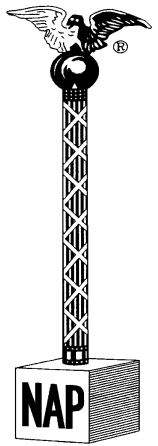


# Oklahoma Parliamentarian

*A Publication of the Oklahoma State Association of Parliamentarians  
A Constituent Division of the National Association of Parliamentarians*



*Volume 19 Issue 1*

*March 2009*

The Object of OSAP shall be to promote and pursue the purposes and the educational programs of NAP; to study, teach, promote, and disseminate the fundamental principles and the philosophies of parliamentary law in the State of Oklahoma; and to bring into closer cooperation all parliamentarians in the State of Oklahoma.

Visit the OSAP website at: [www.OKparliamentarians.org](http://www.OKparliamentarians.org)

## Oklahoma State Association of Parliamentarians

### President's Message

*Rod Davidson, PRP, OSAP President*

Greetings OSAP Members! It is an honor to serve as your 2008-2009 President, and I will do my best to make this a great year for the Oklahoma State Association of Parliamentarians!

One of our hopes this year is to attract our Provisional Members and our Regular Members to the Friday workshop, as it offers something for the beginner as well as the seasoned parliamentarian. Last year's workshop was very successful with 45 in attendance. Workshop Sessions were taught by Oklahoma PRP's and RP's as well as by our National Representative, Sandra Olson, PRP (NAP Secretary) and District Six Representative, Ella Carlson, PRP. One of the highlights was a Lunch-and-Learn session where participants asked questions and received answers from the five Professional Registered Parliamentarians in attendance.

We also want to encourage all OSAP members to attend the convention on Saturday. The morning will be devoted to the OSAP annual business meeting, and educational workshops will be held in the afternoon. Last year, nine participants from the Friday's workshop also attended the workshops on Saturday afternoon. We received excellent scores on the evaluations for both Friday and Saturday. As an incentive for mem-

bers to attend the convention this year, there will be a drawing and one OSAP member's registration fee will be paid from a donation received for this purpose.

Membership retention and growth is important to the future of OSAP, so we encourage each of the units to promote the NAP membership test. One of the benefits of membership in NAP is receiving the quarterly publication, National Parliamentarian, filled with interesting articles and news. Another benefit is knowing that you are supporting a worthwhile cause that benefits people in all kinds of organizations, both local and national.

Studying parliamentary procedure is a continuous learning experience, and one can never learn it all. I encourage anyone interested in advancing their parliamentary knowledge to study for the exam to become a Registered Parliamentarian. I have found being a Professional Registered Parliamentarian to be interesting and personally rewarding. Last May, I attended the Texas annual convention and took the Professional Development Course (PDC), which is a requirement every six years for retaining PRP status. I am proud to announce that I successfully passed the course. The PDC was a challenge, to say the least!!

### Call for Officer Nominations

The OSAP bylaws provide that Units or members of OSAP may, no less than 90 days preceding the Convention, present to the Nominating Committee names of proposed candidates for office, together with qualifications and consent form. The committee will consider all recommendations.

Elections will be held at the 2009 annual OSAP convention in June for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Time is short, so please submit nominations by March 15, 2009 along with qualifications and consent form via email to :

[lendexben@cox.net](mailto:lendexben@cox.net)

Barbara Benton  
Nominating Committee Chairman  
3201 Forest Park Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73121

### Chisholm Trail Unit

The Chisholm Trail Unit meets on the 3rd Monday, September through May, at the Mabel C. Fry Library, 1200 Lakeshore Dr., Yukon.

#### 2009 Officers

Quembe Walkingstick, President  
Dr. Delores Meyer, Vice President  
Kathleen Smith, Secretary  
Charles Walkingstick, Treasurer

This year Dr. Delores Meyer assisted landlord associations in the development of their bylaws. Quembe Walkingstick assisted two chapters of a lineal descendants group with their bylaws (one was a new chapter and one was a bylaws revision).

Dr. Meyer judged FCCLA students at the Metro Tech in December, and Quembe Walkingstick judged FCCLA students at the Metro Tech in January. Quembe and Delores judged the SKILLS/USA students in Shawnee on February 26th.

Dorothy Cassel made presentations to several organizations regarding the Silver Alert Program that was enacted during the last legislative session.

### Green Country Unit

The Green Country Unit is now meeting regularly at the Hardesty Library on the first Monday of the month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. There are two members studying to become Registered Parliamentarians. One member just passed the NAP exam and is studying for the RP exam already!

Contact Joan Blankenship, PRP, at (918) 492-3424 for other information.

### Great Plains Unit

The Great Plains Unit meets the fourth Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Oklahoma Blood Institute, 211 S.W. A Ave, Lawton, OK 73501 (580)353-6451.

#### 2009 Officers

Jacqueline Achong, President  
Arlie Hampton, Vice President  
Virginia McComas, Secretary  
Felecia Wallace, Treasurer

- The Great Plains Unit hosted a workshop in August 2008 which was open to the public. Members of the Great Plains Unit were the presenters for the workshop.
- Unit members gathered at Furr's Cafeteria for their December/Christmas celebration. In lieu of exchanging gifts, everyone brought canned goods to be donated to St. Johns.
- Unit members judged FCCLA students in November and February and mentored students from surrounding towns.
- In the fall, Virginia McComas gave a lesson on parliamentary procedure to a class of business administration students at Cameron University.
- A motion was made at the February unit meeting to continue mentoring the FCCLA students from Sterling, Oklahoma, and to donate 12 copies of "Roberts Rules in Brief" to them.

*"It is difficult to find another branch of knowledge where a small amount of study produces such great results in increased efficiency in a country where the people rule, as in parliamentary law."* -Henry M. Robert

### Oklahoma City Unit

The Oklahoma City Unit meets on the Second Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Liberal Arts Building.

#### 2009 Officers

Dr. E. Vann Greer, President  
W. Craig Henry, PRP, Vice President  
Dr. Krista Jones, Secretary  
Mildred Keso, RP, Treasurer

This year the Oklahoma City Unit has been mentoring provisional members and visitors covering basic parliamentary information in order to prepare them to take the NAP membership exam. Several programs have also been conducted on advanced topics of RONR vs. other authorities.

Last spring the Unit conducted a parliamentary workshop at UCO in the Liberal Arts Building. Craig Henry, PRP, Mildred Keso, RP, and Patti Whitecotton were the primary presenters with seven members participating in the "Good Meeting, Bad Meeting" skit. The workshop was well attended and well received.

Members enjoyed the annual Christmas party held at the home of Dorothy Hamill.

W. Craig Henry, PRP, has served at the national level for a number of years. He is the past president of the NAP Educational Foundation Committee and currently serves as Treasurer of that committee.

## Sooner Unit

The Sooner Unit meets on the Third Thursday of each month from 6:00 — 7:30 p.m. The meeting location will be changing to the Belle Isle Library (NW Expressway & Villa) beginning in May. The March meeting will be held at the Neighborhood Alliance building (NW 36th & Classen), and the April meeting/membership drive will be held at a local restaurant to celebrate Parliamentary Law month. A postcard will be sent reminding members of the meeting location for the next few months.

### Sooner Unit officers for 2009

George Counselman, President  
Dan Tylka, Vice President  
Mary Davidson, RP, Secretary  
Gloria Counselman, Treasurer



In order to increase and retain membership, the Sooner Unit is offering some incentives this year to its members by adopting a motion to pay the first year's membership dues for Provisional Sooner Unit members taking the NAP membership exam, as well as pay part of the cost of membership dues for Regular members on a pro-rated basis depending on the number of Unit meetings attended by the member.

The Sooner Unit is proud to recognize and congratulate new NAP members George Counselman, Gloria Counselman, Dan Tylka, and Sandra Finney. They studied for and passed the NAP membership exam given by the Sooner Unit in September. These members have stepped up to the plate and are taking on leadership roles within the Unit and are planning to study for the Registered Parliamentarian exam.

The Sooner Unit is proud to recognize Esther Rose, retired Registered Parliamentarian. Esther Rose is a charter member of the Sooner Unit and is 92 years old. Esther has not been able to attend Unit meetings for a couple of years but continues to support the Unit with her dues. We thank you Esther for lighting the way for the continued growth and success of the Sooner Unit!

The Sooner Unit is also proud to recognize Rod Davidson, PRP, for successfully completing the Professional Development course in May 2008 and for his election to the Oklahoma State Association as President.

Sooner Unit members are encouraged to participate in judging and mentoring students during the year and encouraged to assist with teaching workshops given by the Unit. Listed below are the activities of Sooner Unit members since the publication of the last newsletter in August of 2008.

- March 2009 – On March 27, Unit members will be traveling to Stillwater to judge high school and junior high students enrolled in FCCLA for state parliamentary competition.
- February 2009: Rod and Mary Davidson spent two hours mentoring eight FCCLA high school students from Pittsburg, OK at the Belle Isle Library. The students attended the Sooner Unit meeting that evening and were mentored by other members of the Sooner Unit. A gavel-to-gavel meeting skit demonstrating various motions was given by Sooner Unit members. The Unit presented each of the students and their teacher with a copy of *"Roberts Rules In Brief"*.
- January 2009: Annual meeting/membership drive and officer installation was held at Home Town Buffet. Rod Davidson, PRP, installed the new officers using a "Wizard of Oz" theme.
- January 2009: Members judged FCCLA students at the Metro Tech.
- December 2008: Members judged FCCLA students at the Metro Tech.
- December 2008: Members judged FCCLA students at the Sunny Lane Methodist Church.
- December 2008: Meeting and Christmas party/membership drive held at Home Town Buffet.
- October 2008 – Members sponsored a table of eight and attended the Neighborhood Alliance's *Good Neighbor Awards Banquet* held at the Petroleum Club in downtown Oklahoma City.
- September 18, 2008 – Sooner Unit members Sandra Finney, George Counselman, Gloria Counselman, and Dan Tylka took and passed the NAP membership test.
- August, 2008 - Sooner Unit members on the OSAP Board of Directors, assisted the OSAP President and the board with the coordination and planning of the annual OSAP state convention and workshop.

## Oil Capital Unit

The Oil Capital Unit meets on the third Friday of each month, January through May and September through November at the Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S Peoria Ave, Tulsa, 74114 - (918) 746-5125, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### 2009 Officers

Karen Griffin, President  
Nancy Breckenridge, Vice President  
Janet Wilson, PRP, Secretary/Treasurer

Oil Capital Unit members gave a workshop on October 24th to a crowd of about 30 with the Wagoner County Home Community Educators.

Three Oil Capital members are studying for the Registered Parliamentarian exam. Dr. Janet Wilson, PRP, is teaching the class, which is open to anyone whether or not they are committed to taking the registry exam. The class is based on the 1200 study questions from NAP but specific topics are delved into deeper than the questions actually go.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Mary Jo Neal presented a program on basic parliamentary procedure to members of the Tulsa County Head Start Policy Council with approximately 40 members in attendance. She ended the program with a skit she had written demonstrating the processing of a main motion. Volunteers from the Council demonstrated the three scripted parts, and the other members of Council debated and voted on the motions. The skit brought forth some laughs and closed the program on a pleasant note. Mary Jo said, "they were an excellent audience, and I enjoyed very much the evening I spent with them."

Dr. Wilson gave a parliamentary workshop to the Student Government at Tulsa University and to the Rogers State University.

She will be a presenter for a parliamentary workshop at the Texas State Association convention as well as at the District Six Convention in San Antonio in July.

Janet is also a member and parliamentary consultant to the "Voices of Experience", an arm of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. She presented a free workshop to this group entitled "No Nonsense Nonprofits: Making Meetings Meaningful". The meeting was held at the Hardesty Regional Library and covered the following topics: Common misuse of parliamentary procedure, tips for presiding at a board meeting and how to tailor the order of business to their needs, how to conduct business in small boards and large boards, and what belongs in the minutes.

## Will Rogers Unit

The Will Rogers Unit meets at the Will Rogers Expo Center (N.W. 36th & Portland, Oklahoma City) on the 4th Monday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### 2009 Officers

Linda Lawson, President  
Clara Bishop, Vice President  
Jim Lawson, Secretary  
Judy Grots, Treasurer

Members of the Will Rogers Unit attended the 2008 OSAP workshop and Convention held in Oklahoma City. Two officers attended the National Training Conference in Virginia Beach. Two officers serve on the OSAP Board. One member serves on the OSAP Nominating Committee.

The annual meeting of the Will Rogers Unit was held at Luby's Cafeteria.

This year Will Rogers Unit members completed work on National Garden Clubs, Inc. bylaws revisions.

## A ParliPro Moment: Who Chairs the Meeting?

by Rod Davidson, PRP

### QUESTION:

When both the President and Vice-President are absent, who runs the meeting, the chairman of the board of directors, secretary, or treasurer?

### ANSWER:

Refer to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR)*, 10th edition, p. 437:

"If neither the president nor any vice-president is present, the secretary - or in the secretary's absence some other member - should call the meeting to order, and the assembly should immediately elect a chairman pro tem to preside during that session. Such office is terminated by the entrance of the president or a vice-president, or by the election of another chairman pro tem."

### **Report of the Bylaws Committee**

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Oklahoma State Association of Parliamentarians should be submitted by April 10, 2009 to:

W. Craig Henry, PRP  
Bylaws Committee Chairman  
PO Box 721397  
Oklahoma City, OK 73172-1397  
henrywc@prodigy.net

Member or members recommending the proposed amendment should include the rationale and should submit his or her name.

### **Call for Newsletter Articles**

If you have news in your unit, please send an e-mail to:  
Mary Davidson, RP  
OSAP Communications Committee Chairman  
P.O. Box 60039  
Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0039  
mdavidsonrp@msn.com

The next OSAP newsletter will serve as the official call to 2009 OSAP convention.

**Please submit changes in your mailing address or e-mail address to the Communications Committee at [mdavidsonrp@msn.com](mailto:mdavidsonrp@msn.com) and to the Membership Committee at [parliamentarian@cox.net](mailto:parliamentarian@cox.net)**

### **April Proclaimed Parliamentary Law Month**

In recognizing April as Parliamentary Law Month, OSAP honors Thomas Jefferson, author of the first American manual of parliamentary procedure and General Henry Martyn Robert, author of Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies, familiarly known as *Robert's Rules of Order*.

It is important to remember that the correct use of parliamentary procedure protects the rights of the majority, the minority, individual members, absentees, and all of these together.

The Oklahoma State Association of Parliamentarians, along with the National Association of Parliamentarians, urges all members to promote democratic processes and efficient meetings through parliamentary practice and to observe the month of April with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Anyone interested in learning more about parliamentary law and parliamentary procedure is encouraged to visit the National Association of Parliamentarians website located at

**[www.parliamentarians.org](http://www.parliamentarians.org)**

or the Oklahoma State Association of Parliamentarians website located at

**[www.OKparliamentarians.org](http://www.OKparliamentarians.org)**

### **A ParliPro Moment: Can Offices be Split?**

by Rod Davidson, PRP

#### QUESTION:

Our organization is in the midst of conducting elections. Two candidates have come forward for the position of Vice-President. Our bylaws state that the board shall be composed of seven elected members, i.e., President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and two Directors At Large. To benefit the club, can the Nominating Committee bring this to the current President and ask that both candidates be First and Second Vice-Presidents so that there would be no vote and both would be sworn in with the installation of all the other officers entering office? They plan to ask the President if that would be acceptable and have the President either approve it or turn it down. Is this acceptable procedure?

#### ANSWER:

The bylaws specify who the officers are, and no other officer positions can be created unless the bylaws are amended. The President cannot approve an arrangement such as the one you suggest because it would be in violation of your bylaws, which names the officers of the association. The Nominating Committee could nominate both and let the members decide which one to elect, or the Nominating Committee could choose which will be the single nominee from the committee for that position. At the election meeting, members could nominate additional candidates from the floor. Refer to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR)*, 10th edition, p. 421:

"After the nominating committee has presented its report and before voting for the different offices takes place, the chair must call for further nominations from the floor."

### 2008-2009 OSAP Officers

President .....Rod Davidson, PRP ..... rodavidson@msn.com ..... (405)522-1230  
Vice-President ..... Jason Fields, Esq. .... parliamentarian@cox.net ..... (918)743-6997  
Secretary ..... Linda Lawson ..... linda\_lawson@cox.net ..... (405)364-2425  
Treasurer ..... Jim Lawson ..... jlawson@cox.net ..... (405)364-2425  
Past President ..... Virginia McComas ..... vmccomas@sbcglobal.net ..... (580)536-0232  
Parliamentarian ..... Janet Wilson, PRP ..... jawilson@invernessvillage.com ... (918)388-4463

### 2008-2009 OSAP Standing Committee Chairmen

Audit .....Cheryle D. Sherman..... CSHE44@aol.com ..... (580)536-1621  
Bylaws ..... W. Craig Henry, PRP ..... henrywc@prodigy.net..... (405)816-6166  
Communications..... Mary Davidson, RP ..... mdavidsonrp@msn.com..... (405)524-8953  
Convention ..... George Counselman..... gandgonthelake@sbcglobal.net ..... (405)330-9273  
Education .....Gloria Counselman..... gcounselman@sbcglobal.net ..... (405)330-9273  
Membership..... Jason Fields, Esq..... parliamentarian@cox.net ..... (918)743-6997  
Nominating ..... Barbara Benton..... lendexben@cox.net..... (405)424-8091  
Yearbook ..... Jacque Achong..... jacqueline.achong@oesc.state.ok.us.. (580)536-6364  
Youth ..... Janet Wilson, PRP ..... jawilson@invernessvillage.com..... (918)388-4463

### Oklahoma Units of NAP: 2009 Presidents/Contact

Chisholm Trail .. President..Quembe Walkingstick .quembe@cox.net..... (405)324-5481  
Great Plains..... President..Jacque Achong..... jacqueline.achong@oesc.state.ok.us. (580)536-6364  
Green Country .. Contact.....Joan Blankenship, PRP ..... (918)492-3424  
Oil Capital ..... President..Karen Griffin ..... kagee1@netscape.com ..... (918)742-2537  
Oklahoma City.. President..Dr. E. Vann Greer..... evgreer@sbcglobal.net ..... (405)751-7007  
Sooner President..George Counselman .gandgonthelake@sbcglobal.net..... (405)330-9273  
Will Rogers ..... President..Linda Lawson ..... linda\_lawson@cox.net ..... (405)364-2425



Where there is no law,  
but every man does  
what is right in his own  
eyes, there is the least  
of real liberty.

—Henry M. Robert



*The Oklahoma Parliamentarian*  
Communications Committee  
Mary Davidson, Chairman  
P.O. Box 60039  
Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0039

[www.OKparliamentarians.org](http://www.OKparliamentarians.org)

Note: Submit articles for future issues to  
mdavidsonrp@msn.com