lehrke, who

who passed away in January.

The units were well represented with seven Northern Lights Parliamentarian members, eight members of the St. Paul Unit, and two members at large.

President Vokes made several appointments to ensure the smooth running of the Convention. The minutes of the 53rd Annual Convention were approved by the 2019 Minutes Approval Committee.

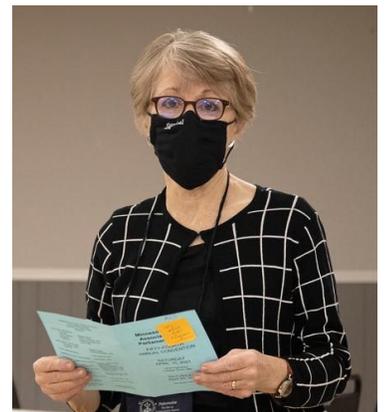
Lucy Johnson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the candidates for officers and nominating committee.

Election of Officers, Nominating Committee, and Convention Delegates

The officers elected for 2021-2022 are President Miriam Simmons; Vice President David Staehlin; Secretary Robert Vokes; and Treasurer Josh Martin. Teller Lucy Johnson used the polling feature on Zoom to compile results.

The 2021-2022 Nominating Committee members elected were Ginny Altman, Darleen Harens and Beverly Kennedy.

Next was the Election of Delegates to NAP Convention, which will take September 9 to 12, 2021. Meeting attendees were encouraged to



**Miriam Simmons
Presents Program**

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attend this convention, as it includes many educational sessions and is very accessible due to the electronic meeting format. The following were nominated to serve as delegates: Darleen Harens, Josh Martin, Michael Orr, Pat Reymann, Miriam Simmons, David Staehlin, Janice Strand, Robert Vokes, Kevin Wendt, Robert Williams and Sandee Williams. After tabulation of ballots, these 11 delegates were declared elected. It was noted that the Units also will be able to send delegates and attendance by all is encouraged.

Budget Committee Chairman Judy Twisk moved the adoption of the 2021-2022 budget as distributed. After a motion and discussion, the budget was amended to include \$1100 in the expense for NAP Convention. The budget as amended was adopted.

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Larry Martin, PRP is the NAP District V Director, and he joined the meeting during the election of delegates. Each person introduced themselves and then a moment was taken for Bob Williams to get a screen shot of all participants.

Larry Martin reviewed the mission and structure of NAP and of the new RP credentialing process. This was followed by his presentation of an educational session on *Exceptions*, which provided participants a chance to discuss some situations and ask questions.

After a short break, Director Martin installed the officers, and the meeting adjourned.

A contribution of \$50.00 to NAP Educational Foundation will be made in Larry Martin's name as a thanks for his participating in the Convention.



Convention Attendees on April 10th



Members at Large

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The service of Robert Vokes as President during these past two years, under very challenging circumstances due to the pandemic in 2020, was noted by all, who were grateful for his calm leadership in these trying times.

Miriam G. Simmons, PRP
Convention Chair

Summary of Convention evaluations

Fourteen out of 18 possible responses were received; it should be noted that not everyone responded to all questions. The ratings are presented as an average of the responses.

Most delegates learned about Convention at their Unit meetings; a few learned of it from the MSAP newsletter. Delegates want to be informed about MSAP, enjoy learning new things, and like being a participating member of the organization.

As to satisfaction with the following, 5 being “very good” and 1 being “not satisfactory:

The ratings were:

Zoom meeting format	4.3
Starting time	4.9
Ending time	4.7
Business Meeting	4.4
Educational session	4.6

As to venue (5 is most preferred; 1 is least):

Zoom meeting	3.0
Meeting hall	4.2
Hotel	3.6
Restaurant	3.5
No Preference	3.5



**2020-2021 Officers (l to r)
Lucy Johnson, Parliamentarian;
Judy Twisk, Treasurer;
Bev Kennedy, Secretary;
Miriam Simmons, Vice President,
Robert Vokes, President**

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As to educational sessions, the rankings were (1 being a first choice):

Ranking Motions	2.5
Effective Running of Meetings	2.5
Being a Parliamentarian for an organization	2.5
Nominations and Elections	3.1
Teaching Parliamentary Procedure	1.6

In other words, no overwhelming consensus on the forum or educational topics. We will continue to try to choose the best location, format and educational topics given the circumstances of each Convention.



**2021-2022 Officers (l to r)
David Staehlin, Vice President;
Miriam Simmons, President;
Robert Vokes, Secretary;
Josh Martin, Treasurer**

Miriam G. Simmons, PRP
Convention Chair



Convention Attendees on April 24th

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CONVENTION FINANCE REPORT

Income

Registrations
18@ \$5 \$ 90.00

Total Income \$ 90.00

Expenses

Copying & Postage \$ 67.14

Total Expenses \$ 67.14

Income-Expenses \$ 22.86

SAVE THE DATE!

55th Annual Convention

**Saturday, April 23, 2022
PLACE TBD**

**David Staehlin
Convention Chairman**

Membership Report

In an effort to reach more people for public education and membership recruiting purposes, MSAP has established a Facebook page @MinnesotaParliamentarians. This page is an additional public face where we can post information about educational opportunities for people interested in parliamentary procedure as well as information on our MSAP and unit events.

We've also started a members group at Facebook called *Minnesota State Association of Parliamentarians - Members Group*, which is for members of MSAP and/or our two units. Members can post here to share and discuss parliamentary topics. Members of our units who are not MSAP members are also welcome in our MSAP Facebook members-only group.

Check it out our Facebook page at fb.com/MinnesotaParliamentarians.

David Staehlin
Chairman

**Special thanks to Bob Williams who took all the convention photos on April 10th
and the screenshot on April 24th**

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Education Committee

According to the MSAP Standing Rule 3.5:

The education committee shall organize the following study opportunities: 1) Study session(s) for the NAP membership exam; 2) Study session(s) for the NAP registered parliamentarian exam; 3) Advanced seminar study session(s) for registered parliamentarians and other interested members with continuous past study and achievement; 4) Study session(s) for the general public; 5) Outreach to the public through community education, junior colleges and the like; and 6) Session(s) devoted to a specific group of individuals such as student governments, advisors to parliamentary teams, and the like.

Under Past President Robert Vokes tenure, the Ad Hoc committee began an outreach to a local junior college. As Chair of the Education Committee, I hope to renew that outreach and perhaps expand it. I am excited to address some of the other charges listed for this committee.

For example, I am currently mentoring a student from Maryland who hopes to become a PRP. We were connected through the NAP Mentor-Mentee Program. A similar program could be instituted for MSAP beginning with those interested in taking the NAP membership exam.

Please let President Simmons or myself know if you would like to be a part of this committee and work on any of the six charges.

Lucy Johnson, PRP
Chairman



**Visit our Minnesota State Association
of Parliamentarians website.**

www.friendsofrobert.org

**A huge Thank You to Steve Peer for his
website design and periodic updating!**

Michael Orr, RP
Web Site Chairman

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Youth Judging and Education

Due to the coronavirus, the judging of Parli-Pro teams was done differently this year.

During the second week of March five BPA (Business Professionals of America) Parli-Pro teams submitted a video presentation to be judged. Three MSAP members: Darleen Harens, PRP, Bev Kennedy, RP, and Kevin Wendt, PRP, judged each of the teams using the entire Rubric provided. Each judge's scores and comments were entered into a separate evaluation for each team. These evaluations were submitted to the coordinating committee from BPA.

Another high school team had planned to participate but due to Covid were not able to do so.

After we were informed that the first place team was from Watertown-Mayer High school, they were sent a first place plaque as well as individual medallions for each of their six participating members.

Due to the current technology which is available students still are able to participate. Hopefully next year the teams and judges will be able to participate in their respective positions in-person.

Darleen Harens, PRP
Chairman



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Northern Lights Unit

We continue to offer our parliamentary educational sessions monthly at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month except in December. Now that the new covid-19 vaccinations are well underway, we expect to have in-person or at least hybrid meetings soon. In the meantime, we will continue virtual meetings by way of Zoom. We have several new members now that the website and the Facebook pages are active. Thanks to all who make the social media links possible! We still encourage and welcome guests. If you can join us, please request a zoom invite by emailing me at skimlandr@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you.

Richard Skimland
Northern Lights President 2021-2022



St. Paul Unit

The St. Paul Unit (SPU) meets virtually on the third Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m. A study session which precedes the meeting at 8:30 a.m. is also held electronically.

The education portion of the meeting has recently included “All by Myself” (motions that do not require a second) and “Shall” (a word typically used in bylaws). The latter topic was presented by Professional Registered Parliamentarian and attorney Weldon Merritt of New Mexico, one of the advantages of holding a meeting via “Zoom.”

The SPU welcomed a new member, Julie O’Connor. Guests are always welcome at our meeting.

Please contact me for the link.

Lucy Johnson, PRP
President



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MSAP BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2022

President..... Miriam Simmons. PRP
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Secretary..... Robert Vokes
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Education Committee..... Lucy Johnson, PRP
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Ginny Altman, PRP; Bev Kennedy, RP
Public Relations Committee..... Judy Twisk
Seminars Committee.....
Web Site Committee..... Michael Orr, RP
Northern Lights Parliamentarians..... Richard Skimland
St. Paul Unit..... Lucy Johnson, PRP

¹ Non-Board Position

FUTURE EVENTS

MSAP BOD Meeting
August 12, 2021
TBD

MSAP BOD Meeting
October 28, 2021
TBD

Dahms-Bierbaum Workshop
November 5-7, 2021
Hilton Hotel
Kansas City

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE October 2021

The Minnesota Parliamentarian is September 1, 2021.

Please submit to Robert Vokes at hisfootness@comcast.com

Photos are always welcome.

MSAP: www.friendsofrobert.org

Editor's Note: the MSAP Standing Rules stipulate that the June/July issue of *The Minnesota Parliamentarian* shall include the MSAP *Bylaws & Standing Rules* and a Membership List. Rather than including these documents *within* the newsletter (which would make the newsletter inordinately long), they are attached to the email sent with this newsletter.