

For Fall '17 Roberts Says

Opportunities for Education through CCPU

Joyce Gleason, Education Chair

CCPU has a proud tradition of being a unit focused on educating the public about Robert's Rules of Order. In fact, education is one of its purposes as listed in the bylaws of the unit (Article II). But what does that involve?

The newly-formed Education Committee has been looking at that question. The group consists of Valerie Colbert, Art Grimes and Joyce Gleason, chair. There is an extensive list of opportunities for education from CCPU, most of which are listed in the bylaws and standing rules.

Practical Applications of Robert's Rules --

This series of classes is mentioned in CCPU's Standing Rule 9. It consists of 6 sequential weeks of 3-hour classes for introductory students. They are offered annually in January and February. Students are usually community members interested in learning more about Robert's Rules. They frequently come from community organizations, HOA or condo boards, church governing bodies, and other groups.

The first part of each class is approximately 1 1/2 hours, teaching from existing and adapted PowerPoints, using Janet Wilson's materials. Following a break, another 1 1/4 hours of student practice takes place in groups, assisted by volunteer CCPU members. The classes prepare students for the NAP Membership exam. Students become provisional members of CCPU. Notice of the classes is sent in December by the Secretary, as per Standing Rule 10.

The Art of Presiding --

This set of classes is referenced in CCPU's Standing Rule 9. The students are mostly from the *Practical Applications* class, and are presiders or are preparing to preside in their respective organizations. They may take the course immediately after *Practical Applications* or at some later time, or they could come to this course without the prior course. The instruction offers a safe and supportive environment in which to practice presiding skills.

The course is offered as interest dictates, usually in February and March. Classes consist of 5 (sometimes 4) sequential weeks, for 2 1/2 hours each. Each class has up to 1 hour of instruction, teaching from existing and adapted PowerPoint lessons, based on Janet Wilson's materials. Following a break, up to 1 1/4 hours of student practice takes place in a group setting, assisted by volunteer CCPU members. Notice of this offering may be sent in December by the Secretary, as per Standing Rule 10.*

Registered Parliamentarian study sessions --

These less formal sessions are organized by the Education Chair as requested by CCPU members. They typically last for 2 hours and extend over many weeks. Class participation and study is required for maximum benefit. The sessions prepare members for the NAP RP certification exam, currently given in several parts.

Advanced seminars --

As per Standing Rule 9, these may be offered to members in the fall on specialized topics of interest. None are currently scheduled for 2017.

Other classes --

Also per Standing Rule 9, these may be scheduled by the Education Chair and President.

During CCPU meetings --

As per CCPU Special Rule of Order, a member/volunteer serves as special parliamentarian during each membership meeting. The member/volunteer would retain the right to debate and vote. Involvement of members is expected and appreciated.

At CCPU meetings --

As per Standing Rule 14, an educational lesson is offered by a member volunteer based on a single topic of the presenter's or unit's interest. This is a benefit provided by the "Scholarship Fund" (see below). The involvement of members is expected and appreciated.

From Scholarship Fund –

As per CCPU Standing Rule 14, a member may receive reimbursement of the registration fee for *eligible* trainings (listed below). One option is to provide a class of an hour or more based on material learned at *eligible* parliamentary training. Alternately, the member may write an article for *Robert Says What?* on material learned. This must occur within 6 months of training. To qualify, the member must be selected by the Executive Board and have the approval of the members.

"Eligible trainings" are: FSAP convention and/or meeting; FURP workshop; AIP's Williamsburg practicum; AIP teachers' course; Dahm's workshop; or any other training deemed worthwhile by the member.

* The Education Chair is currently requesting a revision of this part of the Standing Rules since, within recent experience; the requirement may not be practical.

Additional educational resources include:

Charlotte County Unit of Parliamentarians (CCPU)

www.robertrules.org/

Florida State Association of Parliamentarians (FSAP)

<http://www.flparliamentarian.com/>

semi-annual classes at meetings, and books

Florida Unit of Registered Parliamentarians (FURP, unit of FSAP)

http://www.flparliamentarian.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=56

semi-annual classes at meetings, and other occasional workshops

National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP)

<http://www.parliamentarians.org/>

online classes and books

Based on all the options for training, the Education Committee and its chair have lots to do. If you want to join in these efforts, please let Joyce Gleason know. Members of CCPU should be justly proud of the long-standing and active tradition of educating the public in Charlotte County. This is the legacy of our founders and active members over the unit's history.

8-26-17