

## **PARLIAMENTARIAN CORNER----- August 2016**

For the first column of this year I thought I would start off with some basics. In no way do I define myself as an expert. It is by trial and error, “on the job training” and a lot of reading.

Dictionary Definition: An expert in the rules and usage of a deliberative assembly

The Parliamentarian serves the President as an advisor and consultant on procedural matters.

### **DUTIES OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN**

#### **THE PARLIAMENTARIAN ADVISES**

She should never give advice to the assembly, but to the Presiding Officer. She may however, speak on a subject if requested to do so by the President. She should remain neutral and in many cases does not have a vote.

It is her duty to unobtrusively call the Presiding Officer’s attention to any serious error in procedure. She should try to anticipate a difficult situation and assist the President in heading it off by careful, proper solution. She should be seen and not heard.

In a non-meeting setting, she can give advice to members, officers and chairmen, interpreting Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules, Procedures, Policies and offer suggestions on how to handle certain situations.

After roll call is taken she advises the Presiding Officer if a quorum is present to conduct business.

**The RULES OF PARLIAMENTARY LAW** are founded upon the following fundamental principles:

1. Only one subject may claim the attention of the assembly at a time.
2. Each proposition presented for consideration is entitled to full free debate.
3. Every member has rights equal to those of every other member.
4. The will of the majority must be carried out, and the rights of the minority must be preserved.
5. The personality and desires of each member must be merged into the best interest of the organization.

**A GOOD PARLIAMENTARIAN KNOWS:** Parliamentary Law is common sense used in a gracious manner. She has the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, at every meeting, as well as other resources (ie. Constitution & Bylaws, Standing Rules, Unit Handbook, etc.) in order to perform her duties justly.